PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
14 July 2008—6 October 2008

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 14 July 2008

TREASURY

Tax Credits

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): Tax credits today provide support to 20 million people including around 6 million families and 10 million children. Take-up of tax credits is a significant success. Tax credits have played a key role in tackling child poverty: since 1998-99, some 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty, compared to a doubling of child poverty in the previous 20 years. Tax credits also play a major role in moving people into work and helping people move up the employment ladder, ensuring that work pays over welfare.

Over the past 12 months, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has significantly accelerated its work programme for measuring error and fraud in the tax credits system and has today published its estimates for both 2005-06 and 2006-07. A copy of these statistics has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the HMRC website.

The figures show that HMRC has reduced the level of error favouring the customer from 9.2 per cent. of all tax credit entitlement in 2003-04 to 7.6 per cent. in 2006-07, and the levels of fraud from 0.6 per cent in 2003-04 to 0.2 per cent in 2006-07.

I have today set HMRC a target to further reduce levels of error and fraud to no more than 5 per cent. of finalised entitlement by the end of March 2011. HMRC is committed to achieving this challenging target.

HMRC has strengthened its strategy for reducing error and fraud, building on the Tax Credits Transformation Programme. This programme has improved HMRC's understanding of tax credit customers, enabling the Department to better support customers to get their claim right.

HMRC will deliver targeted assistance to customers making a new claim, to help them claim more easily. This could range from straightforward advice when a customer requests a claim form to intensive help over the phone or face-to-face.

Existing customers will receive support in areas in which they have difficulty to ensure that they are providing the correct information on which to base their awards, and help with the renewals process. For example, during this years' renewal window HMRC is proactively contacting vulnerable customers to offer them additional assistance to renew their claims. From September, HMRC is also rolling out new services to proactively seek information from customers and make better use of information already held, to help mitigate against errors relating to an individual's award.

HMRC is also embedding this deeper understanding of customer behaviour into its compliance programme, deploying resources to areas of greatest risk with the aim of identifying incorrect claims and supporting customers to prevent errors in the future.

HMRC also remains vigilant to fraud. Previously published information on organised fraud shows that HMRC is successfully stopping the majority of claims identified as being submitted by organised fraudsters. The Department has implemented a range of measures designed to restrict the opportunity for fraudsters to abuse the system, including tighter control on the issue of claim forms, fraud awareness training for staff, and deploying compliance officers in tax credit call centres.

These measures, combined with the closure of the e-portal, have significantly reduced the level of identified losses due to organised fraud from the levels in 2005-06. In 2006-07 HMRC identified attempts to defraud the tax credit system of around £252 million. Of this the vast majority, some £212 million, was detected by HMRC before any money was paid out.

DEFENCE

Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): On 26 January 2007,1 announced that the Ministry of Defence would consider claims for compensation for injury to feelings resulting from discrimination on grounds of national origins from persons of non-UK national origins whose claim under the UK's ex gratia payment scheme for former Far East prisoner of war and civilian internees was rejected under the birthlink criterion. I am now announcing the cut-off date and arrangements for those compensation claims.

Claimants who think that they are entitled to compensation should write to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency setting out the basis on which they consider themselves to be entitled to make a claim for indirect discrimination under the Race Relations Act 1976. The cut-off date for receipt of applications will be 31 December 2008.

We have consulted the Association of British Civilian Internees—Far East Region (ABCIFER) about these arrangements and will be seeking their support in publicising the cut-off date.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I have laid before Parliament today a draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill to replace almost all of our current immigration laws with a single piece of legislation, together with plans to radically reform the path to citizenship for newcomers to Britain.

At the heart of the Bill are radical changes to nationality law to ensure that newcomers earn their way to citizenship with full access to benefits and social housing reserved for citizens and permanent residents. Full details of our policy are set out in "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps In Reforming The Immigration System—Government Response To Consultation" which I am placing in the Library.

Economic migrants will need to speak English and prove they can hold down a job paying taxes to qualify for citizenship.

Committing even minor crimes will slow down citizenship. Serious crimes will trigger automatic deportation.

Citizenship will also be slowed down for those who do not make an effort to become an active citizen.

We will take powers to ask migrants to pay a little extra towards local public services.

In addition our draft Bill sets out how we propose to ensure that the sweeping changes that we are making this year to our border security and immigration system stick.

Ten measures will sit centre stage in the Bill and the immigration rules made under it:

Strong borders

New powers for frontline UKBA officers at foreign ports and airports to cancel visas.

Bringing customs and immigration powers at the border into the 21st century, consolidating and strengthening civil penalties for bringing passengers without the right papers and clandestine entrants to the UK.

Selective migration

The Bill proposes a clear legal duty on migrants to ensure they have permission to be in the UK, for example under our new points system.

The Bill introduces a single, streamlined power of expulsion for those without permission.

Earning the right to stay

Migrants will now have to earn their right to stay in the UK

Automatic bans on returns with new powers to exclude offenders and powers to require those who are expelled to repay costs to taxpayers if we allow them to come back.

Playing by the rules

The Bill gives a new power to require large 'bail bonds' for those awaiting decisions or expulsion, part of a tough menu of conditions for "Immigration bail" as an alternative to detention.

Confirming tough measures to prevent organised illegal immigration by attacking illegal working with civil penalties for employers who do not make the necessary checks.

Simplifying our appeals system to cut red tape; ensuring that the system is properly sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups; honouring our international obligations to refugees and ensuring the UKBA safeguards and promotes the welfare of children.

Managing any local impacts

Full access to benefits for citizens and permanent residents, with migrants contributing a little extra to the cost of local services;

Our earlier consultations show widespread support for our ambition to reform and strengthen the law. Polling I am publishing today confirms that;

70 per cent. of the public think that newcomers should earn the right to stay in Britain;

83 per cent. think that immigrants in Britain should be made to learn English and;

69 per cent. agree that newcomers should be penalised on the path to citizenship if they do not obey the UK's laws.

But many want to see the detail to understand what we propose in practice. Today's draft Bill will help that debate.

The draft (partial) Bill is accompanied by a Narrative Document "Making Change Stick" which explains the Government's plans for further clauses which are not included in it at this stage.

The Government have also published today explanatory notes on the draft (partial) Bill, illustrative rules on protection and a partial impact assessment.

We have consulted widely in preparation for this Bill including consultations published in June 2007 and February 2008. We want to proceed in the same spirit of openness. We invite views from Parliament and the wider public before finalising the full Bill for introduction.

JUSTICE

Lockyer Service Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): The Ministry of Justice is today publishing an internal review led by Kevin Lockyer, the then regional offender manager for the south-west region into indeterminate sentenced prisoners, including indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP).

This review was a study into operational matters relating to the management and progress of indeterminate sentence prisoners through offender services. It was commissioned by Helen Edwards, then chief executive officer of the National Offender Management Service in April 2007. The review reported to the NOMS board in August 2007.

The review identifies various areas for improvements and proposed recommendations on how these improvements could be achieved. These recommendations were accepted in full by the NOMS board, who commissioned an implementation plan, which was agreed in September 2007.

The report identified five core principles for the better management of these prisoners.

These principles are:

The offender assessment should be front-loaded in order to facilitate sentence progression. An OASys assessment and an outline sentence plan should, wherever possible, be available at the point of sentence.

Case management arrangements must be streamlined.

Targeted interventions pathways should be developed to enable sentence progression.

Services should be tailored regionally to meet needs within nationally agreed arrangements.

Resources should follow risk and not the sentence.

In response to this report, NOMS established better case management arrangements through new, streamlined procedures for the management of indeterminate sentenced prisoners. This was to be achieved through the roll-out of phase three of the offender management model and through targeted work on IPP prisoners at or approaching their tariff date. It set out recommendations aimed at ensuring IPP prisoners have an assessment of need completed which leads to a sentence plan. It also sets out the need for improved access to the interventions contained in those plans. Good progress has been made, in particular in delivering assessments to those nearest their tariff expiry date and in moving IPP prisoners through the prison system.

NOMS also recognises that in the medium to long-term there would be a requirement to consider local needs further, and to develop plans to meet those needs against a background of budgetary constraints which may require a significant re-assessment of resource allocations.

This review is a important piece of work, providing clear, evidence-led recommendations to improve existing practice. The review team was made up of officials from NOMS, Her Majesty's Prison Service and a number of other bodies, and drew heavily on their experience and knowledge. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them all for their diligent work in producing this report.

I have deposited a copy in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The review can also be accessed at: www.justice.gov.uk/foi-indeterminate-sentence-prisoners.htm

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Objectives and Annual Reports

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The Modernisation Committee published its second report of session 2007-08 (HC 530) "Debating Departmental Objectives and Annual Reports" on 30 April. This report responded to the invitation in the Government's Green Paper July 2007 "Governance of Britain" (Cm 7170) that the Committee should examine ways in which the House should be given additional opportunities to debate "the annual objectives and plans of the major Government Departments in order to strengthen further Parliament's scrutiny of the executive".

"Governance of Britain" noted that while Select Committees are already free, through the Liaison Committee, to select for debate the overall work of Departments (usually on the basis of a committee report or evidence on the Department's annual report), the only regular annual debates on departmental objectives take place on the work of the Treasury (through the Budget debate and the PBR statement), the Ministry of Defence (through the regular defence debates) and the Wales Office (through the debate on Welsh affairs). As a result "a year can pass with the objectives and plans of some Departments having never been properly discussed".

The Modernisation Committee report noted the competing pressures on available debating time in different parliamentary forums and that the most appropriate selection of Departments on which to hold debates may vary from year to year. It concluded that "additional opportunities to debate departmental objectives and annual reports could be provided by rebalancing the present programme of business and identifying existing opportunities more systematically, without the need for changes to the standing orders or the invention of a new formal procedure".

The Government agree with these conclusions and accordingly will be seeking to ensure that the annual objectives and plans of a range of Government Departments will be debated each year through a combination of existing procedures:

In the main Chamber, the Government will seek to identify opportunities for debate on individual Departments' objectives and plans as set out in annual reports:

either on the basis of a specific Motion that the House has considered the matter of the Department's objectives and plans; or

by 'tagging' the annual report or other appropriate report to a relevant debate;

This will be in addition to the opportunities already provided for the Treasury, Ministry of Defence and Wales Office. The Government will take into account any review of the number and allocation of the current annual Chamber debates.

In Westminster Hall, on the Thursday afternoon slots not specifically allotted by Standing Orders as being at the disposal of the Liaison Committee, the Government will seek to identify opportunities for departmental objectives debates:

by facilitating requests from the Liaison Committee for such debates on the basis of Select Committee reports or evidence; and

by identifying other opportunities for such debates at the initiative of the Government.

The Government would welcome a wider review into the work of Westminster Hall, which would provide an opportunity to examine whether further time for debates of this nature could be provided.

These opportunities will of course be in addition to any such debates that Select Committees table, through the Liaison Committee, for consideration on Estimates days. As noted in the second report of the present session from the Liaison Committee "Parliament and Government Finance: Recreating Financial Scrutiny" (HC 426), to which the Government will be responding shortly, the Treasury's Alignment project on the financial documentation (including the Estimates) made available to Parliament will provide an opportunity in due course for the House to review further the pattern of Estimates days and the exact forms of motion which it would be appropriate to consider on Estimates days.

Through these means it will be possible for the objectives and plans of a range of Government Departments to be debated each year, as envisaged in "Governance of Britain". Since there will be no single House procedure under which these debates will take place, the Government will monitor closely how this system is operating. As the Modernisation Committee has suggested, there could be scope on occasion for debates to be cross-departmental debates where the objectives (in the form of PSAs) link to more than one department and in some cases material and publications other than the departmental annual report will also inform the debate.

The Committee has also emphasised the importance of the relevant departmental Select Committee playing a central role in these debates, and proposes that debates should not take place until after the relevant Select Committee has completed its work on any departmental annual report. The Government certainly envisage that Select Committees will be key contributors to the debates and the Liaison Committee will be a major initiator of the debates in Westminster Hall. Many debates will take place on the basis of proposals instigated by committees themselves on the basis of work they have completed. For those debates not instigated by Select Committees, it is difficult to give a firm undertaking that debates should not take place until after a Select Committee has

completed its work, since different committees examine Departments' annual reports on very different timescales and there will be a range of factors influencing the timing of a debate; nevertheless the Government will seek to liaise with relevant committees and the Liaison Committee to try to ensure that any select committee work is taken into account in the timing of any such debate.

The Modernisation Committee emphasises that the new arrangements should be reviewed at the end of the current Parliament. The effectiveness of the new approach will no doubt also be reflected in the regular discussions between the Leader of the House and the Liaison Committee.

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Subjects proposed (other than in Business Questions) for Topical Debates (April 08-June 08) are listed.

The list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted by letter, email or another method. The list does not include requests made during Business Questions, or otherwise on the floor of the House, and which are already a matter of public record. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

Week commencing 21 April

Biofuels (letter)

Week commencing 28 April

Occupational health and safety (telephone)

Prescription of antipsychotic drugs to people with dementia in care homes (letter)

Week commencing 12 May

Two requests for Anti-Semitism (email)

Trade relations with Cuba (letter)

Week commencing 19 May

House of Commons Freedom of Information ruling (in person)

Week commencing 16 June

Review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (email)

Bangladesh (email)

Week commencing 23 June

Forced marriages and rules applied for overseas nationals marrying British nationals (telephone)

TRANSPORT

Crossrail

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): During the earlier public stages of scrutiny of the Crossrail Bill and more recently during the House of Lords Grand Committee stage on Thursday 26 June 2008, amendments were proposed that would have placed specific obligations on the Secretary of State, the Mayor and Cross London Rail Links (CLRL) to publish information on an annual basis about the project's funding and finances.

The Government are committed to ensuring that there is a high level of transparency as to the progress and cost of the Crossrail project and we have already set out our intention in this area in the Heads of Terms which were signed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport and Transport for London (TfL) last November. We are currently working with parties to turn the Heads of Terms into binding legal documents with the intention of including a requirement on CLRL to publish financial information on an annual basis, subject to protecting commercial interests.

However, in recognition of the fact that these agreements are still being developed, I am prepared to give an additional assurance that information will be made available.

Therefore, I offer the assurance to Parliament that a statement will be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information as to:

Total funding amounts provided to CLRL by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period covered by the statement

Expenditure incurred by CLRL in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period covered by the statement

Total expenditure incurred by CLRL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period covered by the statement

Whether the costs of the construction of Crossrail are likely to fall within the agreed budget and, if not, whether any measures are being taken in consequence

The amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or CLRL in the period covered by the statement.

The first statement will be published within 12 months from when the Act comes into force.

In disclosing such information, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State or the nominated undertaker, will need to take account of any commercial interests.

This assurance will be placed on the Crossrail Register of Undertakings and Assurances.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 15 July 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

North East Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing the North East of England plan, which is the final version of the North East regional spatial strategy. This is the latest in a series of comprehensive reviews of regional spatial strategies to be completed under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The plan reflects consideration of responses to the consultations on the Secretary of State's proposed changes and further proposed changes which followed on from the independent examination in public carried out into the draft strategy in 2006.

The North East plan replaces the existing regional planning guidance (RPG1) which became the statutory RSS in September 2004, and the submission draft revision to that document called "View: Shaping the North East" which was published by the North East Assembly in June 2005.

One hundred and thirty people and organisations responded to the latest round of consultation which ended on 2 April 2008. Almost 1,300 representations were received with many of them expressions of support.

Careful consideration has been given to all of these responses and, as is required under appropriate legislation, a sustainability appraisal, a strategic environmental assessment and a habitats regulations assessment have been prepared and updated to help the plan deliver sustainable development.

The aim of the plan is to guide development in the North East to 2021 and also to set the direction of travel in the longer term. Key elements of the plan include:

A requirement for 128,900 net new dwellings to be built between 2004-21 (about 7,600 dwellings per annum). This level of growth can be achieved within RSS previously developed land targets and the overall direction of the strategy which focuses development within the conurbations of the Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley city regions, and includes a rural allocation appropriate to supporting sustainable rural communities.

A regional employment land portfolio (of about 3400 ha) and a suite of key employment locations which provide sufficient land to enable sustainable economic growth in the region, with appropriate policy criteria to ensure developments address wider sustainability issues including sustainable energy, transport and environmental protection.

A table of transport outcomes and related investment and management priorities using information on known commitments and schemes which have a real possibility of progressing.

A climate change policy requiring other strategies and plans contribute to meeting national policy as set out in the Energy White Paper to put ourselves on a path to cutting the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050, with real progress by 2020.

A sustainable energy policy requiring major new developments secure at least 10 per cent. of their energy supply from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources where feasible and viable, ahead of local planning authorities setting their own targets.

Policies for sustainable waste management and minerals aggregates provision.

Policies for protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment, on matters including design quality, the historic environment, landscape and bio-diversity.

The plan represents a step change in addressing housing need in the North East and goes a long way to achieving what is likely to be required in the longer term to meet the Government's Housing Green Paper target.

Copies of the North East of England plan and the supporting documents will be available in the Libraries of both Houses, are being sent to the region's MPs and MEPs and will be available in local libraries and local planning authorities. They are also on the GONE website (www.go-ne.gov.uk) and can be purchased from The Stationery Office (TSO) either online (www.tsoshop.co.uk) or at TSO shops.

DEFENCE

Complex Weapons

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to inform the House that the Ministry of Defence has concluded a teaming agreement with the industrial grouping known as Team CW[1] to take forward, to the next stage, the Government's intentions for the UK complex weapons sector. This agreement is underpinned by enabling contracts which we have placed with MBDA (UK) Ltd and Thales UK which, with the teaming agreement, will launch the assessment phase for the initiative as a whole and undertake specific concept and assessment work on six complex weapons programmes[2].

The assessment phase will assess further our ability to enter into a partnering arrangement and, through the programme activity, test an innovative way of developing weapons to meet the UK's military requirements, including the use of modularity and families of weapons. The teaming agreement, which has been signed by all of the Team CW partners, including the Ministry of Defence, links the two enabling contracts and formalises the governance arrangements for the duration of the assessment phase.

If successful, it is expected that the technologies developed to meet these initial military requirements will be adapted to meet the majority of our future weapons needs.

This approach has the potential to offer a greater level of capability to the front line while achieving value for money for the taxpayer and maintaining UK operational sovereignty over our complex weapons.

[1]Team CW is led by MBDA (UK) Ltd, and includes Thales UK, QinetiQ Ltd, and Roxel (UK Rocket Motors) Ltd. The Ministry of Defence is also a member of team CW.

[2]The projects are: Indirect Fire Precision Attack Loitering Munition (IFPA LM); Future Air to Surface Guided Weapon (FASGW); Storm Shadow Capability Enhancement Programme (SSCEP); Selected Precision Effects at Range (SPEAR), and Future Local Area Air Defence Systems (FLAADS).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State, the Minister with responsibility for marine, landscape and rural affairs, Jonathan Shaw, will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Scottish Minister for Rural Affairs, Richard Lochhead, will also be attending.

There are a number of items for discussion on this month's agenda relating to agriculture, covering the common agricultural policy health check, a proposal introducing a fruit and vegetable scheme in schools, and proposals authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soyabean and cotton.

With regard to fisheries, the Council is due to agree the in-year TAC and quota adjustments for certain stocks, as well as the revised EU-Mauritania fishery agreement. The main fisheries item for discussion concerns the planned measures for coping with high fuel prices.

Under any other business, the Agriculture Commissioner will provide the usual update on the WTO-DDA negotiations.

Hungary and Romania have tabled AOB items respectively on non-recoverable VAT under the rural development regulation and on forestry policy.

2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts for Animal Health

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for Animal Health will be laid before Parliament today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Zimbabwe

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Since the sham election on 27 June, conditions in Zimbabwe have deteriorated. International agencies estimate that 36,000 people have been displaced internally since the first round in March, at least 103 have been murdered and many thousands have received treatment for the injuries they have been dealt by the security forces. In spite of the promise of the authorities that the ban on their activities was temporary, aid agencies are still denied access to large swathes of the country, a restriction that means that 1.5 million people are still unable to access food aid and vital medicines that they need.

We have been clear that words are simply not enough, and that the international community as a whole must act. We have said openly that Zimbabwe's crisis is one that the world has a responsibility to respond to. That is why we supported the United States in their decision to table a resolution at the Security Council and to take that resolution to a vote on 11 July. The draft resolution had the nine votes that it needed to pass into law. It was co-sponsored by two African states—Liberia and Sierra Leone. Burkina Faso—an African member of the council—also voted in favour of it. All European and South American council members and the USA were behind it. That it was vetoed by Russia and China despite this clear and broad majority is something that the ordinary people of Zimbabwe—the victims of that violence and those who are denied that food and medicine—will not be able to understand.

I believe that it is right when one believes in a cause that should push others to be clear on their attitude to it. That Russia agreed to a G8 statement calling for further measures, including precisely the targeted sanctions that we were advocating but then—the same week—chose to vote against that resolution is now for them to explain. The terms of the draft UN resolution were widely discussed within the Council. Sufficient opportunity was given to explain reservations and to table amendments. Russia chose not to engage in that debate. China's decision to veto was deeply disappointing, too. We will continue to work with both states to persuade them to take a different course and to use their influence both in Zimbabwe and in the wider region to resolve the crisis.

The draft resolution did not cut across negotiations that the African Union had advocated in its own conclusions at its summit in Sharm el Sheik. We believe that dialogue between the parties can provide a way forward for Zimbabwe's crisis. But we need to be clear about the basis on which dialogue can be developed. At present we have one party that won a popular mandate in the parliamentary elections of 29 March, but whose members and supporters have been intimidated by the violence unleashed on them by the state and by ZANU-PF militia. We have another party that has refused to cede power, and that has used the full force of the state security apparatus to intimidate its citizens and turn the presidential run-off into a farce. To turn this context into one in which credible negotiations might begin, pressure is needed and the threat of an alternative approach that demonstrates what is at stake, personally, for the very people who believe they have least to gain from engaging in a process leading to democratic reform. That is why we will continue to advocate further targeted sanctions that focus on not just the 14 who would have been affected by the draft UN resolution but those around them and those who depend on them.

The UN itself estimates that 5 million people will need food aid in Zimbabwe by the end of 2008 if conditions do not improve. Given the humanitarian situation on the ground, the incalculable hyper-inflation and the increasing violence, the end of 2008 may bring a greater catastrophe still—for both Zimbabwe and the region—if the international community does not act to prevent it.

At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 22 July, we will press for EU Foreign Ministers to agree to extend the number of persons on the EU visa ban and asset freeze list, for the first time to target companies and entities owned by such persons, and to tighten further the exemptions which allow Zimbabweans on that list to travel to the EU. This first wave of targeted measures will aim to act as a stimulus on the regime to engage in meaningful dialogue with the opposition. The regime and some of its sympathisers try to portray the 'talks about talks' that have occurred in South Africa last week as a breakthrough. We will not regard those talks as a breakthrough until they lead

not just to agreements on paper but to implemented changes on the ground, and in particular a transitional Government who reflect the will of the people as they voted on 29 March. Meanwhile, we shall work with like-minded partners to root out the sources of the regime elite's foreign currency and target their personal wealth. With our partners, we shall work with banks and financial institutions to underline the unacceptability of harbouring the cash of those who are directing or profiting from Zimbabwe's meltdown.

The opposition MDC and their leader Morgan Tsvangirai have been clear that basic preconditions must be met before any real negotiation can begin. Their demands are reasonable: the cessation of violence; the release of political prisoners; and the unfettered access of NGOs to the people who need them most and for whom the regime has long since forgotten its responsibilities. The onus now is on the region—the Southern Africa Development Community—and the African Union to demonstrate that they are serious about making dialogue work. We will also continue to advocate the appointment of a UN envoy to support President Mbeki's efforts to negotiate, and to investigate and report on human rights abuses on the ground.

For the first time in the election on 27 June, we saw all three major African election observer groups underline their public dissatisfaction with the vote and the outcome. It is now for Africa and its leaders to show that it will not accept the 27 June result as the basis for any future settlement, and that its commitment to democracy and to reform is real. We will support them in that goal. But calls for space and for time for negotiation to work can be taken seriously only when the conditions on the ground are conducive to meaningful dialogue. The current violence makes that impossible. Newly elected MDC MPs today are in hiding in Harare and elsewhere and are afraid to take up their roles. They are right to be afraid, and Africa and its leaders have a responsibility to respond to their concerns and to their constituents' concerns and remove the causes of that fear.

Robert Mugabe described his election campaign as a war. Morgan Tsvangirai was clear that the people of Zimbabwe did not want to join Mugabe's war. Zimbabwe's independence has been won long ago. No one is challenging its sovereignty or its right to be a nation. Our concern is that its people should have the right to choose who leads it and how it is governed, and that their choice be respected. Our twin-track approach of applying pressure on the regime elite via targeted sanctions and keeping the ordinary people of Zimbabwe alive through our contribution as the second largest bilateral donor of aid will continue. We will continue to meet our responsibilities on both, and we will press others to join us in that approach. The price of not doing so—in terms of the dead and the dying in Zimbabwe—means that we have no option but to continue.

Corruption Allegations (Turks and Caicos Islands)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, in its report "Overseas Territories", published on 6 July, recommended amongst other things the appointment of a commission of inquiry into allegations of corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

I wish to inform the House that on 10 July the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands announced the appointment of a commission of inquiry. The commission will inquire into whether there is information that corruption or other serious dishonesty in relation to past and present elected Members of the House of Assembly (previously known as the Legislative Council) may have taken place in recent years. It is to report to the Governor within sixteen weeks its preliminary findings and recommendations concerning:

(a) instigating criminal investigations by the police or otherwise;

(b) any indications of systemic weaknesses in legislation, regulation and administration;

(c) any recommendation that the inquiry's terms of reference be extended;

(d) any other matters relating thereto.

The Commission will be led by the Rt Hon Sir Robin Auld. He is undertaking a short initial visit to the territory from 13-16 July followed by a period of preparation in the UK leading to his main visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands in September/October. He will submit the preliminary report and recommendations to the Governor by 3 November.

The Commission will conduct such parts of its inquiry as it deems appropriate in camera, in the interests of confidentiality. In addition, the commissions of inquiry ordinance provides that anyone who attempts to interfere with this process is liable, on conviction, to a fine, imprisonment, or both. The Commission also has powers to summon any person in Turks and Caicos Islands to attend to give evidence.

In addition, a number of important steps have recently been taken or are currently underway to reduce the scope for corruption and to improve capacity in the Turks and Caicos Islands to deal with it should it occur. These include the establishment of an integrity commission, a human rights commission, a complaints commissioner, a ministerial code, a public service code of ethics and integrity and the appointment of a highly experienced Chief Auditor, and the adoption of a comprehensive proceeds of crime ordinance.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Youth Action Plan

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The Government have today published the Youth Crime Action Plan, the first ever cross-Government plan for dealing with the full range of issues around youth crime.

The plan focuses on three key areas: tough enforcement where behaviour is unacceptable or illegal; more non-negotiable support to address the underlying causes of poor behaviour, including more parenting orders and the new Youth Rehabilitation Order that can require young people to attend education, go to an attendance centre for group work or undertake treatment for drug and substance abuse; and better prevention to tackle problems before they become serious or entrenched.

The plan sets out the Government's aim to reduce by one fifth the rate of young people aged 10 to 17 entering the criminal justice system by 2020, and introduces a new national goal to reduce substantially the number of young victims by 2020.

The plan builds on the Government's existing investment to support children, young people and families, with almost £100 million available over the next three years under the Youth Crime Action Plan for measures to cut youth crime in the short term and prevent it in the long term.

Copies of the action plan are available in the House Library, the Vote Office and on the Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

JUSTICE

Prison Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): Her Majesty the Queen has graciously given her approval for the introduction of a prison long service and good conduct medal.

This medal will be awarded to operational staff in the UK prison services on completion of 20 years continuous meritorious service and brings operational prison staff in line with other comparable organisations such as the police, fire service, ambulance service and the military, as well as other prison/correctional services within the Commonwealth. Prison officers do a difficult and dangerous job and it is right that they will in future receive public recognition for this vital work.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Services Forum (Government Contracting)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): As Chair of the Public Services Forum (PSF) I have today placed in the Library of the House a new joint statement on access to skills, trade unions and advice in Government contracting developed by the PSF. This joint statement was developed in partnership by Government, trade unions, business and the third sector and its aim is to improve the quality of services delivered under Government contracts by raising the skills of employees working on these contracts.

For the UK to compete in the modern global economy, a world-class skills base is needed. Government have set a challenging target to ensure almost all adults (95 per cent.) have basic literacy and numeracy skills by 2020. It is important for Government to lead by example in making progress on this agenda, and to provide a framework for social partners to do the same. This joint statement will give many of those who work on Government contracts the opportunity to develop their basic skills where needed. This will have benefits for those who use public services, the individual employee and for the employer.

TRANSPORT

Rail Franchise Enforcement Policy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published the results from a consultation paper on rail franchise enforcement policy, "Rail Franchise Agreements and Closure Conditions".

The document summarises the responses received to the consultation document together with the outcomes stated by the Department. The policy document details the Department's stepped and pragmatic approach to enforcement. It also contains a statement of policy with respect to the imposition of penalties and the determination of their amount, which the Department has a legal obligation to consult on.

The purpose of the publication of the results is to provide transparency to the Department's current policy and to ensure that it is easily understood. We acknowledge and welcome the input provided by the rail industry. It is available on the DfT's website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension, Disability and Carers Service Business Plan

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I am pleased to announce that the 2008-09 business plan for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, has been published today.

The annual performance targets for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service in 2008-09 were previously published on 27 March 2008. Further information on these targets is contained within the business plan, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Social Security Benefits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): It has been brought to my attention that the reply I gave the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green, (Lynne Featherstone), (*Official Report*, 5 June 2008, column 1094W), contained incorrect information on the number of incidents of benefit fraud reported to the benefit fraud hotline. I apologise for this oversight.

The correct answer should have been:

Information is not available broken down by benefit type. The available information is in the table:

Benefit Fraud Hotline Reports by Type, Great Britain

Hotline	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of calls received	211,054	199,004	211,599	215,924	237,107
Internet Referrals	20,780	32,960	57,543	69,866	78,230
Total	231,834	231,964	269,142	285,790	315,337

Source: National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 16 July 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"Housing Challenge" Document

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): I am today launching a document entitled "Facing the Housing Challenge: Action today, innovation for tomorrow". A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

We know that the vast majority of people aspire to home ownership. This is more than an economic calculation—it represents their hopes and dreams for their families. Across Government, we value and support these aspirations. We are absolutely committed to making sure that everyone can find the housing that meets their needs.

So this time last year, we published a housing Green Paper, setting out our plans for the biggest housebuilding programme in decades. It set out our long-term plans to meet the housing needs of our aging, growing population, with a major increase in supply to address increasing demand, helping those families and first time buyers priced out of the property market.

More recently, however, the international housing market has experienced significant challenges as a result of turbulence in the global financial markets. People are finding it harder to get a mortgage; we have seen falls in house prices and house builders are now experiencing difficult business conditions after years of extremely favourable circumstances.

But the long-term demographic trends remain the same. And without action now, we risk frustrating many more potential first time buyers and growing families in the future. Our target to achieve a rate of 240,000 new homes per year by 2016 was set to address these long-term trends and we remain absolutely committed to increasing supply to this level to respond to this long-term demand.

The signs are that current market conditions will lead to a fall in housing completions this year, which makes our targets of two million homes by 2016 and three million by 2020 challenging, particularly if the current conditions are protracted.

However, the development industry has shown before it is capable of responding and delivering substantial increases in new homes over a short period—from around 130,000 net additions in 2001-02 to approaching 200,000 in 2006-07. We therefore remain committed to our overall target of three million homes by 2020 as the right long-term goal, whilst recognising the scale of the challenge this entails.

We need now to retain our focus on stimulating market conditions, seeking new ways to deliver the housing this country urgently needs and ensuring there is a planning framework that will support a rapid market recovery.

So we are publishing this document to set out our next steps in this housing delivery programme, helping to strike the right balance in responding to both current conditions and long-term challenges.

We invest around £6 billion per year in housing and regeneration programmes. Our priorities for these resources are to:

provide greater help for first time buyers;

help existing homeowners facing difficulties due to problems in the international financial markets;

keep housing supply, particularly affordable housing supply, as high as possible during the current difficulties, in order to keep on track to meet our targets; and

maintain capacity and create the right conditions for recovery and longer-term growth.

We are therefore setting out a package of measures in this document to achieve these objectives. These include:

The pilot of a 'Rent to HomeBuy' scheme, led by the Housing Corporation, which will aim to help prospective buyers who are unable to take advantage of current shared ownership schemes, perhaps because they cannot find a suitable mortgage. The scheme will enable eligible households to rent a new build property, at less than market rates, for a pre-specified period, with the option to buy a share in the home at the end of that time.

Plans from the London borough of Barking and Dagenham, Newcastle city council, Nottingham city council and Manchester city council to launch the first pilot local housing companies. These have the potential to deliver up to 10,000 new homes. They represent a new model of working which combines local authority land assets with private sector investment, enhancing delivery of new homes and communities. This represents just one of the ways that local authorities will play a central role in delivering the housing the country needs.

Confirmation that more funding, beyond the £200 million already allocated from the affordable housing budget, could be made available to purchase high quality unsold stock, in the right locations, for the right price. This would help deliver our demanding affordable housing targets, while also supporting house builders.

Proposals to support delivery of up to 75,000 homes in 20 more towns and cities in the next stage of the growth points programme. These will combine increased housing with new jobs, town centre regeneration, and higher design and environmental standards. We will invest £100 million in helping these areas to realise their ambitions for sustainable growth. Further details of the new growth points can be found in the "Partnership for Growth" document, being published today, which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Provisional allocations of the £510 million housing and planning delivery grant, to support those local authorities who are taking action to meet housing needs, and reward those who are preparing plans and identifying land supply for delivery. We will keep this under review for the next three years to ensure that it remains an effective incentive for delivery. We will also develop proposals for specific incentives to deliver affordable housing from 2010-11. Further details are set out in "Housing and Planning Delivery Grant: Allocation mechanism and summary of consultation responses". A copy will be placed in the Library of the House, along with the schedule of provisional allocations.

A commitment to working with our stakeholders to explore the viability and practicality of mortgage rescue schemes, building on the example of local authorities and housing associations which already offer such schemes.

New consumer advice and information for those concerned about mortgage repayments from the National Housing Advice Service.

The appointment of Baroness Margaret Ford to work for Partnerships UK in identifying and releasing surplus public sector land for housing delivery, particularly land owned by central Government Departments and their agencies.

Alongside this document, I am publishing an open letter which sets out our response to the Calcutt review of housing supply. We have accepted a number of the recommendations from John Calcutt. These include the creation of a zero-carbon unit to co-ordinate and guide the programme of work to deliver zero-carbon housing from 2016, and further work to develop skills within the house building industry.

I am also publishing a summary of the Pomeroy review of private sector shared equity. Brian Pomeroy was tasked with examining how the private sector shared equity market is developing and what the private and public sector might do to facilitate its development. The review found that there were no major institutional barriers which were preventing a shared equity market from developing and there remains an interest in developing suitable shared equity products when conditions improve. The full text has not been published as it contains confidential information, but the summary sets out the main findings. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Finally, effective regional and local planning for the medium and long term is essential if we are to reach the target of 240,000 homes per year from 2016. We will now work with regional partners on a flexible basis to agree the work programmes and timetables with each regional planning body. The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit recently provided the Government with advice on the numbers it felt should be considered in regional strategy reviews. I am today writing to all regional assembly chairs, the North West regional leaders' forum, and the Mayor of London with guidance on how we expect the advice from the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit to be used.

The document "Facing the Housing Challenge: Action today, innovation for tomorrow" outlines a broad response to the impact of the disruption in international financial markets on the housing market. This package will both help people facing difficulties today, and lay the foundations to help meet the long-term housing needs of the country.

However, it is not the end of the process. We will review progress and reflect on new approaches, incentives or support mechanisms which will both help address the current difficulties and deliver our longer-term programme. We will take a proactive approach wherever it is clear that we can do more to support consumers and industry.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Society Lottery Limits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): In recent months my Department has received representations from the Lotteries Council and the Hospice Lotteries Association, seeking changes to the regulatory regime for non-commercial society lotteries established by section 99 of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act"). Societies under the Act are typically national and local charities, sporting and social clubs that run lottery draws in order to raise funds for local good causes such as hospices or air ambulances. Societies which operate lotteries that raise more than £20,000 in a single draw or over £250,000 in a year must be licensed by the Gambling Commission.

The aim of the representations I have received has been to persuade the Government to increase the present limit on the maximum proceeds that are permitted to be raised by society lotteries in a single draw, from the present limit of £2 million. This would also allow a larger top prize to be offered, since the Act provides that a person buying a society lottery ticket cannot win more than 10 per cent. of the overall proceeds of the draw.

These representations have been echoed in Parliament. Through signing early-day motion 1570 tabled by the hon. Member for Bolton North-East (Mr. Crausby) in May this year, some 70 hon. Members on all sides have expressed support for an increase in proceeds limits under the Act, specifically in relation to hospice lotteries.

While very few societies currently reach the present limits, some have argued that the limits hold them back, for example by preventing a number of societies coming together to promote a larger one-off annual draw.

The Government have always been willing to consider representations made on behalf of the good causes which benefit from society lotteries, as we showed when we doubled the then society lottery limits in 2002. The 2005 Act also introduced a range of deregulatory measures designed to assist society lotteries. I have considered the arguments now put by the Lotteries Council and Hospice Lotteries Council, as well as the views of hon. Members. I have also taken into account the view of the Gambling Commission, which as the Government's principal adviser on gambling matters has also recommended an increase.

I have had to balance these arguments for increasing the amount that society lotteries can raise for projects, with my responsibility for ensuring that the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act are observed. There is a significant risk that increasing the limit on proceeds of lottery draws, and hence the top prize available, by too great an amount could significantly change the character of a society lottery by appealing to players for whom winning such a prize would be a greater attraction than supporting the charitable cause in question. Very high prizes also bring with them an increased risk of fraud and other criminal activity.

Having weighed these considerations, I have concluded that there is a reasonable justification for a limited increase in the maximum proceeds that society lotteries may raise in a single lottery draw. I am now able to inform the House how the Government intend to proceed.

I will tomorrow publish a three-month consultation paper on a proposal to increase to £4 million the maximum proceeds for each individual society lottery draw. This will entail a top prize of up to £400,000 for each draw. There will be no increase to the annual maximum proceeds per society lottery of £10 million since no society lotteries presently reach that limit. The maximum £25,000 prize for society lotteries whose proceeds are below £250,000 will also remain unaltered.

If in the light of public consultation we decide to proceed, either with this proposal or another that suggests itself in the light of responses to the consultation, we will bring forward the necessary order. This will be for Parliament to approve by means of an affirmative resolution, requiring a debate and potentially a vote in both Houses.

This measure would benefit around 630 societies that are presently licensed by the Gambling Commission to operate society lotteries. I believe that it would provide

a valuable boost to hospices, charities and other good causes which raise funds through lottery draws, while retaining the character of society lotteries and remaining wholly consistent with the licensing objectives of the Act.

DEFENCE

Defence Equipment and Support (Co-location)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 13-14WS, my predecessor announced the formation of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) and that elements of the new organisation were to be co-located in the Bath/Bristol area. DE&S was established on 1 April 2007 and in March this year a major business improvement programme, PACE (Performance, Agility, Confidence, Efficiency), was launched to drive forward the changes required to continue to improve support to the armed forces both now and in the future.

As part of this we have concluded that additional improvements to the provision of through-life military capability and logistics support to the front line can be realised through greater consolidation of DE&S business activities in Bristol. I am therefore announcing today, subject to consultation with the trade unions, the co-location of further elements of DE&S at Abbey Wood in Bristol. This will involve DE&S withdrawing in its entirety from Andover, Wyton, Caversfield and from both the Ensleigh and Foxhill sites in Bath, in a phased programme through to 2012. Those sites vacated by DE&S are being considered for further defence use. Under the DE&S programme, around 2,800 posts will move to Bristol, in addition to the 1,000 transfers already in hand. It will produce estimated savings of around £560 million over a 25 year period, is a key enabler for the PACE programme and is also part of a wider departmental estates rationalisation programme, reflecting the Department's commitment to maximising the funds available to support the front line.

Midland Medical Accommodation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): Ministers have now approved the redevelopment of Whittington Barracks, Lichfield for use by the Defence Medical Services (DMS) and I am today announcing the next steps.

The assessment phase of the Midland Medical Accommodation project has been completed. We have concluded that the strategic, operational, economic and personnel benefits of the project will fully justify an investment of around £200 million over the next few years.

Co-location on the Whittington site of the DMS headquarters and the Defence Medical Services Training Centre (DMSTC, currently based near Aldershot) will give us a "critical mass" of military medical expertise and assets in the Midlands. The area will be reinforced as the central focus for British military medicine, and Lichfield will provide the future "military home" for the DMS.

Our project assessment confirmed that the Whittington site offers excellent potential for meeting DMS needs. A combination of new build and upgrading of existing buildings will provide ample high quality, fit for purpose accommodation, training and sports facilities, within easy travelling distance of central Birmingham and the RCDM elements that will remain there. The Whittington site also offers an adjacent military training area. Full planning approval for the redevelopment of the site has already been granted.

The project will be delivered in three increments:

1. An HQ Office building
2. New and refurbished training accommodation; combined officers' and senior NCOs' mess; junior ranks' dining room; training centre; and lecture theatre
3. Delivery of 811 single living accommodation bed spaces.

Increment 1 will involve the relocation to Lichfield of key management elements of the DMS, whose top structure is currently being re-organised as part of the DMS "Top Structures—Next Steps" programme.

Development of a new Strategic Medical HQ and the HQ for the recently established Joint Medical Command (JMC) is now in progress. We are planning to locate these HQs at Lichfield by 1 April 2010 (although a small number of Strategic Medical HQ staff will remain in London). The HQ of the JMC will comprise staffs currently based at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport who were formerly part of the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency; Defence Dental Services HQ staffs from RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire; the Defence Healthcare Directorate from central London; and elements of the RCDM HQ from Birmingham.

We shall place a contract later this year for the construction at Whittington of a purpose-built office block and associated site infrastructure works. We shall announce further details when this contract is placed. By early 2010 we expect that the site will be supporting over 300 military and civilian personnel in total. Almost 200 of these will be military and civilian posts transferred from central London, Gosport and Halton. Some posts will also be relocated from the RCDM HQ in central Birmingham.

Increments 2 and 3 will see the relocation of the DMSTC from Keogh Barracks, Aldershot, to Lichfield, and the provision of training facilities and living accommodation for over 800 staff and trainees. Existing facilities need to be replaced with accommodation that is fit for the 21st century.

The move of DMSTC will be completed between 2012 and 2014. The precise date will be decided in due course. By the end of the project there will be over 1,100 Defence Medical Services personnel at Lichfield, including up to 700 trainees, as well as over 100 personnel attached to lodger units that we expect to remain on the site.

There will be full consultation with the trades unions as the work on the new organisations and their co-location at Lichfield proceeds.

The new jobs that this project will bring to the Midlands over the next few years will also help to fulfil our policy objective of moving jobs out of the Greater South-East.

The decisions announced today about military medical accommodation in the Midlands are further evidence of the Government's commitment to the healthcare of service personnel. I shall keep the House informed of progress with this important project.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

EU Environment Ministers' Meeting

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): EU Environment Ministers and Energy Ministers, MEPs and representatives from the European Commission attended an informal ministerial meeting in Paris, France, to discuss the 2020 climate-energy package and the international climate negotiations. I attended on 3 July and my hon. Friend the Minister for Energy attended from 4 to 5 July.

The first working session, in the presence of representatives from civil society and industry, examined the role that the EU should play in reaching a global agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The UK emphasised the importance of reaching agreement on the energy-climate package so that the EU can be a real force in the international negotiations. Over lunch, member states discussed what they consider is the key for the success of the 2020 package. During the debate the UK highlighted the importance of the EU delivering the 30 per cent. reduction in EU emissions as part of a global international agreement, the need to agree incentive mechanisms for encouraging the carbon capture and storage demonstration projects and our concerns regarding any proposal for the EU to earmark EU ETS auction revenues.

In the second working session, Ministers met with members of the European Parliament for in-depth discussions on the issues concerning the implementation of the energy-climate package. The UK acknowledged that to progress efficiently in the negotiations and obtain a definitive agreement on the package before the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen at the end of 2009, the framework for discussion should continue to be what was proposed by the Commission. Amendments to the Commission's proposals were suggested offering flexibilities to encourage the reduction of emissions where they are cheapest. Many Ministers expressed concerns about the need to ensure solidarity between the member states to meet the significant costs of a transition to a low carbon EU economy. Ministers agreed that determining which sectors were at risk of carbon leakage should be evidence based and timely.

The informal meeting also examined EU GMOs policy and established a working group to undertake further analysis of the issues. The work of this group should be concluded in time for the Council of Environment Ministers on 4 to 5 December and will form the basis for discussions on interim guidelines.

Finally, the informal ended with a joint lunch with the European Ministers for energy, which was also attended by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel prize winner and chairman of the IPCC, who spoke about the urgent need to fight climate change.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The carbon reduction commitment (CRC) is a new emissions trading scheme for large non-energy intensive commercial and public sector organisations. The scheme will place an emissions cap on up to 5,000 large business and public sector organisations responsible for around 14 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) emissions each year.

In March this year we published a Government response to our consultation on the implementation proposals for CRC. I am able to announce today progress on a number of CRC scheme design issues. We propose to operate the CRC on a financial rather than calendar year and propose to permit participants to use allowances from the fixed-price sale in the second year to cover their first year emissions. This will reduce the gap between allowance sales and the recycling of allowance revenue to just six months. There are a number of other proposed CRC scheme wide amendments to improve the operation of the scheme. We will invite views in the consultation on the scheme regulations later this year on these proposed amendments.

We also said in the Government response to our consultation that we would review whether to include schools in the scheme. Respondents to the consultation highlighted the wide potential for energy efficiency in schools and so urged us to require local authorities to include schools as part of their estate for the purposes of CRC, rather than taking the voluntary approach we proposed. The Government, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have decided to include schools in Great Britain in the scheme. All state-funded schools will be included under the umbrella of their local authority; qualifying local authorities will participate on their behalf in CRC. In this way schools will not be required to participate directly in emissions trading as this will be the responsibility of the local authority. Schools will have to report annual energy use data to their local authority and will be able to share the benefits of CRC in the form of improved energy efficiency and reduced energy bills. It will also give schools the opportunity to involve children in delivering energy efficiency improvements and carbon reductions and in safeguarding the future of the environment. In Northern Ireland, where schools are not overseen by local authorities, the Executive are considering whether and how best to include schools in the scheme.

I have deposited copies of our policy paper setting out progress in the House Library.

HEALTH

End of Life Care Stategy

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Today the Government have published the end of life care strategy. This is the first time this country will have a long-term, comprehensive strategy for the care of adults at the end of their life. The strategy builds on the progress made over recent years and sets out a range of recommendations to deliver improvements in end of life care. Its aim is to deliver increased choice to all adult patients, regardless of their condition, about where they live and die and to improve care given in all settings, to patients, carers and families.

The strategy sets out how the manifesto commitment to double investment in palliative care will be met and how choice at the end of life will be improved. It sets

out the responsibilities of commissioners of end of life care services and of all involved in the delivery of care. It complements and supports the visions for end of life care developed by strategic health authorities as part of the NHS next stage review.

The strategy has been placed in the Library of the House, and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Magee Review of Criminality Information

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The House will wish to know that Sir Ian Magee's independent review of criminality information is being published today.

I am grateful to Sir Ian for his work on the review. He has presented us with a substantial report with wide ranging implications for all organisations which collect information that may be relevant to the prevention, investigation, prosecution, or penalising of crime. This is a complex area and there are no quick fixes. Sir Ian's package of recommendations will require sustained attention. I will therefore be consulting widely and I intend to publish a full, Government-wide action plan in the autumn.

The Government are keen to develop work quickly across a range of Sir Ian's recommendations and my Department will continue to take the lead in driving this work forward as part of our primary focus on public protection. We intend now to proceed with the following.

First, we will continue with the complex and difficult work which the Home Office has been leading to enhance the information we have about the criminal histories of foreign nationals and UK citizens who have spent time abroad. We will do this both by making better use of existing information channels and by leading a process of improvement within Europe and more widely. This work will significantly improve the way we protect the public by ensuring relevant overseas data are available to inform the criminal justice process and key systems such as those used to vet and bar people seeking to work with children and vulnerable adults.

Secondly, we will build on, extend and strengthen existing streams of work, such as the programme the Home Office has led to implement the recommendations from the Bichard inquiry, to develop a clear strategic direction for the improvement of criminality information management across what Sir Ian is calling the public protection network. That will provide the framework for positive changes to sharing of criminality information, training for leaders and front line staff and the ways in which we identify and respond to information-related risks.

Thirdly, the Home Office will be involved in an in-depth review of the way technology supports information flows between public protection organisations, drawing on the expertise of other Departments and key organisations such as the National Policing Improvement Agency. A huge programme of work is already underway to strengthen information handling within policing and the broader criminal justice system, but we recognise the need to join up even more and sharpen the focus on public protection. There is also significant potential to save taxpayers' money through the re-use of existing technology and through reducing the amount of duplicate data held by various organisations.

Fourthly, Sir Ian has conducted some detailed work in specific areas of public protection and made recommendations that directly affect front line operations. We intend to implement these recommendations. Their focus is improving the way information is captured, stored and accessed, shared, analysed and acted upon, and managed. Full implementation of these recommendations will improve the quality of criminality information available to front line staff who are making very difficult decisions on a day-to-day basis. In all these areas we will be building on the foundations of positive work which is already underway between the Home Office and its partners within the public protection network. For example, I anticipate we can:

- work with the UK Border Agency to improve the use of criminality information to assist in deporting people in a timely and fair way; and
- improve the effectiveness of our vetting and barring processes so as to protect children and the vulnerable from those unsuitable to work with them.

Working together to protect the public is the fundamental statement of purpose for the Home Office. I want that to be the guiding principle for our policies to cut crime, provide effective policing, secure our borders and protect personal identity. The effective use and sharing of criminality information is critical to the successful delivery of those policies and Sir Ian's report provides us with the framework within which that can be achieved.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Draft Apprenticeships Bill

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Today, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and I publish the draft Apprenticeships Bill. In January 2008, "World Class Apprenticeships" set out plans for achieving our aspirations for the apprenticeships programme. This draft Bill sets out the legislative framework needed to underpin our strategy to increase the number of apprenticeship places and strengthen apprenticeships in England.

Our ambition is that apprenticeships are seen as a key route to the best jobs, the best careers and the best chance to get on in life. Apprenticeships are at the heart of our strategy to raise the age of participation in education or training for all young people, with high quality vocational training clearly recognised as a mainstream route for young people. Apprenticeships will also help build a workforce fit for the future by providing better and more relevant skills to enable us to compete in the global economy.

Since 1997, we have substantially increased investment in apprenticeships, and the number of starts has increased from 65,000 in 1996-97 to 180,000 in 2006-07. This increase has been accompanied by a steady improvement in the number of people completing apprenticeships, from 40,000 in 2001-02 to 112,000 in 2006-07.

We want to build on this success. We want a significant increase in the number of places so that by 2013 we can ensure that there is an apprenticeship place for every suitably qualified young person who wants one. We want to strengthen the programme so that we can ensure that all apprenticeships are of a uniformly high quality.

Following pre-legislative scrutiny and the consultation we are launching today, the provisions in the draft Bill will form part of the Education and Skills Bill we will introduce in the next Session.

Copies of the draft Apprenticeships Bill will be made available in the Vote office and Printed Paper Office.

JUSTICE

Information Commissioner

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am today publishing a consultation on the Information Commissioner's inspection powers and on funding the Information Commissioner's duties under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Government want to ensure that the Information Commissioner has the powers and resources to continue to be able to carry out his duties under the Data Protection Act 1998 effectively, in a rapidly changing environment. Good regulation is essential to support a robust data protection framework. The use of information underpins Government's ability to deliver benefits for the citizen through improved public services, new opportunities for the most disadvantaged, protection from crime and terrorism and sustaining economic well being.

Our proposals have been informed by the "Data Sharing Review Report" published on Friday 11 July. Government welcome the review which provides a comprehensive look at the use and protection of personal information in today's society. I am grateful for the invaluable and thorough work that Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, and Dr. Mark Walport, of the Wellcome Trust, have done in this complex area.

In October 2007, the Prime Minister invited Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport to undertake an independent review of the framework for the use of personal information—in both the private and public sector.

The objectives of the review were to consider whether there should be any changes to the way the Data Protection Act 1998 operates in the UK and explore options for implementing any possible changes. The review also made recommendations on the powers and sanctions available to the regulator and courts in the legislation governing data sharing and data protection, as well as how the Government should develop data sharing policy in a way that ensures proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability.

I welcome the review's recommendations and agree that measures need to be taken to increase public trust and confidence in the handling and processing of personal data by Government and the private sector. Government will consider how best to take forward the remaining recommendations and it will respond in detail in autumn 2008.

Copies of the consultation will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It is also available on the internet at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1508.htm

Reoffending Targets

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am, with my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families, announcing the national targets for reducing adult and youth reoffending. Our new challenging targets will help drive a focus across government on those offenders who commit the highest number of offences and cause the most damage to communities.

The new national targets are:

To reduce the adult reoffending rate by 10 per cent. between 2005 and 2011.

To reduce the youth reoffending rate by 10 per cent. between 2005 and 2011.

(The reoffending rate is defined as the number of reoffences per hundred offenders (frequency).

These targets demonstrate the Government's continuing commitment to tackling reoffending. For adult offenders, this commitment has seen a 7.4 per cent. reduction in the number of reoffenders compared to a predicted rate, and an 11.4 per cent. fall in the frequency rate of reoffending between 2000 and 2005. For juvenile reoffenders, while the number of reoffenders has remained stable, we have seen a 17.4 per cent. fall in the frequency rate of reoffending between 2000 and 2005.

These targets underpin an indicator in the "Make Communities Safer" Public Service Agreement, published last year, which set out how we will work to reduce adult and youth reoffending and reduce crime.

The new targets will continue to focus partners across government and beyond to work together to reduce reoffending. We will continue to provide support for those offenders who are trying to change and turn away from offending, but for those offenders unwilling to change, the targets provide renewed emphasis of the need to catch and convict them as speedily and efficiently as possible.

Spending review 2002 target

We will report our performance against the 2002 spending review target to reduce reoffending by 5 per cent. by 2006 when the 2006 data become available.

Inquests (Service Personnel)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service

personnel who have died overseas. All fatalities suffered by our armed forces continue to be a source of profound regret. Our sympathies are with their families. It is particularly regrettable that this statement comes at a time when in recent weeks we have experienced an unusually high rate of fatalities in Afghanistan. Our service personnel risk their lives in helping to build strong, stable and democratic nations, and to protect the interests of the United Kingdom. We cannot pay high enough tribute to the job that they do, or to the ultimate sacrifice that some of them have made. We are, as ever, strongly committed to minimising the effect on their families and loved ones.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 12WS with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 8 July.

For the first time, the tables that accompany this statement include information about those ongoing cases in which there has been a Board of Inquiry (BoI) report.

The purpose of a BoI is to examine the circumstances surrounding an incident resulting in death or serious injury, to learn lessons and to make recommendations to the chain of command for the improvement of working practices, procedures or equipment, which could help to reduce the likelihood of a similar incident happening again.

In some cases, the initial review of an incident will highlight any lessons to be learned or actions that could be taken to prevent a similar incident happening again. Dispensation from holding a BoI may be given if there are no further lessons to be learned. This is often the case for incidents occurring on operations.

Ministers and the military chain of command attach considerable importance to the timely completion of BoIs but the overriding requirement is that a thorough investigation identifies the right lessons. It should also be noted that a BoI (and the coroner's inquest) cannot conclude until the completion of any police investigations. The coroner's inquest may take place before completion of a BoI although this rarely happens in practice.

Progress with inquests

At the time of the last statement, we reported that since additional funding had been provided by the Government to assist the Oxfordshire coroner, 155 inquests had been held: 141 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton.

Since April, a further 25 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations overseas whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham. This makes a total of 180 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced there have been a total of 201 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including one serviceman who died in the UK of his injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

Open inquests

(i) Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

The statement in April reported that there were 27 inquests to be held into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007. As at 8 July, there are nine such inquests. The Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction in six of these cases; three have been transferred to coroners closer to the deceased's next of kin. Hearing dates have been set in four cases.

The oldest individual inquest for which no date has yet been set is that into the death of Private Reeves who was killed on 9 August 2006.

In addition there are 10 inquests for the crew members who died together in the crash of Hercules XV179 on 30 January 2005. These inquests resumed on 31 March 2008 and were adjourned until 30 September.

(ii) Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction, now that fatalities are being repatriated via RAF Lyneham. The coroner, Mr. Masters, is continuing the practice of transferring military inquests to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There are 57 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007. Of these, Mr. Masters has retained 34 inquests, while 23 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in 12 of these cases. Inquests into the two latest fatalities are yet to be opened.

(iii) Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain five inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We are very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Library of the House which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Liaison with the next of kin

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress of the inquest of their deceased.

We remain committed to providing better support to bereaved military families. The written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2007 by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, gave details of the support that was then being provided. Since then, we have increased the number of family members who can travel and stay overnight if necessary, at public expense, to attend the repatriation ceremony; and two family members may attend any pre-inquest hearings, as well as the inquest itself, again at public expense.

Visiting officers are crucial in providing the liaison between families and the services, and we continue to give close attention to their selection and training.

On 1 June the Ministry of Defence established the Defence Inquests Unit. This unit acts as the focal point for all coroners' inquests into the deaths of service and Ministry of Defence civilian personnel who die on, or as a result of injuries sustained while on operations; and those who die as a result of training activity. The unit's key role is to assist coroners so that they can complete inquests satisfactorily and as quickly as possible.

The unit's main function is to establish early contact with the coroner for each inquest, and to ensure that they are provided with all relevant paperwork, including reports from the Special Investigation Branch and Board of Inquiry (if convened). The unit will also help advise on subject matter experts for inquests. While the relevant service will, rightly, remain the focal point for liaising with the bereaved families, the unit will work closely with the services to ensure that there is a consistent approach, particularly in terms of providing information to families, coroners and welfare officers.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

MPs' Allowances

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): As Leader of the House of Commons, it is my responsibility to consider how we put the will of the House into effect. That means both implementing the resolutions of 3 July 2008, and also considering how we can build on the clearly expressed view of the House that we need to do more to ensure that the rules are clear and properly enforced so that:

we protect public money; and

we protect the reputation of the house.

To that end, since the vote on 3 July, I have had a number of positive discussions, both with many hon. Members, but also with the Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Sir Christopher Kelly KCB and the Comptroller and Auditor General, Tim Burr CB.

The House of Commons agreed important measures to improve the control and audit of public money spent in respect of Members carrying out their duties as Members of the House.

The House agreed:

that no payment will be made in respect of those employed by Members unless the Member has deposited the relevant contract of employment and job description with the Department of Resources; and

on the need to strengthen the existing system of external scrutiny and that a rigorous internal system of financial audit of the additional costs allowance be introduced covering 25 per cent. of Members each year, and every Member each Parliament.

In order to put into effect these changes and to build on the determination of the House to protect public money from abuse and to justify public confidence in expenditure on MPs' allowances, I intend to consult on further steps to improve financial control and audit.

The key elements will be:

(a) That the green book setting out rules on entitlements to allowances be re-written by the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances in the light of decisions taken by the House on 3 July and to abolish the so-called John Lewis list. The Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances will keep the green book under review and advise on any further modifications to the rules that may be required, including the reimbursement of reasonable costs of mortgage interest for a second residence. We will consult on my proposal to change the ACA, so that the reasonable reimbursement of the costs of furniture and other household goods be capped at 10 per cent. of the ACA in any one year. The membership of the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances will be increased to include two independent external appointees.

(b) An external financial audit by the NAO covering all the allowances in the green book, not just the additional costs allowance, but also:

travel;

staffing costs;

incidental expenses provision for other office costs; and

the communications allowance.

It will include:

the rules and guidance as to what is and what is not acceptable under the rules;

the management controls and processes used by the Department of Resources to ensure compliance with the rules; and

checks and testing of the controls, to ensure that they are adequate and effective.

I propose that the NAO report to the Members' Estimate Audit Committee, which will include three external independent members.

The Comptroller and Auditor General believes that, given the additional evidence to be provided in support of all claims, there is an opportunity to strengthen significantly the assurance that public money has been properly spent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): Copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's annual report and accounts for 2007-08 are available in the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Roads

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): Roads are vital to our way of life, connecting people with jobs, schools, shops, family and friends. We must ensure that road users have reliable journeys on safe, well-managed roads. So today I am publishing the Command Paper "Roads—Delivering Choice and Reliability", which sets out how we aim to get the best out of the road network.

The greatest barrier to reliable journeys is congestion. It is frustrating for motorists and has serious consequences for the economy and the environment. So we are taking

a number of important steps to tackle it, focusing our efforts over the next decade on where congestion is worst—on our urban roads and motorways.

I am today announcing that £6 billion is available to fund improvements to national strategic roads in England in the period up to 2014. These improvements could include an innovative mix of road widening, opening up the hard shoulder, and junction improvements. In the Command Paper I set out which national schemes are being considered for this funding, which is in addition to that for strategic regional roads provided through the regional funding allocation process.

While some road building is needed to provide extra capacity, we must also consider how to add capacity to existing roads. That is why I am exploring where the hard shoulder could be used to provide extra space on the motorway network. Where we add new capacity either by using the hard shoulder, or by widening roads, I am particularly interested to see what role tolled or car-share lanes could play to give motorists a more reliable journey. Further work will be done on this in the coming months.

I am also today publishing cost estimates for the Highways Agency major roads programme. Since the Nichols review last year, the Highways Agency has made some important changes to its management of the roads programme. These changes are outlined in the Command Paper. The revised cost estimates for regional schemes will help the regions plan their programmes more effectively over the coming regional funding allocation period. I am placing a copy of the estimates in the Library of the House.

The majority of congestion is in our towns and cities so we have allocated an extra £200 million per year from the transport innovation fund to help local authorities manage congestion in innovative ways. I am announcing today that further pump priming funding will go to Cambridgeshire, Reading and Leeds to help them take forward their ideas. I have also previously announced that, to help local authorities with their thinking on congestion charging, we will run a demonstrations project to trial the technology and processes that could underpin a more sophisticated future congestion charging system. My Department will today tell all those companies who formally expressed an interest in participating in the project the names of the successful bidders. The trials are due to start in the Autumn.

I am also today announcing that eight of the 10 largest urban areas in England, who all have congestion targets, will receive the first tranche of the performance-related payments from the urban congestion performance fund. The fund is worth £60 million over four years and, based on their 2006-07 target performance data, £6 million will be shared between Bristol, Greater Manchester, Leicester, London, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands.

All 10 areas will be eligible for further funding based on future years' performance data. This funding, along with an additional £8 million I am announcing today to help local authorities manage their transport assets more effectively, on top of £15 million already announced in January, is all in addition to the amounts provided through the regional funding allocation process.

It is important that people have the reliable journeys they want. The Command Paper I am publishing today sets out a clear strategy for getting the best out of our roads in the coming years so we can make that a reality.

Security Planning at Airports

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): My Department, in conjunction with the Home Office, has today begun a consultation on aspects of the Transport Security Bill designed to deliver more effective policing and security planning arrangements at airports.

The consultation sets out a new security planning process that:

- requires the majority of airports in the UK to agree a local airport security plan with their key stakeholders, based upon an agreed threat and risk analysis; and
- allows any policing element of this plan to be charged to the airport operator.

As a consequence, the activities of the police, aviation industry and control authorities will be better co-ordinated to enhance and strengthen security planning. The process of security planning will provide a greater level of understanding to all security stakeholders at an airport as to why they are carrying out certain functions and what resources are required. It is also important that we create a level playing field whereby all airport operators pay for any dedicated police presence required at their airports.

Given the importance of strong policing and security planning in the current climate, we are using the opportunity of introducing a Transport Security Bill into Parliament next session to deliver these objectives as well as including provisions to combat terrorist acts at sea.

It is important to note that airports already provide a secure environment for the travelling public and industry staff. We now want to ensure that security is addressed at individual airports in a structured way, and that the role of the police in preventing criminal activity is clearly determined.

Today's proposals have developed from the findings of the independent review of airport policing that was presented to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Transport in July 2006. The Department for Transport and the Home Office, working jointly, have developed the measures in close consultation with senior representatives from industry and the police.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 17 July 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regulatory Impact Assessment Command Paper

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Government are committed to ensuring that regulations are necessary, give effective protection, balance cost and risk, are fair and command public confidence.

In accordance with this, we require Departments to produce and publish (regulatory) impact assessments for all regulatory proposals likely to have an impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies and the public sector.

I have today presented to Parliament a Command Paper listing impact assessments published between 1 July 2007 and 31 March 2008.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House for the reference of members and will be available in the Vote Office.

Government have now launched the impact assessment library, a central website that ensures increased transparency and accessibility to the analysis underpinning the Government's decision to regulate. The impact assessment library can be found at www.ialibrary.berr.gov.uk.

As a result of the launch of the impact assessment library, this will be the last Command Paper published providing information on final impact assessments.

TREASURY

National Statistics Annual Report 2007-08

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The National Statistics annual report for 2007-08 is being published and laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Library of the House and can be accessed on the National Statistics web site.

Tax and Benefit Reference Manual 2008-09

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): Copies of the 2008-09 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual (TBRM) are today being deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes.

EU Funds (Consolidated Statement)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): The Government announced in November 2006 that, as part of its work to improve accountability for EU funds across the EU, HM Treasury would prepare an annual consolidated statement, audited by the NAO, on the use of such funds in the United Kingdom. We are today laying before Parliament the first of these statements, along with the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) audit opinion and report.

The purpose of this arrangement is to strengthen the audit and parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's use of EU funds and help detect any weaknesses in the UK's management of these funds so that these can be more effectively and rapidly tackled. The statement and C&AG's first report sets an excellent basis for doing this.

The C&AG's positive opinion on regularity clearly shows that the management of EU funds by UK authorities during the period covered by the statement has been sound and that there has be no evidence of material irregularity in the payments made to beneficiaries. The Government welcome this finding, as providing assurance on the management of EU funds in the UK was one of the statement's key objectives.

The C&AG's limitation of scope does make it clear that more needs to be done to improve the consistency of the recording and the accounting of EU funding by UK central government bodies. The Government are working to ensure these issues are addressed. In particular, improved guidance is being developed so that all future EU transactions and balances are recorded consistently and separately in the accounts of all the relevant entities. The actions taken this year will be the first in a rolling programme of improvement in this area.

This statement and the improvements that result from it will be important in building momentum for similar action to be taken by our EU partners. Such action is critical, as a positive "statement of assurance" from the European Court of Auditors on the reliability of the EU's accounts will only ever be obtained if measures to improve the management of agricultural and structural funds are taken by member states as well as the Commission.

In this context, the Government warmly welcome the statements that have been published by the Dutch Finance Ministry and the Danish National Audit Office, as well the Swedish initiative to publish a statement in the spring of next year. In time, the UK hopes to welcome similar reports on the use of EU funds from other member states.

The Government hope this statement and the C&AG's audit opinion will be helpful to the European Court of Auditors and the Commission when they are performing their own audits and controls. I will be sending copies of this statement to both institutions, as well as to my counterparts in other member states.

It is crucial that EU taxpayers are given the necessary assurance that EU money is being spent correctly. The UK's initiative to publish this consolidated statement on its use of EU funds will make a positive contribution to ensuring this is the case. I will continue to work to encourage my counterparts in other member states to show a similar degree of commitment to providing such an assurance.

Free Cash Machines (Low-income Areas)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): Following the March 2005 Treasury Committee report on ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) charging, the Treasury invited the chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, the right hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (John McFall), to chair a Working Group on ATMs to take forward work on key issues. The Working Group, which included banks, independent ATM operators and consumer groups, published its report on 13 December 2006.

The Working Group announced an agreement to provide around 600 new free cash machines across 1,707 target low-income areas that it identified as lacking convenient access to these machines. To achieve this, a market-based financial incentive—known as a "financial inclusion premium"—was introduced, to encourage ATM operators to place or retain free ATMs in deprived areas with a low expected volume of transactions. The Working Group also agreed to implement improved transparency rules for charging cash machines. Since publication of the Working Group report, LINK has assessed around 10 per cent. of the identified low-income areas as unsuitable for an ATM location as there is no centre of population.

The Government are pleased to report that the industry has, over the 18 months following publication of the Working Group's report, made excellent progress towards its goals of placing around 600 non-charging machines in low-income areas across the UK, with around 2 million individuals on low incomes standing to benefit.

As of 30 June 2008, sites for 562 of the 600 new ATMs required have been identified. Of these, 419 new free machines are already in use and issuing cash to the public. Some 74 per cent. of these ATMs that are based in the target deprived areas receive the "financial inclusion premium". Encouragingly, nine of these new cash machines have proved so popular that their level of withdrawals means that they have now graduated from the "financial inclusion premium" scheme.

Banks, building societies and independent ATM operators have all contributed new free-to-use cash machines; independent ATM operators have provided or are in the process of supplying around 35 per cent. of the confirmed new non-charging ATMs. The UK ATM network, LINK, is continuing to work with its member banks and ATM operators to identify suitable sites in the remaining target areas, and is engaging closely in this exercise with Members of Parliament, local authorities, consumer councils and retailers.

The benefits in terms of financial inclusion are clear. Data from LINK suggest that the new ATMs currently in operation or under contract will enable almost 1.3 million residents in the target low-income areas to access cash more conveniently and manage their money more effectively.

In terms of improved transparency, operators of cash machines that charge users for withdrawals and that can upload screens remotely, have met the end-June 2007 deadline to improve the onscreen standards of "at a glance" signage. This means that it is clear to a consumer when a charge is applied when withdrawing cash. Good progress was also made by operators in enhancing external signage by end December 2007.

The Government are encouraged by the substantial progress achieved, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in extending free access to cash to those who need it the most.

Full details about progress made is available on the LINK Internet

website at: http://www.link.co.uk/atm/access_to_cash_progress/index.html

I will be issuing a final statement on the progress stemming from this initiative this December.

Issuer Liability

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): The Treasury is today publishing "Extension of the Statutory Regime for Issuer Liability". This sets out the Government's response to the Davies review of Issuer Liability and contains proposals to extend the statutory civil liability regime for issuer misstatements to the market, established in section 90A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

HM Revenue and Customs (Office Reorganisation)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is today publishing the outcomes of a review of HMRC office accommodation housing around 7,500 staff outside its urban centres in the South East, East and West Midlands and North East regions.

These decisions are the latest to emerge from a nationwide series of reviews started in 2006 and designed to create the future shape of the Department. HMRC has engaged widely with trade unions, MPs, local authorities and a range of customer groups as well as with their own employees.

These have not been easy decisions. However, the overriding consideration has to be the Department's need to address new and challenging customer demands by restructuring its business and estate in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Between now and 2011, HMRC plans to withdraw from locations as circumstances allow and at a pace which enables it to maintain and improve customer services.

All enquiry centres where customers can walk into an office and ask for assistance will remain in their current location or nearby.

Details of the decisions, impact assessments and equality impact assessments will be published on the HMRC website today and MPs will receive email confirmation of decisions relevant to their constituency along with copies of related assessments.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 8 July 2008. I attended for the UK. Items on the agenda were as follows:

Presidency Work Programme

The French Presidency presented the ECOFIN work programme for the next six months followed by an exchange of views. As part of the agreed three-presidency approach, the French Presidency will begin the first stages of the common priorities agreed with the incoming Czech and Swedish Presidencies in 2009. These priorities include boosting confidence in the financial system, continuing the integration of the internal market, and responding to citizens' concerns about the current economic situation. The UK supports the proposed work programme.

Implementation of the stability and growth pact

The Council adopted opinions on the updated stability programme for Belgium and the updated convergence programme for Poland. Ministers also agreed to a draft decision ending the excessive deficit procedure for Poland, repealing ECOFIN's decision in 2004 noting the existence of an excessive Government deficit. In addition the Council agreed to a decision and recommendations under articles 104(6) and 104(7) of the EC treaty with regard to the UK, placing the UK in excessive deficit procedure.

Adoption of the euro by Slovakia

The Council adopted the legislative acts required for the adoption of the euro by Slovakia from January 2009, finalising the agreement at the June European Council, and adopted regulations for the conversion rate of 30.1260 Slovak korunas to the euro. The UK congratulates Slovakia on the substantial reforms made in order to meet the Maastricht criteria for entry into the single currency.

Oil price trends

Following the discussion at the June European Council, Ministers held an exchange of views on the situation in the oil and fuel markets and on the French Presidency work programme to prepare ECOFIN's contribution to the October and December European Councils. This included reaching political agreement on the principle of weekly publication of oil stock information. The UK supports the work underway to better understand what is driving the development of oil prices under the guiding principles set out in the Manchester 2005 declaration on the need to avoid distortionary fiscal interventions in the oil markets.

Governance of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

The Council welcomed the proposals by the International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation (IASCF) to enhance its governance structure and to improve the functioning of the IASB, and on that basis adopted conclusions that will be submitted as the European contribution to the public consultation on IASB. The UK supports the efforts to improve internal processes and governance within the IASB, principally through improving the oversight arrangements and the creation of a new monitoring board.

Financial markets: situation and implementation of the Council road map

The Commission presented the state of play on the October 2007 ECOFIN Council roadmap. Ministers agreed to conclusions calling for the fullest possible transparency in order to bring confidence to the market. Ministers also agreed conclusions supporting the need for a strengthened oversight regime for credit rating agencies, which will be based on Commission proposals to follow in the autumn. The UK continues to support work to improve the stability of financial markets, and will accordingly examine the Commission's proposals in detail.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): Budget ECOFIN will be held on 17 July in Brussels and the UK permanent representative will attend and represent the UK. Discussion will be on the preliminary draft budget for the European Communities for 2009 and the meeting will include conciliation with the European Parliament, during which Council and the European Parliament will discuss expenditure levels. Items on the agenda are as follows:

Preparation for the conciliation meeting with the European Parliament;

Conciliation with the European Parliament;

Establishment by the Council of the draft EC Budget for 2009.

Equitable Life

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): The Parliamentary Ombudsman has today published the report of her investigation into the prudential regulation of the Equitable Life Assurance Society from 1988 to the end of November 2001.

The ombudsman's investigation was launched in 2004 following the publication of Lord Penrose's independent forensic investigation into the events at Equitable Life (HC 290). He concluded that Equitable Life's own actions ultimately precipitated its financial difficulties in the summer of 2000.

The ombudsman has looked at the application of the now replaced prudential regulatory regime under the Insurance Companies Act 1982. Her investigation has covered issues of considerable factual and technical complexity.

Against this back drop, it was necessary for the bodies subject to the ombudsman's investigation to make detailed representations on a number of occasions throughout the investigation. Those representations were put forward at the ombudsman's request to assist her review of the evidence. They highlighted substantive differences of view between the bodies and the ombudsman which she has responded to in the report published today.

The Government recognise that the ombudsman's report raises issues of concern to all interested parties. The length and complexity of the report mean that the Government will need to consider the report carefully before giving their response to the House in the autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Inspectorate Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government is today laying before the House a copy of the "Planning Inspectorate's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08".

The report gives an overview of the performance of the inspectorate and demonstrates the importance of a credible, accessible planning tribunal service that is open, transparent and impartial. It also highlights the ways in which the inspectorate is supporting the Government's drive for a faster and fairer planning system.

The report reveals that the planning inspectorate in England hit 25 per cent. more of its key performance targets this year. In addition, it significantly reduced the backlog of its oldest cases. The inspectorate had also halved the waiting time for setting public inquiry dates for planning appeals to just 10 weeks by the end of the year.

In Wales the planning inspectorate has again performed to a high standard meeting all but one of its ministerial targets. The total number of planning appeal decisions has increased by nearly 4 per cent. since 2006-07. My noble Friend Baroness Andrews has agreed with Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment Sustainability and Housing for the Welsh Assembly Government, that the inspectorate's targets for its main areas of casework in 2008-09 should remain unchanged.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

South East of England Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing proposed changes to the draft revisions to the regional spatial strategy for the South East (The South East Plan).

The regional spatial strategy forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the South East, and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It provides the spatial plan for the development of the region, providing the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment over the next 20 years.

The current strategy, initially published as regional planning guidance, became the regional spatial strategy in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. A draft revision of the regional spatial strategy was submitted to Government in March 2006 by the South East England Regional Assembly. It was subsequently tested in an examination in public (EIP) between December 2006 and March 2007 and the report of the independent panel which conducted the examination was published in August 2007.

The Secretary of State has considered the recommendations of the independent panel and has taken into account the representations made on the draft revision and any recent changes in Government policy.

Today's publication of the Secretary of State's proposed changes represents the commencement of a public consultation period which will close on 24 October 2008. Also being published for comment are the reports of a sustainability appraisal and a habitats regulations assessment of the proposed changes. A non-technical summary is available of these documents.

Following consideration of the responses to consultation, the Secretary of State expects to be able to publish the finalised regional spatial strategy for the South East by the end of the year. On final publication it will supersede the current RSS.

I have written to the chairman of the regional assembly to give notice of the publication of the proposed changes and thanked the assembly and its staff for their hard work in preparing the draft revisions.

The documents will be accessible from today on the Government Office for the South East website and made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Copies will be provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities, and sent to all those who participated in the EIP and other interested parties and organisations required by the regulations.

North West England Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will be publishing the final revision of the regional spatial strategy for the North West of England in late August or early September. On publication it will supersede the current RSS. Also to be published are the reports of a consolidated sustainability appraisal, a habitats regulations assessment and sustainability statement.

The published regional spatial strategy will form part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the North West, and set the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It will provide the spatial plan for the development of the region, and the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment.

The current strategy, initially published as regional planning guidance, became the regional spatial strategy in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. A draft revision of the regional spatial strategy was submitted to Government in January 2006 by the North West regional assembly. It was subsequently tested in an examination in public between November 2006 and February 2007, and the report of the independent panel which conducted this examination was published in May 2007. The Secretary of State considered the recommendations of this independent panel, and took into account the representations made on the draft revision, and also changes in Government policy since the draft revision was submitted, before publishing proposed changes for further public consultation between March and May 2008.

On publication, a further statement and copies of the relevant documents will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and copies sent to the region's MPs and MEPs, members of the Opposition Front Bench and local authorities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps for Communities

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Tomorrow I shall be announcing a package of measures to further our work on preventing violent extremism, concerned with building

better connections with local places; fostering community leadership and improving theological understanding.

The launch of "Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps for Communities", at Manchester town hall, will fulfil a public commitment that we made in our April 2007 "Winning Hearts and Minds" action plan to provide an update on the progress of our work and to articulate Communities and Local Government's future priorities on Prevent.

Lord Patel of Bradford undertook some work for me visiting a number of local authorities across the country and a wide range of stakeholders. We will continue to reflect on Lord Patel's findings over summer 2008 alongside other review and evaluation work on the Prevent being undertaken across Government. We will set out our conclusions and the further action we propose to take to help develop community approaches later this year.

Regeneration Strategy for England

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am today publishing "Transforming Places, changing lives: a framework for regeneration". This document sets out an ambitious package of proposals—for consultation—that aim to shape the way that regeneration is carried out in future in England. Publishing the framework fulfils a commitment from the 2007 sub-national review of economic development and regeneration.

We have made great strides in regeneration in the last 10 years, narrowing the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest. The new approach builds on what we know works.

The framework contains a renewed focus on ensuring that regeneration tackles the underlying economic challenges to increase social mobility and support people to reach their potential, regardless of where they live. Specifically the measures proposed aim to:

ensure that regeneration investment is co-ordinated and prioritised in the right places, with public, private, and third sector organisations working together in the same places towards a shared vision;

devolve power—decisions about where to invest should be made as locally as possible, so this framework proposes an approach to prioritisation that starts with communities and their councils, and aims to align investment behind local and regional regeneration priorities—making programmes fit places, not places fit programmes; and

focus regeneration investment on tackling the underlying economic challenges that hold places back, in particular supporting people to get a job and then progress within the labour market as well as boosting levels of enterprise in those areas.

The framework proposes that all regeneration should be aligned behind three priority outcomes:

improving economic performance in the areas that have not yet made the same progress as other areas;

improving rates of work and enterprise in these areas; and

creating sustainable places where people want to live and can work, and businesses want to invest.

The consultation is accompanied by an impact assessment. Copies have been placed in the House Library or it can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/transformingplaces.

The consultation closes on 31 October 2008.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Free Swimming

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): Following the announcement the Secretary of State for Health and I made on 6 June 2008, I am today setting out further details of the Government's free swimming scheme in partnership with local government. This cross-Government announcement set out a £140 million package comprising contributions from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

This statement, and the arrangements it sets out, have been developed across Government with the help of the Amateur Swimming Association, the Local Government Association, Sport England and others.

The Government are keen to encourage as many local authorities as possible to participate in making swimming free for over 60s and under 16s in their local communities, but also to stimulate ambitious authorities to maximise and sustain uptake through other initiatives such as free lessons for adults who cannot swim, the introduction of swimming co-ordinators and to provide incentives for the most ambitious to move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

We hope this statement will give local authorities the information they need to start planning for their budget setting cycle and to decide the extent to which they wish to exploit the opportunities offered by the scheme to improve the health and well-being of their communities and support delivery of local priorities as set out in their respective local area agreements.

Pot 1: Free swimming for the over 60s

Swimming is the most popular participation activity for the over 60s, with 7 per cent. taking part in swimming at least once a month. Swimming has the same health benefits as other forms of physical activity. Additionally, regular swimming builds endurance, muscle strength and cardio-vascular fitness and, as a low impact activity, is ideal for the elderly and those recovering from injury. The Government are keen to encourage as many local authorities as possible to participate in making swimming free for over 60s in their area. To achieve this, central Government is making available £15 million per annum in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Government will write at the start of next week to the chief executives of all local authorities in England which are responsible for leisure services to ask them to confirm, by no later than 15 September 2008, whether they wish to take up this offer. This letter will set out the resource funding the local authority will be allocated from pot 1 in 2009-10 and 2010-11 if it chooses to participate. This allocation is calculated according to a simple formula based on the size of the local over-60 population. Funding will be distributed through a specific grant, details of which will be set out in the letter to local authorities.

The qualifying criteria for the scheme are simple. Free swimming for the over 60s means that people in that age group who wish to swim at any time throughout

the year when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged.

Authorities who already offer free swimming that would otherwise have qualified for this funding may deploy their allocation to fund initiatives that will further increase and sustain participation for the over 60s and extend such measures to wider groups of the population.

Pot 2: Free swimming for the under 16s

Swimming remains a popular activity for children, with 38 per cent. of 11 to 16-year-olds participating in swimming in and out of school at least once a month. The Government are keen to extend the principle of making swimming free to the under 16s. To support this, central Government are making available £25 million per annum in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

All local authorities who choose to participate in pot 1 are also invited to submit, no later than 15 September 2008, an expression of interest to make swimming free for under 16s. For these authorities, details of their prospective allocation from pot 2 will be provided no later than 30 September 2008. They will then be invited to confirm, by no later than 15 October 2008, whether they wish to take up this offer. Funding will again be distributed through a specific grant.

As for the over 60s, we have made the qualifying criteria for the scheme simple. Free swimming for the under 16s means that people in that age group who wish to swim out of normal school hours throughout the year when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged.

Again, local authorities who already offer free swimming that would otherwise have qualified for this funding may deploy their allocation to fund initiatives which will further increase and sustain participation for the under 16s and extend such measures to wider groups of the population.

We hope that local authorities will work creatively with local partners, including primary care trusts, to access funds from other sources such as the working neighbourhoods fund, extending activities and the Big Lottery Fund, as well as from the private sector.

Pot 3: Modernising pool provision—capital reward fund

To support local authorities in making swimming free for the over 60s and under 16s, we are also making available £10 million of capital funding in 2008-09 to modernise pool provision. All authorities that sign up to participate in pot 1 and pot 2 will be entitled to a one-off capital grant in 2008-09.

Pot 3 will be allocated amongst all authorities that choose to participate in both pot 1 and pot 2, based on population shares.

Pot 4: Modernising pool provision—capital challenge fund

Local authorities have welcomed the opportunity to refurbish and modernise pool provision. Central Government are also making available £25 million capital per annum in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to modernise pool provision and support more ambitious plans for free swimming.

Sport England will administer the capital challenge fund on behalf of the Government, and will publish a prospectus for bids for funding by 31 July 2008. Local authorities which have committed to pot 1 and pot 2 will be invited to submit costed plans for pot 4 by no later than 15 October 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Products (Imports)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): As required under the Animal Health Act 1981, as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002, the Government will publish a review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2007-08 on Thursday 24 July. I am pleased to be able to report on activity during the past year aimed at reducing the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) remains committed to taking effective, proportionate, risk-based and intelligence-led enforcement measures to prevent illegal imports, and continues to target the routes that pose the greatest disease risk.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and HMRC continue to undertake a great deal of publicity within the United Kingdom, at the border and overseas. In January 2008 DEFRA relaunched the black and minority ethnic personal food imports campaign thus continuing to raise awareness of the personal import rules and also trying to encourage behavioural change so illegal food products are not brought in to the country.

DEFRA, with HMRC and the Food Standards Agency, has also used a wide range of other communication channels to promote our message. We will continue to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world, and work with HMRC/United Kingdom Border Agency to make sure that our enforcement activity is targeted at the current risks.

Copies of the review will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses, and following publication on the DEFRA "personal food imports" website (www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegali), sent to stakeholders for information, seeking their feedback. Hard copies will also be available on request.

Poultry Register

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): My noble Friend Lord Rooker has today announced changes in the use of personal data held on the GB poultry register in England and Wales following a public consultation. The changes will come into effect on 1 August 2008. Copies of the report summarising the responses to the public consultation will be deposited in the Library of the House.

The register was set up in December 2005 in response to increased threat of outbreaks of avian influenza. Poultry keepers with more than 50 birds are legally

required to provide essential information about their premises to populate the register. To date, the register has been used for avian influenza risk assessment, prevention and control.

Decisions on changes of use of the register took into account the views of individuals and organisations who responded to the consultation as well as the wider public and taxpayer interest, given that the register is a valuable resource. The intention has been to achieve a balance between the benefits of appropriate data sharing, including public protection and improving public services, and the proper respect for personal data in line with our data protection obligations.

Use of personal data on the register will be extended in the following areas:

management of other poultry diseases (in addition to avian influenza), including other notifiable diseases and zoonoses;

planning, response and recovery by the emergency services and other responders in civil emergencies affecting poultry premises, including avian disease outbreaks;

planning of visits related to legislation on veterinary medicines and on animal welfare;

providing information as necessary to the EC to substantiate UK claims for compensation from the EU in the event of a disease outbreak;

informing the work of DEFRA and Welsh Assembly Government statisticians and economists in the development of evidence-based policy;

informing the annual agricultural census and hence enabling the poultry questions to be removed from the census;

facilitating (non-commercial) ad-hoc surveys as part of DEFRA and Welsh Assembly Government's regional and national activities towards achieving their strategic objectives, including for example England's sustainable food and farming strategy and GB's animal health and welfare strategy. This may also include the provision of advice and information to individual poultry keepers; and

informing the development of future customer contact management and registration as part of Animal Health's business reform programme.

It is important to note that the register will not be available freely to new users in connection with these purposes. DEFRA (Animal Health) will issue extracts of the register as necessary to the new users in response to receiving a specific request for personal data but only if satisfied that access to personal data is necessary for the purposes identified above and that appropriate data management arrangements are in place. These arrangements shall be in line with the advice in the Government's recently published report on data handling procedures[1] which is available in the Libraries of both Houses, and with policies and advice in response to the recommendations from the recently completed independent review on data sharing by Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport[2]. For example, measures being put in place across Government Departments and agencies include:

mandatory training for all staff involved in handling personal data;

further enhancing the transparency of arrangements, through annual reporting to Parliament on progress and the use of information charters which provide clarity to the public about the use and handling of personal data.

The additional uses of the register will make the best of this valuable resource. We take very seriously our responsibilities for the proper handling of personal data and will ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the personal data of keepers in line with our legal obligations.

[1] "Data Handling Procedures in Government: Final Report" June 2008

[2] "Data Sharing Review", by Richard Thomas and Mark Walport available at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/datasharing-intro.htm

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Lisbon Treaty (Ratification)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): Following the enactment of the EU (Amendment) Bill, the Government completed the ratification process for the Lisbon treaty on 16 July by depositing its instrument of ratification in Rome.

HEALTH

Official Receptions

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have today published a list of official receptions hosted by Ministers at the Department of Health for the financial year 2007-08. The total cost of official receptions for the financial year 2007-08 was £2,129.

Official Receptions Hosted by Department of Health Ministers 2007-08

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
24 July 2007	Reception for media correspondents to meet Secretary of State and Ministerial team, national clinical directors and Media Centre staff.	50	Alan Johnson
9 October 2007	Stakeholder reception for launch of Green Paper on adult social care funding.	35	Ivan Lewis
17 December 2007	Reception for key departmental Stakeholders	35	Ivan Lewis
17 December 2007	Reception for media correspondents to meet Secretary of State and Ministerial team, national clinical directors and Media Centre staff.	35	Alan Johnson

Pharmaceutical Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): In April, we published the Government's White Paper, "Pharmacy in England—Building on Strengths, Delivering the Future" (Cm 7341). The White Paper set out our future proposals for expanding high quality, clinical pharmaceutical services for patients and consumers and developing pharmacists' role as a leading clinical profession.

Following publication of Lord Darzi's comprehensive and groundbreaking NHS "Next Stage Review Final Report" (Cm 7432) and our vision for primary and community care, we will publish next month the further consultation on structural changes for pharmaceutical services promised in the White Paper. I am keen that we give everyone involved and concerned ample opportunity to consider these in full. Consultation will therefore run through to the autumn and will be accompanied by relevant impact assessments. We also plan to hold further national events to support comprehensive discussion and debate as part of that consultation.

Since publication of the White Paper, we have proceeded quickly to the next stages to support implementation of our programme. We have:

held a series of national listening events in May to support the launch. Over 630 delegates attended drawn from the NHS, the professions and representative bodies. The events gave delegates the opportunity to consider and to discuss our plans in more detail, including a number of key ideas for structural change which the Government believe are necessary to underpin the White Paper programme. We will publish our report of those events alongside the forthcoming consultation;

announced in the NHS "Next Stage Review Final Report" that a new independent advisory non-departmental public body, Medical Education England, will advise the Department on education, training and workforce planning for pharmacists, as well as doctors, dentists and healthcare scientists;

held events to discuss with pharmacists and others implementation and delivery options for the vascular risk assessment programme, including offering vascular checks through pharmacies;

subject to Royal Assent, the Health and Social Care Bill has completed its passage through both Houses. In due course, a new General Pharmaceutical Council will be created to oversee the pharmacy profession. Consultation on the proposed order for the Council will begin in the summer and it is intended to hold consultation events GB-wide in September and October; and

published responses to our consultation on the responsible pharmacist. We will lay regulations before Parliament in early autumn to implement a new statutory framework that will support pharmacists in using their clinical skills and those of pharmacy staff to improve patients' access to a wider range of services.

To support further work we:

are publishing later today the national template for a service specification for chlamydia screening, to support primary care trusts commissioning of a locally commissioned enhanced service. This will be available on the website of NHS Primary Care Contracting at: www.pcc.nhs.uk

will shortly advertise the posts of the two new pharmacy national clinical directors. They will provide strong, authoritative clinical leadership for pharmacists at both local and national level, championing the development of services and helping implement actions from the White Paper in hospitals and in the community; and

are commissioning further research to map the target audiences for a pharmacy public communications programme. This will particularly focus on those people with long-term conditions and who are most affected by health inequalities. The results, to be available later this autumn, will inform the next stages of implementation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The French presidency's Informal Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Cannes on 7 and 8 July 2008. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. Since it was an informal Council, no formal decisions were taken. The following issues were discussed:

During the first session of the Council, member states considered what practical measures could be taken to improve the internal security of the EU and police co-operation. All welcomed the presidency idea that police co-operation should be developed around the principle of convergence, with most defining that to mean practical changes to improve cross border working by police forces, such as radio interoperation, data-sharing, work on major events and in tourist areas. Several called for more European police training.

The UK agreed with the practical approach recalling that, especially on the third anniversary of the London bombings, one of our top priorities remained counter terrorism. As such we welcomed the work led by the counter terrorism co-ordinator. Counter-radicalisation, projects like the Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre (MAOC(N)) on drugs, criminal asset confiscation, cybercrime, and a data-sharing and protection strategy were also all important. The presidency concluded by confirming that the lack of a new treaty did not stand in the way of the practical measures Ministers wanted.

The presidency introduced their paper in the Civil Protection session by stressing the need for the EU to be prepared, improve capabilities, convergence and interoperability and suggesting that some 'modules' (specialised intervention teams based on member state assets) be put on standby. A number of member states supported the need for co-operation, but responded with caution regarding new structures and any suggestion of EU authority over national resources. Modules must remain on a voluntary basis to ensure that member states have full control over the use of their own assets. It was concluded that these should remain voluntary but the EU should look at any capability gaps and support joint training initiatives.

Over lunch, the final report of the interior future group was presented and there was a general discussion with member states welcoming it.

We expect the work of both of the future groups to be officially concluded at the JHA Council at the end of July.

The presidency presented the Migration Pact and said that they hoped to adopt it at the October Council. All member states supported the pact but raised points of detail, with some arguing that asylum procedures should not be changed, others wanting a single consolidated instrument on legal migration procedures, concerns regarding the creation of a common border guard; and some seeking a stronger reference to burden sharing of people.

The UK welcomed the pact and noted that the EU should continue to focus on practical measures that deliver results including on data-sharing, border control, and passenger name records (PNR). The EU's border agency, Frontex, (among others) should be used to strengthen the external border but the responsibility should remain with the member states. On asylum, the UK stressed that the EU should focus on implementing existing asylum legislation. The EU must provide a

haven, but also needed to work together to combat abuse. The global approach to migration needed to be further implemented although we needed to be clearer on the links between development and migration.

The first justice session opened with a debate introduced by the presidency about whether judges required further training in EU law and judicial co-operation. Most member states welcomed the discussion but concerns were raised about judicial independence and the way the training should be delivered. Most thought that any such training should be open to judges, prosecutors and court officials and that the key subjects should be EU law, other member states' law and language training.

The second justice session focused on the protection of children and vulnerable adults. For the discussion on protecting children, the presidency urged member states to establish national missing child alert systems which should be interoperable. The UK supported both the principle and detail of the presidency's ideas and explained that the UK was rolling out an alert system. Information sharing on convicted sex offenders, use of CCTV and automatic number plate recognition were all also useful. The presidency concluded that the child alert system would be taken forward.

There was a discussion about how the European Union should deal with the question of the protection of vulnerable adults in order to meet the challenges of an ageing population and the high level of mobility of European citizens. The presidency encouraged member states to ratify the Hague Convention on the International Protection of Vulnerable Adults and there was a discussion about how member states could improve the implementation of the convention. The UK signed and ratified the convention within Scotland in 2003. Work is underway to extend the convention to cover England and Wales.

There was a short discussion of the report of the Justice future group over lunch. Those Ministers who spoke broadly welcomed the report.

JUSTICE

HM Chief Inspector of Probation: Appointment Extension

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am delighted to announce that the appointment of Andrew Bridges CBE as HM Chief Inspector of Probation for England and Wales has been extended until 31 March 2010. Mr Bridges' expertise and knowledge will continue to play a key role in enabling the probation inspectorate to deliver a credible and effective inspection programme for the probation service and youth offending teams.

Legal Services Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Legal Services Act received Royal Assent on 30 October 2007. Two of the key elements of the Act are the provision of a Legal Services Board (LSB) and the establishment of an Office for Legal Complaints (OLC). The LSB will be an over- arching regulator and the OLC will deal with all complaints about regulated legal service providers.

I am pleased to announce that following open and fair competition, regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the Lord Chancellor has appointed:

Terence Connor; Stephen Green; William Moyes; Barbara Saunders; and Nicole Smith as the lay members; and

Rosemary Martin; Michael Napier; Andrew Whittaker; and David Wolfe as the non-lay members.

The board members will take up post from 1 September 2008. The appointments will run for three years.

National Offender Management Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today publishing the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) agency framework document which sets out the Government's vision for NOMS and how it will be governed as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporateinformation.htm.

NOMS has the twin aims of protecting the public and reducing reoffending. It is responsible for commissioning and delivering adult offender management services both in custody and in the community in England and Wales. The agency is central to the Ministry of Justice's work to deliver better outcomes for society, improve further the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and take forward recommendations for streamlining management structures and reducing overhead costs following Lord Carter's latest review of prisons.

CABINET OFFICE

Official Receptions

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): I have today published a list of receptions hosted by Cabinet Office Ministers in the 2007-08 financial year.

The total cost of receptions held for the financial year 2007-08 was £2,884.

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
23 July 2007	Introductory reception with key Cabinet Office stakeholders	80	Ed Miliband, Phil Hope and Gillian Merron
24 October 2007	Stakeholder reception to mark the announcement of the public service agreement target for socially excluded adults	45	Ed Miliband, Phil Hope and Gillian Merron
27 February 2008	Reception with media correspondents and stakeholders	60	Ed Miliband, Phil Hope and Tom Watson

"Greening Government ICT"

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): The Cabinet Office has today published "Greening Government ICT", which sets out the steps Government will take to reduce the carbon footprint of their PCs, laptops, data centres and other office equipment. "Greening Government ICT" also sets challenging targets for central Government and the executive agencies, and provides guidance on how these can be achieved.

The document "Greening Government ICT" can be downloaded from the CIO Council website along with a list of potential energy saving measures for ICT at www.cio.gov.uk/. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Access to Statistics

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): On 10 December 2007 the Government published its consultation document "Limiting Pre-Release Access to Statistics". The consultation ran over 12 weeks and closed on 3 March 2008. The Government proposed to tighten the rules under which pre-release access can be granted by:

reducing pre-release access to a maximum of 24 hours;

reducing the number of statistics to which pre-release access is granted to a minimum; and

reducing the number of people to whom pre-release access is granted to a minimum.

The Government are grateful for the responses they received to the consultation, which they found helpful in refining and developing their proposals.

The Government are taking forward its proposals and will shortly lay the Pre- Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 before Parliament for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's response to the consultation, "Limiting Pre-release Access to Statistics: the Government's response to the consultation exercise".

Copies of this report have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The report is also available on the Cabinet Office website at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/consultations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Regional Accountability

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I would like to inform the House that I intend to publish a command paper outlining the Government's response to the Modernisation Committee's third report of the 2007-08 session on regional accountability (HC282) on Monday 21 July. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Correction to Written Answers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Subsequent to written answers I gave on 29 January, 11 March and 2 April 2008, to parliamentary questions on data-handling, I would like to inform the House that further investigation has revealed additional information.

The response to the Hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) (Question 175768), [29 January 2008, Official Report, column 197W], should have included reference to three further instances of data being accessible overseas:

First, the Vehicle Operator Services Agency has an IT contract with Siemens covering the computerisation of the MOT scheme. The Siemens data centre is based in the UK and all operational data are stored in the UK. However, some of the data were processed by Siemens staff in India on a controlled basis for the purpose of correcting and updating software code. The data were not transferred to a physical storage device outside of the UK, and the data could not be saved, amended or copied to any device in India.

The information that was potentially viewable on this basis was as follows:

information relating to the construction/specification and the registration mark of all vehicles in Great Britain that are subject to the MOT scheme. This does not include

any details in relation to the registered keeper of the vehicle;

details of 65,500 nominated testers under the MOT scheme comprising individual's name, home address, date of birth, telephone number and driving licence number; and

details of 16,500 individuals authorised examiners under the MOT scheme comprising individual's name, business address, business telephone and fax number.

Siemens were instructed to revoke all access to operational data from India in relation to the MOT computerisation system on 12 June 2008.

Separately, the central Department has a contract with Siemens for a public enquiry service that uses a system provided under contract by RightNow Technologies. That company back up the information transporting the data electronically via an encrypted channel to their Disaster Recovery Centre in Chicago where it is held in an unencrypted form in a physically secure environment. A further unencrypted tape backup is maintained by Iron Mountain in a vault in New Jersey. The information includes business contact details of DfT staff, and details of calls and callers' names and telephone numbers for queries that have been referred to the DfT internal team for answer.

Finally the central Department uses an online survey site hosted by SurveyMonkey.com., a US company whose site is hosted in the United States. This facility has been used by the Department to conduct surveys including staff surveys. Personal information relating to DfT staff included name, workplace address, qualifications and employment experience. It was also used by VOSA to get feedback on staff events such as their annual conference.

The response to Question 179889 from the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice), [11 March 2008, Official Report, columns 211-13W] should have included:

In addition to Fujitsu Database Administrators, IBM Database Administrators also have direct access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) registers.

Finally, in response to Question 197148 from the hon. Member for Carmathen East & Dinefwr (Adam Price), [2 April 2008, Official Report, columns 1010-11W] the following should have been included:

The central Department uses an online survey site hosted by SurveyMonlcey.com., a US registered company whose site is hosted in the United States. This facility has been used by the Department to conduct surveys including staff surveys. Personal information relating to DfT staff included name, workplace address, qualifications and employment experience. It was also used by VOSA to get feedback on staff events such as their annual conference.

Highways Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The "Highways Agency Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08" is published today under section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. A copy of the report will be placed in the House Library. Copies are available from the Vote Office.

Local Transport Bill

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Local Transport Bill, currently before Parliament, contains measures to improve public transport and tackle road congestion.

Assuming the Bill receives Royal Assent, the Government propose to issue guidance and make secondary legislation to support the implementation of various provisions in the Bill. In preparation for this, and to inform debate in the remaining parliamentary stages of the Bill, the Department for Transport will shortly be publishing consultations covering:

draft guidance and regulations relating to quality partnership schemes and voluntary partnership agreements (to apply in England and, partly, in Wales); and

draft regulations needed to implement the new flexibilities for the community transport sector (to apply throughout Great Britain).

The Office of Fair Trading will also shortly be consulting on joint guidance with the Department, explaining how competition law applies in the bus market. This guidance will be relevant in England and Wales.

The draft guidance and regulations, and accompanying consultation papers, will be made available on the Department for Transport website, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Other consultations related to the implementation of the Bill are expected to be published later in the year.

Civil Aviation Authority

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am publishing today, and placing in the Libraries of both Houses, Sir Joseph Pilling's report of his independent strategic review of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the UK's aviation regulator. I commissioned this review last September, following a recommendation by the Transport Committee of this House.

I am grateful to Sir Joseph for his thoughtful report and his recognition of the important contribution which the CAA makes to aviation in the UK and internationally. He found that the CAA has been and continues to be highly successful, but he concluded that its framework and organisation could be modernised to meet future challenges in the fast-changing aviation sector.

Some of Sir Joseph's recommendations are for the Government, including some which are relevant to the separate review of airport economic regulation which I announced recently, and to work on improving the passenger experience. I intend to consider these recommendations in detail over the summer and to make a fuller statement in the autumn. Interested parties who wish to comment on the report should write to me by the end of September.

Some of the key recommendations deal with the CAA's governance and would bring the way that the organisation operates more in line with modern regulatory practice. It would be advantageous to make the governance reforms soon, to help lead the further changes envisaged.

The current Chair, Sir Roy McNulty, completes his term next year after a very distinguished period in that office since 2001. My Department will shortly start the process of seeking a part-time non-executive Chair and then a new Chief Executive, on the basis envisaged by Sir Joseph Pilling.

I am pleased that the CAA board has welcomed the overall outcome of the review, and has confirmed the CAA's willingness to work closely with my Department in the programme of implementation.

The report is available on the Department for Transport website and printed copies can be obtained from: DfT Publications, Tel: 0870 1226 236, Textphone: 0870 1207 405, Email: dftinf@capita.co.uk.

Departmental Agencies

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today laid in the House the 2007-08 annual reports and accounts for its executive agencies: Jobcentre Plus (HC 707), the Pension Service (HC 855), the Disability and Carers Service (HC 719), and the Rent Service (HC 729). The annual report and accounts of the Child Support Agency will be laid shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Social Policy Informal Meeting

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The employment and social policy informal meeting was held on 10 to 11 July 2008 in Chantilly, France. I represented the UK.

The theme of the informal meeting was "Revising the European Social Agenda". This provided the chance to discuss the Commission's social package, which was launched at the beginning of July 2008.

The meeting started with a Ministers only breakfast meeting looking at ideas to make social Europe more concrete and closer to its citizens. A "social Europe week" and a common declaration from all member states of the EU's "social offer/deal" to its citizens were some of the ideas raised.

There were three plenary sessions, each devoted to specific challenges linked to social Europe: the impacts of climate change and globalization, of changing demographic structures and the fights against poverty and discrimination. There was broad support by all delegations for the Commission's renewed social agenda and interesting discussions on poverty and active inclusion in particular. For the UK, I pledged broad support for the new proposals whilst highlighting some of the areas which would need further work. I raised the challenges posed by financial exclusion and the further possible useful work at a European level in this area. Other member states welcomed this positive statement on anti-discrimination and thought the financial exclusion point was a good example of specific problems needing concrete answers and they were willing to discuss further.

An innovation by the presidency was the introduction of web chats at the end of each plenary session. The public had been invited to put questions to Ministers via the French presidency website and these were answered by whichever Minister chose to.

I answered a question on active ageing, pointing out the economic implications, the importance of skills, the need to exchange information and best practice and the challenges of anti discrimination. I met bilaterally with Ministers from Denmark, Sweden, and Italy, and I hope that the new Italian Minister will visit the UK in the autumn and see a Jobcentre Plus office. I was also able to discuss with the French High Commissioner for Active Solidarity against Poverty, Martin Hirsch, UK views on EU social experimentation, including the trans-national pilot projects which we believe can offer significant new insights in the field of social inclusion.

Social Fund Commissioner

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Social Fund Commissioner's annual report has been published today and a copy placed in the House of Commons Library.

The report covers the work of the Independent Review Service, whose Social Fund Inspectors provide an independent means of review for applicants who are dissatisfied with the decisions made on their applications for the discretionary Social Fund.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 21 July 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Das Air

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) committed in 2006 to make a statement to the House once the UK National Contact Point had completed its investigation in to Das Air's behaviour in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The complaint was submitted to the UK National Contact Point under the auspices of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises by a Non-Government Organisation RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development) on 28 April 2005.

I am therefore happy to fulfil that commitment; the UK National Contact Point today published the final statement on the DAS Air complaint. The National Contact Point concluded that DAS Air:

(i) failed to apply due diligence when transporting minerals from Entebbe and Kigali, which had a reasonable probability of being sourced from the conflict zone in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and

(ii) undertook flights between Entebbe airport and the conflict zone in Eastern DRC. These flights coincided with an illegal occupation of the area by the Ugandan military, during a period when the United Nations and NGO's recorded human rights abuses. A flight ban between DRC and Entebbe was in place during the applicable period, meaning these flights were in direct contravention of international aviation conventions (the Chicago convention).

The NCP upheld the allegations brought by Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID) and concluded that DAS Air had failed to meet the requirements of the guidelines.

Strategic Export Controls

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The Government will today—21 July 2008—publish their further response to the public consultation on UK Strategic Export Controls.

On Wednesday 6 February 2008, I announced to the House the publication of the Government's initial response to a public consultation on strategic export controls introduced under the Export Control Act 2004. This response is available at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/european trade/strategic-export-control/legislation/export-control-act-2002/review/index.html . In it, the Government made a commitment to tighten controls in four areas.

I am pleased to announce that since the initial response was published, the Government:

Has added "sting sticks" to the UK list of torture equipment.

Has started EU negotiations to introduce a new "torture end use control."

Is on track to create the new three category structure for the trade controls, and extend the extra-territorial controls on small arms, MANPADs, and cluster munitions, on 1 October 2008. The Government have also now taken the decision to withdraw all cluster munitions from service in the spirit of "the Dublin Convention on Cluster Munitions."

Is on track to move to light weapons into category B of the new trade controls on 6 April 2009. This will bring under control the trading activities of UK persons anywhere in the world in relation to those weapons. On the same date, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and long range missiles (LRMs) will be moved into category B;

Is on track to correct a current legal anomaly on the treatment of non-military explosive goods by 1 October 2008. This will bring a wider range of activities relating to the trading of those goods to embargoed destinations under control. In particular, this will include trading activities of UK persons anywhere in the world.

The initial response also identified a number of other areas where further detailed analysis and discussion was needed..I am now in a position to update the House on these areas. The further response commits the Government to:

(i) Negotiate an enhanced EU Military End Use Control under which licences will be required for export from the EU of any non-controlled goods which the exporter knows are intended for use in listed destinations, by the military, police or security forces, or has been informed by the Government that the goods are or may be so used, but only where there is a clear risk that the goods might be used for internal repression, breaches of human rights, or against UK forces or those of allies.

(ii) Introduce additional controls on the provision of transport in the highest risk circumstances through amendments to the trade controls.

(iii) Adjust the scope of the current legislative exemptions in relation to transit and transhipment so that there is no exemption for category A goods. For category B goods, we will remove the exemption for specified destinations of concern.

The further response also identifies areas where the Government have decided not to make a change. These are:

(i) *Ancillary services*—the Government have concluded that the sole provision of finance or insurance services and general advertising and promotion should not be controlled for the new category B goods—but active or targeted promotional activities aimed at securing a particular business deal will be controlled

(ii) *A pre-licensing registration system for arms brokers*—the Government are not yet fully convinced at this stage that the benefits of a pre-licensing registration system would justify the burden it could impose on legitimate business, particularly in view of steps that they are already taking in other areas.

(iii) The current provision in the trade controls which limits the controls on certain activities to those which are done in return for the "*receipt of a fee, commission or other consideration*", will be retained, although we will amend the current legislation to clarify what is meant by the term "commission or consideration".

(iv) *The harmonisation of the definitions of technology*—the response concludes that the current definitions differ for legitimate reasons and so it would be inappropriate to harmonise them; but commits to update guidance to clarify the reasoning behind these differences.

There are also some areas where work is continuing. This further response therefore also:

(i) Informs readers that the Government are still considering with non-Government organisation and industry stakeholders whether to extend trade controls on activities by UK persons anywhere in the world to cover other weapons that is, beyond cluster munitions, small arms, light weapons and MANPADS.

(ii) Provides an update on the progress made by the Government in negotiating a torture-end use control in the EU, as noted in the initial response.

I am very pleased to announce this wide ranging package of measures, which I am satisfied address the main interests of our stakeholders, and is at the same time proportionate to the risks concerned, effective and enforceable.

[1]Announced on 30 May 2008.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Contingencies Fund Advance

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): The then Secretary of State for Education and Skills entered into a two-year contract with Serco Ltd in October 2006 for support for the development of children's centres and the modernisation of services for children and their families. Under this contract the consortium Together for Children is responsible for supporting, challenging and helping local authorities build their capacity, with their partners, to plan and commission to time and cost, the development of sustainable, high quality children's centres.

Parliamentary approval is being sought for expenditure on a continuing service, through an extension of the contract from 1 October 2008 for a further two years. Expenditure on this contract currently rests solely on the authority of the Appropriation Act, in the absence of specific statutory authority. The Children and Young Persons Bill currently before Parliament will put the Secretary of State under a duty to promote the well-being of children. One effect of this duty will be to enable the Secretary of State to enter into this and other such contracts in pursuit of this duty.

The timetable for Royal Assent of the Bill, which is expected in this session of Parliament, means that Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £1,500,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for the Department for Children, Schools and Families to enable expenditure on this new service in advance of Royal Assent of the Children and Young Persons Bill. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £1,500,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The expenditure cannot await parliamentary approval of the enabling legislation because any extension of the contract must take place before expiry of the existing contract on 30 September 2008. Disruption of support for local authorities at this stage would threaten the roll out of children's centres at a crucial time when key decisions are being taken about where to locate the remaining centres and how to reconfigure existing services in order to achieve universal coverage for children under five and their families. It could lead to a delay in children and families accessing and benefiting from children's centre services.

The Contingencies Fund advance can be repaid immediately the Children and Young Persons Bill receives Royal Assent.

School Inspection

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): School inspection plays an important role in both the publicly funded and independent sectors to ensure quality of provision, to protect the interests of pupils, and to ensure parents have reliable information about schools. The Education and Skills Bill now provides an opportunity for us to secure the high quality of independent school inspection and give this system a clear legislative foundation.

Independent schools in England are required to meet the statutory standards set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended), and are inspected regularly to ensure that they do so. The existence of independent inspectorates allows for simultaneous inspection against both statutory standards and other criteria. For example, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) checks that schools which belong to the Independent Schools Council (ISC) meet a range of criteria that have to be met in order to belong to ISC. In addition, since 2005 we have been approached by smaller school groupings that want to form their own school inspectorates.

We have therefore proposed to take powers to set criteria for the approval and withdrawal of approval of inspectorates. The proposed criteria cover issues such as the qualifications and experience of inspectors, the inspection framework, management and quality assurance of inspections, public confidence in inspectorates, complaints handling, financial viability, and the school to be covered by new inspectorates. Our proposed criteria were set out in a consultation document published on 21 January 2008, and we have published our consultation response at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conResults.cfm?consultationId=1528 today. Responses to the consultation have been positive and constructive and I am grateful to all those who have participated.

In its response to the consultation and subsequently, Ofsted has provided evidence that the quality of independent inspection and public confidence in this system will best be promoted by a system of larger inspectorates. It concludes that such a system will make it easier to secure consistent assessment of standards, help prevent the inspector body becoming over-familiar with the school groups with which they were associated and promote public confidence about an inspectorate's breadth of perspective and genuine independence from the schools they inspect.

This analysis has led us to re-examine the criteria for size, diversity and the composition of the inspectorial workforce which we consulted on in January. We are therefore today launching a supplementary, limited consultation with those who responded to the initial consultation and other key stakeholders, in which we propose a higher minimum threshold of 350 schools. I have placed a copy of this further consultation in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Data Matching

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Secretary of State has today laid the Audit Commission's Code of Data Matching Practice as required by part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998, as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2007.

The code governs how all organisations that participate in the Audit Commission's data matching exercises, including the Commission itself, are required to have regard to it. The code also sets out best practice standards for the Audit Commission and these participating organisations.

The Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative is a data matching exercise aimed at detecting fraud. The new powers, as conferred by the Serious Crime Act 2007, allow the Commission to build on their previous exercises by making it available to a wider range of bodies.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): Following the Government's announcement of provisional allocations for Housing and Planning Delivery Grant for 2008-09, a number of local authorities expressed concern that their grant had been abated for poor performance on development control. Unfortunately, a figure of 80 per cent. was used for all development control targets on which grant is abated, rather than of 60 per cent., 65 per cent. and 80 per cent. for major, minor and other applications.

The abatement figures have now been corrected. The changes affect all local authority provisional allocations as there is less abated grant to be redistributed to unabated authorities.

A revised schedule of local authority provisional allocations has been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

The Tote

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): In my ministerial written statement on 5 March I said that the Government intended to prepare for an open market sale of the Tote, and would take advice on strategic options. I also announced that the overriding criterion for a sale of the Tote would be to maximise value for the taxpayer and that the Government would honour their commitment to return half of the net proceeds of any open market sale to racing subject to the requirements of European state aid and competition rules.

The Government remain of the view that it is appropriate that it removes itself from detailed involvement in the affairs of the racing and bookmaking industries. It is also keen to give certainty to the Tote and its businesses so that they can develop and flourish for the benefit of their staff and racing.

The Government have received preliminary views from its advisers on the strategic options available with regard to the Tote. It is clear that the Tote is a highly attractive asset which would enjoy significant interest if brought to market in an open auction.

However the Government will need to be satisfied that it is right to proceed with a sale in the light of current market conditions. The Government intend to commission detailed work on the Tote to be undertaken during the course of the summer, which would provide the necessary groundwork to launch a sale in the autumn. This work will also provide further data on the company which would enable the Government and the Tote board to consider how best to create further value inside the Tote if, in the light of market conditions, the Government decided in the autumn not to proceed to a sale at that time.

Finally, the Government would like to place on record their warm appreciation of the fortitude and professionalism of the Tote's staff up and down the country at this time. If a sale of the Tote were to proceed the Government would emphasise in any sale documentation and process both the quality of the Tote's workforce and the north-west as an excellent business destination.

DEFENCE

Low Flying

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I have today placed in the Library of the House a report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK low flying system for the training year April 2007 to March 2008.

Additional copies of "The Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the UK 2007-2008" are available on request from the following address:

Directorate of Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Alternatively it can be viewed on the MOD's web site: www.mod.uk/issues/lowflying.

Baha Mousa (Public Inquiry)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): In a written statement on 14 May (*Official Report*, column 60WS) I announced that there would be a public inquiry into the death of Baha Mousa, who died in Iraq in September 2003 while being detained by British soldiers.

The inquiry will be held under the Inquiries Act 2005 and it will be chaired by the Rt Hon. Lord Justice Gage, who is about to retire from the Court of Appeal. Lord Justice Gage is a very experienced judge and I am grateful to him for taking on this important task. He has decided to chair the inquiry alone, that is without other panel members. He may, however, decide to appoint assessors who can assist him with expert knowledge and advice.

The inquiry's terms of reference are:

To investigate and report on the circumstances surrounding the death of Baha Mousa and the treatment of those detained with him, taking account of the investigations which have already taken place, in particular where responsibility lay for approving the practice of conditioning detainees by any members of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Iraq in 2003, and to make recommendations.

In my statement on 14 May I described the death of Mr. Mousa as a disturbing incident; this was not just because a man died in the custody of British soldiers, but because an investigation by the Royal Military Police and subsequent court martial highlighted further important questions that needed to be answered. I am confident that the terms of reference I have set out will not only enable the inquiry to conduct a thorough examination of the circumstances surrounding the death, but are sufficiently focused to ensure that its conclusions can be reached in a timely manner.

The inquiry will, of course, have the full support of the Ministry of Defence. Much work is in hand to ensure that the inquiry has the material it needs and that those who will be required to assist the inquiry are given legal advice.

MOD Annual Report and Accounts

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts 2007-08. It combines the Department's annual performance report and departmental resource accounts in a single document that provides a comprehensive overview of the MOD's financial and non-financial performance for the year, a final assessment of performance against the 2004 spending review public service agreement targets, and a provisional assessment of final performance against the 2004 spending review efficiency target. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available online from the Department's website at www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Researchers/.

This has been a challenging year for Defence. The operational tempo remained high with the continuing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In those theatres and others, British forces are making a huge contribution to international security. We have made real progress in developing our relationship with industry, promoting innovation and improving the whole procurement process. Our armed forces are now better equipped than ever before. The report also details the considerable progress the Ministry of Defence has simultaneously made in delivering the capabilities and reformed force structure set out in the July 2004 Command Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World: Future Capabilities", other elements of the defence change programme, the defence acquisition change programme, the capability review, and the Government's wider sustainability goals.

The success of Defence is dependent on the men and women of the Armed Forces and the civilians who support them. They continue to do an exceptional job. The Government remain committed to providing the support that they need and deserve.

Nitrates Directive

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government are today publishing their response to a consultation on proposals to revise the regulations which implement the nitrates directive. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The consultation drew a very high response from stakeholders and prompted two Westminster Hall debates and an inquiry by the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee. I am also writing today to the Chairman of the Select Committee to respond to its report.

The consequences of nitrate pollution of water are serious. They include high treatment costs for removing it from drinking water sources, adverse impacts on biodiversity and the aquatic ecosystem, and reduced amenity use and benefits. Agriculture is the main source of this pollution, chiefly from manures and fertilisers. The key to addressing this problem is to achieve an improvement in farming practices, and the nitrates regulations make an important contribution to that. They are part of a broader approach that is being developed—as highlighted earlier this year in the Government's water strategy for England—to address diffuse sources of pollution from all sources, both agricultural and non agricultural.

A factual analysis of comments received on the consultation proposals has been published on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterpollution-nitrates/summary-responses.pdf

The Government have considered very carefully the points made by stakeholders and have refined some of the proposals, largely to address practical implementation difficulties which they identified. For example:

Cover crops—we are removing the proposed cover crops measure. Instead, we are exploring whether there is scope for introducing a new management option within entry level stewardship.

Closed periods for organic manure—we intend to remove the higher rainfall band and align the closed periods end dates according to soil type and are adding a new exemption for registered organic producers.

Capacity of storage vessels—we are increasing the implementation time allowed for this measure from two to three years and are adding a refinement to the storage requirement calculation to allow farmers to take account of the amount of manure that can be spread to "low risk run-off land".

Whole farm limit for livestock manure—we are reiterating our commitment to seek a derogation from the European Commission on the 170 kg/ha whole farm limit as a matter of urgency.

As the EFRA Committee report acknowledged, the directive prescribes specific measures that must be included in member states' regulations to achieve the environmental objectives of the directive. We have made full use of the limited discretionary elements of the directive's provisions in drafting regulations which will be laid before the House in September. We also intend to align the implementation of the directive with our anaerobic digestion strategy.

This package of measures represents the best way forward for addressing concerns raised by stakeholders within the constraints of our obligations to comply with the directive and protect our waters from nitrates from agricultural sources. Officials will be meeting those affected to explain the new requirements, and arrangements will be set up to provide farmers with advice and guidance.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Water Conservation

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has today laid before Parliament a progress report as required by Section 81 of the Water Act 2003, setting out the action taken by Government to encourage the conservation of water during the period 1 April 2004 - 31 March 2007 and the steps Government propose to take in the future.

This is the first such report we have prepared. The first report was due to cover the three year period from 1 April 2004-31 March 2007. However, the drought of 2004-06 together with the subsequent development, with stakeholders, of a new water strategy for England enables us to present a comprehensive report to Parliament, particularly in respect of our future proposals.

We published our water strategy for England, "Future Water", in February 2008, which provides a comprehensive forward look of the Government's plans for water in the future. The key message contained in "Future Water" was that we all need to value water and take responsibility for protecting this essential and unique resource. Today's report sets out the Government's contribution to date and our plans for the future to help achieve this aim.

A copy of the report is also available of the DEFRA website at http://defraweb/environment/water/conserve/what.htm

Rural Payments Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Rural Payments Agency will be laid before Parliament today.

Uplands Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): We announced in December 2006 that uplands support will be integrated into environmental stewardship from 2010, replacing the Hill Farm allowance. At that time we said we were minded to do this through a specific uplands strand to the entry level stewardship (ELS) scheme but that further analysis was needed to ensure that this would deliver the fullest environmental benefit.

Work since then with stakeholders and Natural England has shown this approach to be the right one and I am pleased to confirm that Natural England will implement Uplands ELS in 2010.

Our objective for this new strand of environmental stewardship will be to maintain and improve the biodiversity, natural resources, landscape and historical value of England's uplands, and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, by supporting the land management practices which deliver these benefits.

We want to secure public goods on a landscape scale, additional to those delivered by ELS, by supporting large numbers of upland farmers and land managers in delivering simple yet effective environmental management in the uplands. This is in recognition of the significance of the uplands in delivering a wide range of public benefits, and of the critical role that farmers and land managers play (particularly through extensive livestock grazing).

Uplands ELS will be open to all upland farmers and land managers—providing they can meet the requirements—and will be targeted at those carrying out the land management. We want it to be sufficiently flexible to allow farmers to adapt to future policy and market changes, whilst still delivering environmental and landscape benefits. We have also listened to pleas from farmers and other stakeholders to keep it simple.

We have worked closely with Natural England and stakeholders in developing the proposals, including through advice from a hill farmers' panel. We will be seeking views from the wider hill farming community over the summer, and testing the proposals with a range of hill farms so that we can ensure they are practical for the farmers involved, and achieve our objectives. We will also explore possible transitional arrangements for farmers and land managers in other closed agri-environment schemes. I will make a further announcement on the final scheme later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 22 July in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Somalia

Ministers are likely to discuss the Commission's Political Options and Piracy Options papers. The former covers the general political situation in Somalia. We agree with its findings and proposals, namely that the EU should continue to support the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in implementing UNSCR 1814, which sets out seven key areas for international action, and increase support for the Djibouti Agreement and AMISOM. On the Piracy Options paper, we agree that the EU should look at ways to help implement UNSCR 1816 on piracy. Our priority is to ensure a flexible approach from EU member states, bringing greater co-ordination of effort in the region, without duplicating or competing with existing arrangements.

We expect the Council conclusions to welcome the recent AU summit and its efforts on Somalia, including calls to reinforce AMISOM; to agree the importance of the UN's role in Somalia in regard to strengthening the Transitional Federal Institutions. The conclusions may also suggest that the Council Secretariat and European Commission study all possible options on how to best contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1816.

Western Balkans

Discussion of the Western Balkans is likely to be brief, focussing on Serbia and Kosovo. On Serbia, Ministers are likely to discuss the recent formation in Belgrade of a pro-European Government. The Government are supportive of conclusions welcoming the formation of

the new Government and encouraging it to fully co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and play a constructive role in the region. On Kosovo, discussion is likely to centre on progress in deploying the EU's police and rule of law mission, EULEX. The Government support the reconfiguration of international presences in Kosovo, with EULEX rapidly deploying throughout Kosovo.

EU-Ukraine

The GAERC will discuss the EU's position at the EU-Ukraine summit on 9 September. The main objective of the summit will be to reach broad agreement on the key elements of a new enhanced agreement currently being negotiated between the EU and Ukraine with a view to providing impetus to the negotiations and to economic and political reform in Ukraine more generally. The presidency is seeking to agree an ambitious EU position at the summit, for which the UK will offer strong support. We want the EU's new enhanced agreement with Ukraine to be an ambitious one that underpins further reform and holds out the prospect of eventual membership of the EU. There will be no conclusions.

Iran

High Representative Solana is expected to brief Ministers on the outcome of his meeting with Saeed Jalili on 19 July and whether or not the Iranians are ready to accept the terms of the offer made by the E3 plus 3. In the light of this, the Council is also expected to discuss a new Common Position on strengthened implementation of UNSCR 1803. And Ministers may also discuss the need for further EU sanctions against Iran in the light of its continued defiance of UNSCRs 1696, 1737, 1747 and 1803, as well as the recent IAEA reports reinforcing concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. The Government fully support strengthening EU sanctions against Iran and has been pressing partners to support the sanctions track, alongside incentives, as a way of influencing the growing political debate inside Iran.

Middle East

The Quartet Representative, Tony Blair, is expected to debrief Ministers on the latest developments. France is likely to set out their presidency's plans for the Middle East Peace Process. Discussion is also like to focus on: the EU's practical and political support for the process; the continuing negotiations between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas; the Gaza ceasefire; and the humanitarian and economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Government are committed to supporting the process initiated at Annapolis, which has put the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security. Israeli security is absolutely fundamental to a just solution; and Palestinian hardship can only be tackled through a political process that creates an economically and socially viable Palestinian state at peace with Israel.

Chad/Central African Republic

We expect the GAERC to focus on the contributions of EUFOR and MINURC AT to the regional security situation. EUFOR is the EU's military mission to eastern Chad and CAR, and MINURCAT is the accompanying UN police-training mission. The Council conclusions will highlight the contributions to EUFOR from non-EU countries, which the Government welcome. The Government will support references to EUFOR's continued impartiality in all regional conflicts, and the good co-ordination between EUFOR and MINURCAT. The Government hope that MINURCAT will continue its deployment in Chad, and that the rate of deployment will increase where possible.

Zimbabwe

The Government expect the Council to agree conclusions underlining the EU's deep concern over the situation in Zimbabwe and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. The Council conclusions will underline that the EU cannot recognise the 27 June election result as credible or reflecting the will of the Zimbabwean people.

The Government will be pressing partners to adopt a series of extended targeted measures against those involved in human rights abuses and the campaign of violence.

Transatlantic Relations

Ministers are expected to discuss the progress of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) and visa/customs issues. The Government fully support the TEC as a vehicle to drive forward closer EU-US economic co-operation. TEC meetings have made some progress, although discussions have been strained at times on controversial issues such as EU imports of US poultry. Our aim at this meeting is to ensure that such issues do not distract from what we consider to be the TEC's priorities: eliminating unnecessary regulation, promoting open markets and removing barriers to trade and investment.

The discussion may also touch upon transatlantic relations in general at Portuguese request. The Government support their view that the EU and US have common interests and challenges that must be addressed together, though we caution against attempts to dwell on or exaggerate past disagreements as counterproductive to this aim.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I am pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library the annual report of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate for the year 2007. This is the fourth annual report published by the Inspectorate.

Publication of the report honours a commitment given by the Government in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the work of the inspectorate.

The report, published today, explains the inspectorate's role in assessing, and advising Home Office Ministers, and officials, on applications for personal and project licences and for certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. It also provides details of the inspection system through which compliance

with licence authorities granted under the 1986 Act is monitored, and about visiting patterns and practice and the number of visits carried out during the year.

The report explains the important role of inspectors in gathering and transmitting information on good practice and provides examples of the many events and initiatives to which the inspectorate made significant contributions during the year. In addition, this year's report contains special features on the generation, breeding and maintenance of genetically altered mice and on the planning and construction of buildings in which scientific work involving animals is to be conducted.

I commend the report to the attention of Members.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): This is the fourth Annual Report from the IPCC. The report covers the work of the IPCC during 2007-08 and includes a discrete chapter on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The report also includes a chapter on deaths during or following police contact, which shows that there were 9 fewer fatalities in this period than in 2006-07 and 32 fewer fatalities than in 2004-05.

During this year the IPCC has made significant improvements in their performance having set some ambitious targets. I am pleased to see that they are committed to continuing to improve their performance further. In their role as statutory guardians of the complaints system, the IPCC have also in this period carried out a stock take of how far the current police complaints system has met its original aspirations when it was set up in April 2004; further information will be made available about this in due course.

The IPCC have a key role in increasing confidence in the police complaints system which will, in turn, impact positively on public confidence in the police.

Security Industry Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am pleased to announce that the annual report 2007-08 and accounts of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will be laid before Parliament today and published on 28 July 2008.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office upon publication.

Criminal Records Bureau

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I announce that copies of the 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau have been laid before the House today. Arrangements are now in hand for their publication.

Animal Welfare

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I wish to respond to the publication entitled "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2007", which was presented as a House of Commons Paper (933) today. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

This annual statistical report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to inform Parliament about the licensed use of animals for experimental or other scientific purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU level. A hard copy is available and supplementary information with additional tables is also available on the Home Office website.

The statistical report shows an overall increase over the previous year of 6 per cent. in the number of procedures undertaken. The total number of procedures was 3.2 million, an increase of 189,500 over the previous year. There has now been a relatively small increase for the sixth year running and is the highest total since 1992. A number of factors, such as investment in research and development and strategic funding priorities, determine the overall level of scientific procedures.

Non-toxicological procedures accounted for about 87 per cent. of the procedures carried out. These included fundamental research in human and veterinary medicine to improve understanding of disease mechanisms and possible therapeutic options, and development of vaccines.

Most toxicological studies (78 per cent.) were for the safety and efficacy testing of new drugs and medicines and the majority of all procedures (87 per cent.) were performed in order to carry out legal or statutory requirements.

In keeping with previous years, those procedures that used mice or rats (or other rodents) were the great majority at 83 per cent. Those using fish amounted to 10 per cent. and those using birds, 4 per cent. The total of all procedures using dogs, cats, horses and non-human primates, that is, those species offered special protection by the Act, was less than 1 per cent. of the total.

Genetically normal animals were used in about 1.73 million regulated procedures, up 86,200 (5 per cent.) on 2006 figures. This increase is associated with mice used in fundamental studies. However, this is an overall decrease of 2.27 million (23 per cent.) since 1995. Genetically modified animals (nearly all rodents) were used in 1.15 million regulated procedures representing, 36 per cent. of all procedures for 2007 (compared with 34 per cent. in 2006 and 8 per cent in 1995).

Advances in the opportunities to use genetically altered animals for new areas of biomedical research means that the trend of increased production and use of genetically altered animals has continued. It allows a more precise and often less invasive study of physiological studies and disease mechanisms that was previously possible. Most of the animals concerned are mice, which appear and live as normal. Many are only used in breeding programmes. In fact just over a third of all procedures in 2007 were accounted for by breeding procedures (37 per cent.) conducted in 2007, for the production of harmful mutant and genetically modified animals. Mainly mice (93 per cent.) and fish (6 per cent.) were used in these procedures.

I should point out in relation to the statistics that the Home Office, as regulatory authority under the 1986 Act, does cap the overall amount of animal research and testing which takes place, the imperative being to authorise work which is justified whilst minimising the numbers of animals used and any animal suffering that may be caused.

Therefore we ensure, in carrying out our licensing function, that the provisions of the Act are rigorously applied in each programme of work. All animal use must be justified, and that for each particular programme of work the number of animals used, and the suffering caused must be minimised.

The statistical report and supplementary information can be found at: http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/animal-research/publications-and-reference/statistics/?version=1

I am also pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library the annual report of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate for the year 2007. This is the fourth annual report published by the Inspectorate.

Publication of the Inspectorate report honours a commitment given by the Government in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the work of the Inspectorate.

The report explains the Inspectorate's role in assessing, and advising the Secretary of State on applications for personal and project licences and for certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. It also provides details of the inspection system through which compliance with licence authorities granted under the 1986 Act is monitored, and about visiting patterns and practice and the number of visits carried out during the year.

This report explains the important role of inspectors in gathering and transmitting information on good practice and provides examples of the many events and initiatives to which the Inspectorate made significant contributions during the year. In addition, this year's report contains special features on the generation, breeding and maintenance of genetically altered mice and on the planning and construction of buildings in which scientific work involving animals is to be conducted.

I commend the Inspectorate's report to the attention of Members.

National DNA Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): Further to the written ministerial statement made on 25 July 2007 announcing the establishment of an ethics group to provide Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the national DNA database (NDNAD), I am pleased to announce the publication today of its first annual report.

The report makes a number of recommendations around the processes involved in the taking, use and retention of DNA samples, and in particular those taken from volunteers. I have asked the National Policing Improvement Agency and the National DNA Strategy Board to let me have their considered comments on the report's recommendations as soon as possible.

The ethics group report can be viewed on the website of the independent Forensic Science Regulator and I am arranging for a copy of the report to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): I would inform the House that the Learning and Skills Council for England has today published its annual report and accounts for the period to 31 March 2008. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 received Royal Assent on 26 July 2007.

The Act applies to companies incorporated under companies legislation, other corporations including public bodies incorporated by statute such as local authorities or NHS bodies; organisations incorporated by Royal Charter; limited liability partnerships and all other partnerships that are employers; Crown bodies such as Government Departments; and police forces.

An organisation is guilty of the new offence if the way in which its activities are managed or organised causes a death and this amounts to a gross breach of a relevant duty of care to the deceased. A substantial part of the breach must have been in the way activities were managed by senior management.

The majority of the Act was implemented on 6 April 2008, with the exception of section 2(1)(d) which makes the duty of care a custody provider owes to a person who is detained a relevant duty of care, and section 10 on publicity orders where we await guidelines to be issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council later this year.

Procedures for caring for some of society's most vulnerable or volatile people are highly complex. That is why it was made clear to Parliament when it passed this legislation that a period of three to five years would be needed for custody providers to prepare for implementation of Section 2(1)(d).

We are publishing a report today which discusses the progress made to date by the various custody providers and what remains to be done. While implementing the Act provides a useful catalyst and driver, reducing deaths in custody is a core part of long-term work by the Government together with custody providers, and this long-term agenda is reflected in the report.

The report includes developments in Northern Ireland for which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has responsibility under the Act.

Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-manslaughter-progress-custody.htm

Deaths in Custody

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): In February this year I published the independent review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody (*Official Report*, 25 February 2008, Col. 68WS). I did so in order to canvass the opinions of those both inside and outside Parliament with an interest in this important area of work.

Ministers have now had the opportunity to consider both the recommendations of the review and the responses of stakeholders, and I am pleased to announce today that we have decided to implement the recommended reforms. We are therefore taking steps to set up a new tripartite body, to be known as the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody, incorporating senior decision-makers, experts and practitioners in the field. This extended, cross-sector approach to deaths in custody will allow for better learning and sharing of lessons across the custodial secters, and will benefit from direct links to Ministers, as the ultimate decision-makers. The reforms underline our commitment to reducing the number of people who die in our custodial institutions and the new structures will be subject to review after three years to evaluate their impact.

The intention is that the new Ministerial Council will be in place by early 2009. Further information on the work of the forum to date, and copies of the independent review, are available on the internet at www.preventingcustodydeaths.org.uk. Copies of the independent review have also been made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

National Offender Management Service

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The annual report of Her Majesty's Prison Service for 2007-08 (HC No 860) has today been laid before Parliament. The National Probation Service annual report has also been published today. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Prison Service report includes the financial accounts for 2007-08. The financial accounts for 42 probation boards were produced at the end of June 2008.

The performance of the National Offender Management Service against its targets for 2007-08 is shown in the table.

National Offender Management Service: Performance Against Targets 2007-08

Performance Indicator	*Annual Performance*	*Annual Target*
Public Protection		
No escapes of Category A prisoners	0	0
Rate of escapes from prison and prison escorts to be lower than 0.05 per cent. of the average prison population	0.008%	0.05%
Fewer than 1 in 20,000 escapes from prison and prison service escorts	1:75,345	1:20,000
At least 90 per cent. of OASys assessments (assessment, screening and full risk of harm analysis and sentence plan) must be completed or updated within five days following sentence or release on licence for all Tier 4 risk of harm cases (excluding PPOs).	96.5%	90%
Reducing Reoffending		
At least 90 per cent. of OASys assessments must be completed or updated within appropriate timescales (five days following sentence or release on licence for all PPO cases)	96.4%	90%
Offender Management		
At least 90 per cent. of OASys assessments (assessment, screening and, if appropriate, full risk of harm analysis and sentence plan) must be completed or updated within 15 days following sentence or release on licence for all Tier 1, 2 and 3 cases (excluding PPOs)	68.9%	90%
Safety Decency and Respect		
Rate of self-inflicted deaths (SIDs) in prison not to exceed 112.8 per 100,000 prison population.	106.7 per 100,000	112.8 per 100,000
1.81 per cent. of serious assaults per overall prison population	1.73%	1.81%
The percentage of prisoners held in accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners does not exceed 24 per cent. of the average population in public prisons	25.1%	24%
The percentage of prisoners held in accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners does not exceed 34.5 per cent. of the average population in private prisons	34.9%	34.5%
Delivery of Justice		
Achieve an average of 35 working days from the relevant unacceptable failure to comply to resolution of the case; and to resolve 60 per cent. of breaches of community penalties within 25 working days of the relevant unacceptable failure to comply (CJS measure).	43	35
	54%	60%
70 per cent. of orders and licences successfully completed	68%	70%
46,300 Completions of unpaid work requirements	55,771	46,300
The rate of drug-misuse in prison is less than 10 per cent. - as measured by the random Mandatory Drug Testing (rMDT) programme (reported 1 month in arrears)[2]	9.1%	<10%

National Offender Management Service. Performance Against Targets 2007-08

Performance Indicator	*Annual Performance*	*Annual Target*
Rehabilitation and Support		
Accredited Programmes Completed for All Prisons and Probation (exclusive of SOTPs & DVs)[1]	21,998	20,595
Prisons	7,467	6,655
Probation	14,531	13,940
Sex Offender Treatment Programmes Completed for All Prisons and Probation	2,477	4,405
Prison	1,117	1,105
Probation	1,360	1,300
Probation Domestic Violence Programmes Completed	2,560	2,079
At least 75 per cent. of offenders move to settled accommodation on release	85.0%	75%
26 per cent. of discharged prisoners entering employment on release	27.8%	26%
To ensure that 7,185 prisoners complete a drug rehabilitation programme or Therapeutic Community annually	8,096	7,185
13,200 offenders under supervision achieve and sustain employment for four weeks	16,823	13,200
75 per cent. of offenders are retained in DRR/DTTO for 12 weeks	84.7%	75%
Reassurance and Confidence		
85 per cent. of victims to be contacted within eight weeks of an offender receiving 12 months or more for a serious sexual or violent offence	95%	85%
Supporting the Courts		
90 per cent. of Pre Sentence Reports (PSR's) are completed to agreed timescales	95%	90%
At least 85 per cent. of prisoners from prison or police cells are delivered to court before the agreed time	85%	85%
Resource Use Strategy		
Days lost due to sickness (Prison System) not to exceed 11 days per annum	11.7	11.0
Days lost due to sickness (Probation) not to exceed nine days per annum	12.1	9.00
At least 6.3 per cent. of the workforce in public prisons to be from ethnic minority groups (Prison System)	6.2%	6.3%
95 per cent. of race and ethnic monitoring data on staff and offenders returned on time using correct classification (Probation)	98%	95%

Notes:
The NOMS targets are inclusive of both public and contracted prisons.
[1]Data relate to total programme completions (before quality reviews)
[2] MDT March data will be adjusted in June (three months' lag time)

NOMS National Targets for Prisons 2007-08: Breakdown of Public and Contracted Prison Performance

Performance Indicator	*Public*	*Contracted*	*Annual Performance*
Public Protection			
No escapes of Category A prisoners	0	0	0
Rate of escapes from prison and prison escorts to be lower than 0.05 per cent. of the average prison population	0.007%	0.01%	0.008%
Fewer than 1 in 20,000 escapes from contracted escorts			1:75,345
Safety, Decency and Respect			
Rate of self-inflicted deaths (SIDs) in prison not to exceed 112.8 per 100,000 prison population.	116.9	11.8	106.7
1.8 per cent. of serious assaults per overall prison population			
The percentage of prisoners held in accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners does not exceed 34.5 per cent. of the average population in private prisons and 24 per cent. in public prisons	25%	34.9%	
Delivery of Justice			
The rate of drug-misuse in prison is less than 10 per cent. - as measured by the random Mandatory Drug Testing (rMDT) programme (reported one month in arrears)	8.9%	10.0%	9.1%
At least 85 per cent. of prisoners from prison or police cells are delivered to court by the agreed time	85%	86%	85%
Rehabilitation and Support			
[6,655] accredited offending behaviour programmes completed by prisoners	6,885	582	7,467
[1,105] accredited sex offender treatment programmes completed by prisoners	1,037	80	1,117
At least 75 per cent. of offenders move to settled accommodation on release	85%	81.8%	85.0%
26 per cent. of discharged prisoners entering employment on release	27.3%	25.9%	27.8%
To ensure that [7,185] prisoners complete a drug rehabilitation programme or Therapeutic Community annually	7,398	698	8,096
Resource Use Strategy			
Days lost due to sickness (HMPS) not to exceed 11 days per annum	12	n/a	12
At least 6.3 per cent. of the workforce in public prisons to be from ethnic minority groups	6.2%	n/a	6.2%

Notes:
Figures for public prisons exclude juvenile-only establishments and immigration centres, which are not the responsibility of NOMS.

Appeals Tribunals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has today published the eighth report by the president of Appeal Tribunals on the standards of decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in cases which came before appeal tribunals. The major reasons given for Appeal Tribunals overturning or amending decisions were because new evidence was produced at the hearing or the tribunal took a different view of the same evidence.

In his report, the president acknowledges improvements by some of the Department for Work and Pensions' agencies, particularly the Disability and Carers Service. He questions whether the current method of producing feedback via an annual report is sufficiently focused and of practical use and suggests a lower level of more direct feedback to agency decision-makers.

The Tribunals Service has in place a number of partnership agreements with Department for Work and Pensions' agencies, who deal with benefits and make decisions on behalf of the Secretary of State, covering the interface as part of the end to end process of administering appeals. In addition to the agreements, regular meetings are held to review respective performance and discuss any issues to improve customer service.

This is the second report published by Ministry of Justice, as responsibility for Appeal Tribunals transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions from 1 April 2006.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at: www.tribunals.gov.uk

Office of the Public Guardian

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Office of the Public Guardian's annual report and accounts for 2007-08 have been laid before Parliament today. This document gives full details of the agency's performance and expenditure for the six months from its implementation on 1 October 2007 to the end of March 2008 and includes the Public Guardian's annual report to the Lord Chancellor about the discharge of his functions pursuant to section 60 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Personal Injury Claims

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Government have today published the response to the consultation paper: "Case Track Limits and the Claims Process for Personal Injury Claims". It summarises the responses received to the consultation paper and sets out the next steps.

Having carefully considered the responses the Government have decided to establish a new claims process which will apply to road traffic accident personal injury claims valued at between £1,000 and £10,000. Road traffic accident cases constitute approximately 75 per cent. of personal injury claims. This new streamlined procedure provides for early notification of a claim; promotes early admissions of liability and early settlements; and removes duplication of work from the process. It introduces fixed time periods and fixed recoverable costs.

The Government have concluded that there should be no change to the small claims limits, including those for personal injury and housing disrepair claims, but that the fast track limit should be increased to £25,000.

Copies of the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained free on the Ministry's website at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0807.htm

Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Homicide

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): I am today announcing that as part of the review of the law on homicide, on Monday 28 July we will be publishing a consultation paper setting out proposals for reforms on:

partial defences to murder of diminished responsibility and provocation;

the law on complicity in relation to homicide; and

infanticide.

In December 2006 the Law Commission published its report on "Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide" with wide-ranging recommendations for changes to the law. On 12 December 2007 I announced the second stage of the review of the law on homicide and emphasised the importance of conducting an open and transparent consultation on this important aspect of law.

Following discussions with key stakeholders both within and outside the criminal justice system we have now developed concrete proposals, including draft clauses, and we wish to put these for public consultation prior to introducing legislation.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses on the date of publication. The consultation period will last 12 weeks—closing on 20 October.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for the administration of elections in Northern Ireland. Section 14 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962—as amended by Section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006—provides that the Chief Electoral Officer must submit an annual report to the Secretary of State. The annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland for the year 2007-08 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

Youth Justice Agency

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): Copies of the new framework document for the Youth Justice Agency, an Executive Agency of the Northern Ireland Office, are available in the Vote Office.

This document has been reviewed and revised in line with Cabinet Office guidance on framework documents to ensure that it reflects current best practice in the management and corporate governance of agencies.

It has received formal Treasury approval.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality Bill

The Minister for Equality (Barbara Follett): On 26 June I set out in the "Framework for a Fairer Future" document how the Government propose to make further progress towards a fair and equal society.

The Government are pleased to announce that today we are laying before the House a document that summarises the responses we received to the discrimination law review consultation we held last year called "A Framework for Fairness: proposals for a Single Equality bill for Great Britain".

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be published on the GEO website and can be purchased from the Stationary Office.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Wilton Park

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): Wilton Park is an academically independent Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its annual report and accounts for 2007-08 are laid before Parliament today.

Wilton Park continues to deliver high-value conferences contributing to our overall foreign policy effort. Wilton Park continues to achieve high ratings from participants and sponsors on the value of Wilton Park conferences.

Wilton Park's performance against agreed targets for 2007-08 is shown below:

	07-08 Target	*07-08 Performance*
Total income	£3,843,000	£3,323,000
Excellent rating for programmes	59.3%	59.4%
Excellent rating for discussion	55.9%	57.3%
Excellent rating for administration	89%	87.5%

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 22 July 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

New Nuclear Power Stations

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): It was announced in the White Paper on Nuclear Power 2008 that the Government would publish a public consultation on the Strategic Siting Assessment (SSA) process and criteria.

I have today issued a consultation document on the SSA process and criteria. Alongside this, the Government are publishing a study of the environmental and sustainability effects of the siting of new nuclear power stations in accordance with the proposed SSA criteria. The Government are seeking views from members of the public, industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or any other organisation, body or individual with an interest. The Government are also publishing today a Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report and the environmental study appendices.

This is a step towards the development of a new Nuclear National Policy Statement.

The consultation will close on 11 November 2008. Copies of the Strategic Siting Assessment consultation document and the environmental study will be placed in the Library of the House and are also available together with the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report and the appendices of the environmental study on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/nuclearwhitepaper/consultations/page44523.html

Regional Development Agencies

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have today laid before Parliament the annual reports and accounts for 2007-08 for the eight Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) outside of London. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The annual report and accounts for the London Development Agency are presented to the Mayor of London rather than to Parliament. I shall provide a copy to the House Library when these are available.

Also published today are the RDAs' reported outputs for 2007-08. These results are evidence that the RDAs continue to play a valuable role in improving the economic performance of the English regions and, through working with their partners, the RDAs are making a real difference to the individual regional economies concerned. The figures cover the number of jobs created and safeguarded, the number of people assisted to get a job, the amount of brownfield land brought back into use, the number of businesses created, the number of businesses assisted to improve their performance, the number of people assisted in their skills development and the amount of public and private sector regeneration infrastructure investment levered, all as a result of RDA activity.

Press releases on the outputs have been issued in each region. Copies of the output results have been placed in the House Library, and are also available on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/regional-dev-agencies/rda-performance/page46979.html

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Official Receptions

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I have today published a list of official receptions hosted by Ministers at my Department in the financial year 2007-08.

The total cost of official receptions held by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the financial year 2007-08 was £9,000.

Official Receptions Hosted by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families 2007-08

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
24.07.07	Annual Summer reception for media stakeholders	50	Secretary of State and Ministers
25.07.07	Summer reception for key departmental stakeholders	90	Secretary of State and Ministers
16.01.08	New Year reception for key departmental stakeholders	100	Secretary of State and Ministers
23.01.08	Winter reception for media stakeholders	50	Secretary of State and Ministers
13.03.08	Short break amendment to the Children and Young People Bill stakeholder reception	25	Secretary of State
18.03.08	Diploma Gateway 2 stakeholder reception	60	Jim Knight

Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): I would inform the House that the Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy has published its annual report for 2007-08. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

National Curriculum Tests

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Yesterday, I wrote to the chair of the DCSF Select Committee to update him on the position with the return of national curriculum test results to schools, placing a copy of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Further results have been released to schools by ETS Europe this morning, taking the total of scripts marked and released to over 98 per cent. of marks at key stage 2

and some 88 per cent. in key stage 3—94.1 per cent. in maths, 93.4 per cent. in science and 76.9 per cent. in English.

QCA confirmed in a statement over the weekend that they are in discussions with ETS Europe following the unacceptable delays in delivering this year's national curriculum test results. These discussions are highly sensitive—legally and financially—and, as I set out to the House yesterday, it is very important that the QCA should be allowed to conclude them in a timely and orderly fashion in order to safeguard the interests of pupils, schools and taxpayers. Ministerial intervention, at this stage, would be totally inappropriate and would jeopardise the public interest.

I shall continue to update Parliament regularly over the coming weeks on progress with release of results and Ofqual's work on marking quality. I will write regularly with an update to the chair of the Select Committee, copying this letter to Opposition spokespeople and the Speaker and placing a copy of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

At the same time, and following my oral report to the Select Committee last week, Lord Sutherland has started work on his independent inquiry and will be collecting evidence in August and September before reporting publicly (when the House returns) in the Autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

South-West England Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing proposed changes to the draft revisions of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South-West.

The Regional Spatial Strategy forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the South-West, and sets the framework for the production of Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport plans. It provides the spatial plan for the development of the region, and provides the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment.

The current strategy, initially published as Regional Planning Guidance, became the Regional Spatial Strategy in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. A draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy was submitted to Government in April 2006 by the South-West Regional Assembly. It was subsequently tested in an Examination in Public (EIP) between April and July 2007 and the report of the independent panel which conducted this examination was published in January this year.

The Secretary of State has considered the recommendations of this independent panel which held the EIP and has taken into account the representations made on the draft revision, and also changes in Government policy since the draft revision was submitted.

Today's publication of the Secretary of State's proposed changes now represents the commencement of a public consultation of 12 weeks. Also being published are the report of a sustainability appraisal of the proposed changes and a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Following consideration of the responses to the consultation, the Secretary of State expects to publish the finalised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South-West by the end of the year. On final publication it will supersede the current RSS.

In writing to the Regional Assembly to give notice of the publication of proposed changes, I have drawn particular attention to the need for further work by both the region and Government on the infrastructure required to deliver the strategy.

Copies of the relevant documents have been placed in the Library of the House and have been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands ("The East Midlands Plan"). They follow the Public Examination held between May and July 2007 and the Panel Report published on 28 November 2007.

The Panel Report endorsed the strategy set out in the draft RSS, but made numerous recommendations to clarify and improve it. The Secretary of State has considered all of the panel's recommendations, along with other relevant evidence together with updates to the Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The main changes that are being proposed are:

Increased housing growth across the region to 21,750 per year for the period 2006-26. Much of the additional growth is proposed in and around the main cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, recognising growth related to Growth Point agreements in those cities and surrounding areas (that is, the Three Cities Growth Point) and in other Growth Point agreements at Lincoln, Newark and Grantham.

No change to Growth Area plans in Northamptonshire, which were set in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy in 2005, though the plan period for the area is extended to 2026 and the housing provision figure for Northampton is replaced following a successful legal challenge (in 2006) which quashed the original figure.

Reduction in housing provision in Lincolnshire coastal districts (East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland) pending a coastal strategy being agreed which will consider growth needs and flood risk implications.

A new policy relating to affordable housing in rural areas has been added, and increased pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers are also proposed.

Rejection of the Panel's recommendation to delete Green Belt areas around Nottingham.

Removal of site specific references to major development sites around Nottingham, Leicester and Lincoln.

I have today written to the East Midlands Regional Assembly with the proposed changes which will be published today on the Government Office for the East Midlands website at: www.goem.gov.uk and distributed to interested people and organisations across the region. There will now be a public consultation period of 12 weeks on the proposed changes, which will end on 17 October.

Copies of the relevant documents will be placed in the Library of the House and will also be sent to all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

DEFENCE

Counter-terrorism and Resilience

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): In July 2007, the Prime Minister asked my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram), to undertake a detailed study into the role of the Ministry of Defence in counter-terrorism and resilience. My right hon. Friend has now submitted his report. His study provides a thorough analysis of defence's role and of the capabilities it brings to bear in support of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy—CONTEST—and domestic resilience. It reinforces a central theme of the National Security Strategy—that security threats and hazards are intertwined, with no simple distinctions between defence and wider security, and domestic and overseas considerations. It endorses the direction in which the Government are moving the security agenda and it makes a number of recommendations as to how defence could further refine its support in these important areas.

Given the sensitive nature of the study, its classification prevents its publication. The Government will respond to it once they have had the opportunity to consider the recommendations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): Copies of the British Council's annual report and accounts for the 2007-08 financial year have been placed in the Library.

During the period the British Council received £189,462,000 grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Substances (Protective Security)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced in his statement on 14 November 2007 a review of what more we need to do to strengthen security to protect against the use of hazardous substances for terrorist purposes.

This review has been completed. I do not intend to publish it because I do not wish in any way to compromise our security. However, this statement provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review.

The review shows that a substantial amount of work has been undertaken in this area. It also identifies areas where further improvements could be made but recognises that we must ensure that protective security measures are proportionate to the risk. We need to ensure that individuals and businesses are free to carry on normal social, economic and democratic activities and, as a result, there will always be some vulnerability to the use of hazardous substances for terrorist purposes.

First, it is important to underline that considerable progress has already been made in recent years to reduce our vulnerability to the use of hazardous substances for terrorist purposes. The National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) provide specialist advice regarding the security of a variety of hazardous substances. They have undertaken a range of activities to reduce the vulnerability of hazardous substances. These include "Know Your Customer" campaigns to raise awareness about the 'dual-use' nature of certain products and encouraging suppliers to be more enquiring of new customers and to report suspicious enquiries to police. NaCTSO have also played an important role in overseeing the local police Counter-Terrorism Security Advisers who implement part 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 which provides the police with powers to impose security measures at laboratories that hold certain dangerous pathogens and toxins.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) is the Government authority on protective security in relation to national security threats. CPNI works with NaCTSO to advise businesses and organisations on the security of hazardous substances and sites.

The Environment Agency has managed a Government-subsidised programme that has disposed of more than 9,000 disused radioactive sources from hospitals, universities, museums, schools and other sites across the UK. The Environment Agency, and their sister agencies in Scotland and Northern Ireland, working in partnership with NaCTSO, are also regulating the security of radioactive sources used at hospitals, universities and industrial sites throughout the UK. This review did not cover those nuclear or radiological materials used within the civil nuclear sector, as they fall under the specific regulatory regime led by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security.

The Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate of the Department for Transport (Transec) enforces a statutory regime for the security of dangerous goods in transit. The Department for Transport's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) carries out inspections of vehicles at the roadside, and of road depots, on behalf of Transec. Transec's own inspectors carry out compliance activity for the movement of dangerous goods by rail in the UK.

The Government also welcome the steps that industry has been taking, through a knowledge of its customers and through codes of conduct, to help reduce the chances of abuse of hazardous substances. For instance, the UK Fertiliser Industry has developed, at the request of the UK Government, the Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS).

The main outcome of the review is a new risk-based strategic framework to drive prioritisation of work to reduce the accessibility of hazardous substances for terrorist purposes. This will enable work to focus on reducing the accessibility of hazardous substances considered to be at highest risk, taking account of the need for a proportionate, cost-effective and practical response. This will allow us to target resources where most needed and to improve the security of hazardous substances even further.

The framework will direct a cross-Government programme of work to reduce the vulnerability of highest risk substances. This programme will be delivered under

the "Protect" strand of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) and will be led by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Home Office.

This framework has prioritised hazardous substances on the basis of the risk they pose, taking account of the threat, vulnerability and impact of those substances. The review examined the vulnerability of substances across their life-cycle (from their precursors through to their disposal).

We are reviewing the pathogens and toxins listed under schedule 5 of the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 with the assistance of the Health Protection Agency. We are also considering whether further legislative changes are required to clarify the scope of the application of the legislation, and will consult on any proposed changes in due course as appropriate.

Another example of specific work under way as a result of the review is a joint Department for Transport-Home Office project which has been established to agree an impact-based list of substances of most concern, to inform our assessment of the risk, and to identify areas for further reduction of the vulnerability of these substances throughout the supply chain, including transportation.

We will continue to reduce the risks from the illicit transportation of hazardous substances at the UK border. We will build upon existing initiatives such as Programme Cyclamen, which provides radiation screening capability at UK points of entry to prevent the illicit importation of radiological substances, and will use the strategic framework to inform counter-terrorism requirements at the UK border, in conjunction with the UK Border Agency, the National Co-ordinator of Ports Policing and other stakeholders.

We are also considering what further work may be appropriate to reduce the vulnerability of hazardous sites and substances to insider action. This will build on existing work led by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure and take account of the findings of the independent review of personnel security in the transport sector by Stephen Boys Smith.

In taking forward this work, the Government recognise the importance of engaging fully with industry and academia. In particular, we are committed to working with them to identify proportionate, risk-based measures. Equally important is the need to work with international partners to reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring hazardous substances. For example, we are currently working with our European partners to reduce the availability of high-grade ammonium nitrate fertiliser.

Taken together, the various recommendations of the review will further reduce the risk of terrorists obtaining hazardous substances and will increase the likelihood that those attempting to access such materials will be detected.

Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement (24 and 25 July 2008)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held on 24 and 25 July 2008 in Brussels. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland (Kenny McAskill) and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

The morning of the Council will focus on asylum and immigration business, starting with a state of play report on the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. The pact covers five areas: legal migration of third-country nationals; illegal immigration and returns; border controls; asylum; and partnership with countries of origin and transit (the "Global Approach"). The presidency is seeking agreement on the pact in time for the 15 October European Council. We support the strong focus on immigration and asylum issues under the French presidency and will use this as basis for stronger practical co-operation in the EU. The Government are generally content with the pact but will continue to work with the presidency on the detail of the final document.

There will follow a discussion on the directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment (commonly known as the EU Blue Card), which aims to set admission conditions for highly skilled migrants. It also proposes to determine the conditions in which third-country nationals who are legally residing in a member state under the proposal may reside with their family members in other member states. The French presidency is aiming for political agreement at the September JHA Council. The UK has not opted in to this measure since it does not fit with the UK's Points Based System.

The presidency is seeking an agreement to the directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals by member states. The UK chose not to opt-in to this directive as a result of concerns in relation to the proposed definition of "employer", a notification requirement and inspections. However, the UK is seeking to influence discussions in order to amend the text in a manner which would allow a review of our opt-in position post-adoption of the directive.

The Council will be asked to agree conclusions on the taking in of Iraqi refugees by member states. The Government strongly agree that member states should be able to determine their own resettlement policies. The UK will continue to resettle Iraqi refugees under our established policies and selection criteria and do not consider common resettlement criteria to be feasible. We support sharing good practice.

The presidency would like to reach a general approach on the directive amending directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection. The UK has chosen not to opt in to the proposed directive as we believe it is not in line with our Frontiers protocol. We want to determine the status of third-country nationals via the UK's Immigration Rules.

The Council then revert to discussions on interior business, starting with the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. The presidency will present a state of play report on the draft regulation amending common consular instructions on visas for diplomatic and consular posts in relation to the introduction of biometrics. Although the United Kingdom does not participate in issuing Schengen visas, we welcome the efforts of Schengen member states in ensuring that the Schengen external EU borders are as secure as possible.

The Commission will also update the Council on the state of play of the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). The presidency will also look to agree the Council Regulation and Council Decision on the migration of SIS1+ to SIS II.

Under any other business in Mixed Committee, the Commission will present their communication on visa reciprocity. Although the United Kingdom does not participate in the EU Common Visa Policy, the United Kingdom will continue to support the principle of reciprocity and extending the US Visa Waiver Program to all EU member states.

The presidency intends to present its proposed working method on the Passenger Name Records Framework Decision to the Council. Their approach will focus on seeking agreement on the key issues of the dossier, namely scope, the depth of harmonisation necessary, data protection and relations with third countries. The presidency will also suggest that there should be consultation with data protection authorities, the European Parliament and carriers. The UK is in broad agreement with this approach and welcomes the ambitious programme of work outlined in the French proposal.

The presidency will present the final reports of the Future Groups on Home Affairs and on Justice, which aim to provide input to the new JHA work programme that will replace the Hague programme at the end of 2009. The Government see these reports as one element among several that should feed the debate on the direction of the new work programme.

The presidency will propose taking forward work to improve co-operation in tackling cybercrime. The UK supports action in this area to promote co-operation between private industry and public authorities, as well as between law enforcement. We will work with the presidency to develop their ideas.

On the morning of the second day, the Council will move to justice issues. The presidency will seek political agreement on the Council decision on strengthening Eurojust. This instrument aims to improve the efficiency of Eurojust, including by giving national members a minimum set of powers and increasing the flow of information between national competent authorities and Eurojust. The Government are content with the outcome of negotiations and believe the draft strikes a good balance.

The French presidency will also seek political agreement on the Council decision amending the European Judicial Network. This instrument is intended to update and replace the 1998 Joint Action which established the European Judicial Network and take account of subsequent developments in EU judicial co-operation, including the establishment of Eurojust in 2002. The Government are generally content with what is proposed.

The presidency will present a proposal for a Council decision on the establishment of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). There will be a policy debate on this measure which aims to find a standardised format for exchange of the content of a conviction, as well as other general and technical implementation aspects of the information exchange. The Government strongly support this measure insofar as it aims to improve and speed up the arrangements for exchanging information on past convictions.

There will be a policy debate about the Rome III Regulation (choice of law in divorce). The UK did not opt in to the negotiations on this proposal. Member states have been unable to reach agreement on the measure, and some now wish to proceed by way of "enhanced co-operation". The treaty provides for this, as a last resort, where eight or more states wish to participate in something that falls within Community competence but cannot be attained within a reasonable period. If it went ahead, it would be the first use of enhanced co-operation. There is no expectation that the UK will participate and the Government do not intend to do so.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

European Investment Bank Loans

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have instructed my Department to ask the European Investment Bank (EIB) to return the relevant payments of Lomé debt service directly to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) countries. It is estimated that the benefits of this decision will be approximately £27 million, for 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. The payments relate to the UK share of future debt service payments on public sector loans signed by HIPCs before 2 December 2000 under the Lomé conventions.

The UK share of the Lomé debt service on loans of EDF money is received by DFID from the EIB. Part of this debt service relates to public sector loans signed before 2 December 2000 by HIPC countries. DFID has made a decision to stop receiving this part of the debt service. All monies previously received by DFID through Lomé debt service have been used for international development.

JUSTICE

Chair of the Legal Services Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath) has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am pleased to announce that following fair and open competition, regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has appointed Sir Bill Callaghan to the position of chair of the Legal Services Commission (LSC).

Sir Bill's appointment will take effect from 1 September 2008, and for a term of three years. He will chair the 12-Member Commission, which overseas the strategic direction of the LSC—the body responsible for legal aid in England and Wales".

Courts Service Key Performance Indicators 2008-09

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): The following list of key performance indicators has been set for Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2008-09:

To commence 78 per cent. of cases within the following time scales in the Crown court:

defendants' cases that are sent for trial within 26 weeks of sending;

defendants' committal for trial cases within 16 weeks of committal;

appeals within 14 weeks of the appeal; and

committals for sentence within 10 weeks of committal.

To speed up criminal cases in the magistrates courts so that, for charged cases, the average time from charge to disposal is less than six weeks.

Time taken to produce and send court results to the police (historical KPI):

95 per cent. court registers produced and despatched within three working days.

100 per cent. court registers produced and despatched within six working days.

To achieve an 85 per cent. payment rate for financial penalties in the magistrates courts.

For 60 per cent. of all breached community penalties to be resolved within 25 working days of the relevant failure to comply.

To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed otherwise than by court hearing to 65 per cent.

To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed (from issue to final hearing) within 30 weeks to at least 70 per cent.

Increase the amount of civil work initiated online—55 per cent. of eligible possession claims through PCOL and 70 per cent. of specified money claims through MCOL.

To ensure that 48 per cent. of care and supervision cases in the county court and 56 per cent. in the magistrates court are completed within 40 weeks.

To increase the proportion of residence and contact orders made by consent in the County Courts (excluding cases involving allegations of harm) to at least 37 per cent. in each HMCS area.

To increase the 'very satisfied' element of the HMCS court user satisfaction survey from the 2007- 08 baseline.

More information on these and other key supporting targets are published in the "HM Courts Service Business Plan for 2008-2009". Copies of the business plan for 2008-09 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Prison Service Pay Review Body

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to announce that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has appointed Mr David Lebrecht for three years as a member of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, commencing June 2008. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has also reappointed Dr. Peter Riach for a second term, lasting two years, as a member of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, commencing 1 March 2008. Both appointment and reappointment have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am today publishing the outcome of my review into the operation of topical debates. I announced the review on 7 February, following their introduction in November 2007, on an experimental basis for the 2007-08 Session. My intention is to place topical debates on a permanent basis and to bring forward a motion before the end of the Session for the decision of the House.

Background

On 25 October 2007 the House welcomed the report of the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons, "Revitalising the Chamber: the role of the back bench Member"[1], and approved the proposals for change set out in the Government's response[2] to the report introducing topical debates on an experimental basis for the 2007-08 Session.

In a written ministerial statement on the 12 November 2007, I set out the process for applying for such a debate, including the criteria on which they would be chosen. The first topical debate, on immigration, took place on 15 November 2007 (a full list of debates is below).

The review

I am grateful to all Members who submitted their views to me, either in writing or on the Floor of the House during business questions. Comments fell into three main areas; the choice of subject for debate (including the issue of the transparency of that process); the scheduling of debates and the time limit on speeches.

Choice of subject for debate

In its report the Modernisation Committee said that "subjects for topical debates would be announced by the Leader of the House following consultation with the Business Managers". In its response to the report, the Government recognised that the selection of debate would be announced by the Leader of the House following representations from opposition parties and Back Benchers.

Several alternatives to this approach have been proposed:

choosing the topic for debate via a ballot, as is the case for daily adjournment debates and some Westminster Hall debates, is one suggestion. The Government remain convinced that a ballot runs the risk that the chosen subject may not necessarily meet the required criteria that the issue is genuinely "regional, national or international", or allow for occasions where the House has had other opportunities to debate the issue. Also suggested was the topic of debate being chosen by a link to the number of names listed for a particular issue on either the Number 10 petitions website or for Early Day Motions. We believe this would give rise to similar problems;

the Procedure Committee proposed a business committee to take the decision, comprising the business managers together with backbenchers (one of whom would chair the committee). The Government do not consider that formalisation of the current informal processes in this way would be an improvement on the present process, particularly given the need to retain a level of flexibility in managing the time on the floor of the House; and

a further proposal raised during the weekly business statement, was that the Speaker should choose the topic. The Government do not support this view, as the Speaker would not wish to become involved in choosing a debate in Government time or adjudicating on the criteria, which could raise questions over his impartiality.

As the Modernisation Committee proposed, topical debates involve no increase to the overall time that the House sits, or any alteration to the nature of other business taken on those days when topical debates take place, which continue to be used for main business. Topical debates take place therefore within Government time. The original approach recommended by the Committee and endorsed by the House, of the final choice of subject resting with the Leader of the House after consultations, is consistent with this.

Transparency

Building on the increased transparency I announced in February (where we would publish a list of all subjects proposed for debate on a quarterly basis), I now propose that these lists should be produced on a monthly basis.

Scheduling of debates

The success of topical debates is dependent on backbenchers suggesting and attending them. The Procedure Committee evidence stated that "there are advantages with a predictable slot for topical debates...We believe, however, that taking them on Thursday has led to lower levels of participation than could have been expected on other days". The Government agree. We will therefore look for opportunities to schedule topical debates on days other than a Thursday, subject to other business management considerations.

Time limits

A concern has been raised regarding the time allocated to the second largest opposition party. Under Standing Order No. 24A, the governing party and the main opposition party currently have up to 10 minutes to speak (plus an additional minute for each intervention to a maximum of 10). In contrast, the spokesperson for the second largest opposition party is limited to six minutes (plus an additional minute for each intervention to a maximum of six). The effect of this, in topical debates where no other time limits are set, is that the spokesperson for the second largest opposition party has less time than Back Bench Members speaking in the debate. To address this I propose that the Standing Orders should be amended to limit all Front-Bench speeches to no more than 10 minutes each, with a reduction in the time allotted for interventions from a maximum of 10 minutes to five minutes. This would reflect the principle used for other debates and would increase the overall time available for Back Benchers, the control of this time being a matter for the Speaker under Standing Order No. 47.

Next steps

I have considered all representations. The Government believe that topical debates should continue, with the Leader of the House continuing to choose and announce the topic for debate.

Topical debates will continue to provide a forum for important debates on a wide range of issues. I urge backbenchers to take the opportunity to request debates. This is the single biggest measure that will contribute to their future success.

Date	*Topical debate*	*Number of Back Bench participants*
21/07/2008	Bercow Review	5
03/07/2008	Zimbabwe	7
19/06/2008	Eco-Towns	8
12/06/2008	Dangerous Dogs	4
05/06/2008	Knife Crime	5
15/05/2008	Anti-Semitism	6
01/05/2008	Middle East	6
24/04/2008	Supermarkets	4
03/04/2008	Drug strategy	5
27/03/2008	Policing in London	3
07/02/2008	NHS Staffing	3
31/01/2008	Holocaust Memorial Day	8
17/01/2008	Kenya	5
10/01/2008	Preventative health services	5
13/12/2007	Availability of financial services for low income families	6
06/12/2007	Health consequences of the availability of cheap alcohol	7
29/11/2007	Future prospects for apprenticeships	5
22/11/2007	Climate Change	5
15/11/2007	Immigration	6

[1]HC337 (13 June 2007)

[2]Cm 7231 (18 October 2007)

e-Petitions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I wish to make the following statement.

Procedure Committee reports on public petitions

The Procedure Committee published a report on e-petitions on 6 April (First report, 2007-08, HC 136). This followed its 2007 report on updating the traditional petitions procedure. Both these reports arose in part out of the growing search for measures to re-engage the public with Parliament and with politics, together with awareness of developments elsewhere including the way the petitions process operates in the Scottish Parliament. A number of changes were made to the House's petitions processes as a result of the 2007 report, including agreement within Government to respond to almost all petitions, for petitions and responses to be published in Hansard, and for encouraging individual Back Benchers to select petitions for debate or to 'tag' them to existing debates. The Committee indicated its intention of conducting a further inquiry into e-petitioning, noting the then recent introduction of the Number 10 petitions website.

This written ministerial statement responds to the Committee's further report on e-petitions, ahead of a proposed debate in the autumn, referring as applicable to the recommendations in the report.

The Government welcome the report from the Committee, as foreshadowed in the July 2007 Governance of Britain Green Paper, and endorses the basic recommendation for the House to develop an e-petitioning system. Such a system is likely to lead to a very significant increase in the number of petitions received. The Government agree with the Committee that e-petitioning will reinforce the House's historic role as recipient of public petitions and help to make a major contribution to making the House more accessible to the public (Recommendations 1-3).

Basic features of an e-petitioning system

The report proposes that an e-petitioning system should have the following basic features:

e-petitions to be submitted via the parliamentary website.

If they comply with the House's rules, the petitioner's constituency MP would be asked to act as facilitator.

The e-petition would then be posted on the parliamentary website for a set period, with others able to add their names.

At the end of the period, the e-petition would be closed; Members would also be able to indicate support.

It would then be formally presented to the House (either automatically or on the floor of the House). Petitioners and signatories could opt in to receive updates on the progress of the e-petition and/or up to two emails from their constituency MP.

E-petitions would be printed in Hansard and the Government will normally be expected to reply within two months of presentation.

There would be opportunities for petitions to receive further consideration by the House or by committee.

The petition website would close when Parliament is dissolved. The Committee indicates that these elements are to some extent illustrative and that a range of further details remains to be worked through. The Government agree with this basic approach. Further consideration will need to be given to whether it will be possible or proportionate for the Government to respond to all e-petitions given the large increase in the number envisaged (Recommendations 4-6 and 8-9).

Filters to ensure focused and relevant petitions:

The Procedure Committee proposes that the traditional 'Member link' to a petition, under which a petition should be sponsored by a Member (even if the sponsoring Member does not agree with the petition) should be retained. The constituency Member would be asked to act as facilitator (where the constituency Member is not willing or—in the case of a Minister—able to act as facilitator, another Member could act). The Committee also proposes that e-petitions should clearly state the action the petitioners desire the House to take and that the rules for petitions should be kept under review.

The Government agree that e-petitions should so far as possible be well-focused and relevant to the role of the House and national Government rather than about matters which are the responsibility of other authorities, such as devolved Administrations and legislatures and local authorities. This should be reflected in the rules and in the instructions to officials dealing with petitions, which may therefore need to be tighter than the current rules.

There would therefore be three interlinking filters to promote effective engagement between potential petitioners and the system:

the first point of contact for a potential petitioner would be via the website, operated by a petitions office, which would provide a first opportunity for the public to be guided as to alternative approaches if a petition was not an appropriate course (petitioners could also be required at this stage, as in the Scottish system, to confirm that they had already taken appropriate previous steps to resolve their issue);

the rules of order for petitions would be clearly set out on the website, minimising the scope for inappropriate petitions and assisting the petitions office in enforcing the rules; the rules would be drawn more tightly than the current rules, in terms of relevance to the role of the House and central Government; and

the constituency MP would automatically be approached to act as the facilitator for the petition, allowing a further opportunity for the Member to help to suggest alternative ways of addressing the issue raised where this would be helpful.

This process would help to retain a clearer distinction between petitions to the House of Commons and other petitioning or similar processes (Recommendations 7 and 12-14).

Outcomes

A vital aspect of e-petitioning, if it is to resonate with the public, is that petitioners should be able to see the effect of their pressure. At the same time, the structure should not raise expectations unrealistically.

As well as petitions generally leading to a Government response, the Procedure Committee proposes that e-petitions, as with traditional petitions, should be sent to Select Committees, which may choose whether or not to consider them further, and that provision should be made for debating certain e-petitions in Westminster Hall on three occasions each year (Recommendations 10-11).

The Government consider that there is a case for going further than this. One of the most effective features of the model of petitioning in the Scottish Parliament is the provision for some petitioners to be able to give direct evidence to an appropriate committee, usually in Scotland the Petitions Committee itself. Capacity at Westminster is already very stretched and it would not be appropriate to set up a specific committee. The existing departmental Select Committees are also stretched but could do this as one of their core tasks. The Government consider that over the course of a year it would be reasonable for them each to devote one day to the taking of oral evidence on petitions sent to them which they themselves had sifted for importance. They could then support the petitioners if they felt it appropriate. The mechanics for all of this would require further consideration. The Government would welcome the views of the Liaison Committee on this proposal.

Selection in committee would be a matter for the committee concerned, while the mechanisms for selection of any debates in Westminster Hall would be for further consideration. In both cases, selection would need to take into account all relevant factors (including other House and committee business). But while sheer number of signatures alone could not be the sole determinant—since this would fail to take into account the importance of the subject or the extent to which it had already been considered by the House—it would clearly be a significant factor.

Implementation and next steps

The Procedure Committee report emphasises that introduction of a new system will take time, not least because of the need to commission and procure the relevant IT systems. It proposes that debate on the proposals should be informed by a fuller estimate of likely costs and also that if the principle is agreed then the House service should also set up a programme for briefing Members and Members' staff on their roles under such a system. Importantly, the Committee notes that the new system will require a structure of political governance with a Committee given an oversight role to resolve detailed issues which will need deciding or refining. The Procedure Committee has indicated that it is itself prepared to undertake this role. It may have to report to the House from time to time, in an iterative process, to seek the endorsement of the House for the more high level issues (such as proposed rules of order for petitions).

Significant further work would therefore be needed before the system comes into operation. The Government agree with these conclusions (Recommendations 15-19).

The Government therefore envisage providing time later in the year for a debate on the Committee's report and the proposed way forward. The debate would be on the basis of a Motion which would seek the House's endorsement for the principle of e-petitioning on the basis set out in this statement, instruct the House service to begin the design and tendering process, and charge the Procedure Committee with oversight of the introduction of the system and with consideration of more detailed rules of order for petitions to make the system work and to report back to the House as necessary. The Committee would also identify areas in which Standing Order changes may be necessary to make the system work, which would be considered by the House nearer the time of introduction of the new system.

The Government hope that the House will endorse this way forward, allowing it to take a significant step forward in helping to promote better engagement with the public. The Government note that in due course the House of Lords may also wish to look at its own petitions procedures.

PRIME MINISTER

Special Advisers

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Listed below are the names of special advisers in post at 22 July 2008, the special advisers' pay ranges for 2008-09, the number of special advisers in each pay band by Department and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for 2007-08.

All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers to provide assistance on the full range of their appointing Minister's departmental responsibilities.

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in post*
The Prime Minister	Greg Beales
	Theo Bertram
	Nicola Burdett
	Stephen Carter
	Konrad Caulkett (p-t)
	Matt Cavanagh
	Dan Corry
	Colin Currie (p-t)
	Jo Dipple
	Justin Forsyth
	Michael Jacobs
	Gavin Kelly
	Richard Lloyd
	Patrick Loughran
	Damian McBride
	Jennifer Moses (unpaid)
	David Muir
	Geoffrey Norris
	Sue Nye (p-t)
	Nick Pearce
	Lisa Perrin
	Paul Sinclair
	Nick Stace
	Stewart Wood
Cabinet Office Minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Polly Billington Tom Restrick
Chief Whip (Commons) and Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury	Michael Dugher Emma Reynolds
Chief Whip (Lords)	Ben Coffman
Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	John Williams John Woodcock
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families	Francine Bates Alex Belardinelli
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Andrew Bagnall Paul Richards
Minister of State (Housing)	Claire McCarthy
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	Jennifer Gerber Philip French
Secretary of State for Defence	Alaina Macdonald John McTernan
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Mike Dixon Beatrice Stern
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Madlin Sadler (job share) Sarah Schaefer (job share)
Secretary of State for Health	Clare Montagu Mario Dunn
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Sue Jackson Andrew Lappin
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality	Ayesha Hazarika Anna Healey
Leader of the House of Lords, and Lord President of the Council	Philip Bassett Jonathan Pearse
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills	Josie Cluer Andy Westwood
Secretary of State for International Development	Anthony Vigor
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	Mark Davies Declan McHugh
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Sebastian Dance Oonagh Blackman
Secretary of State for Scotland	Tom Greatrex
Secretary of State for Transport	Julie Crowley David Leam
Chancellor of the Exchequer[1]	Sam White Catherine Macleod
Chief Secretary	Will McDonald
Secretary of State for Wales	Andrew Bold
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Blair McDougall Lisa Tremble
Minister of State (Employment and Welfare Reform)	Graham Dale
Minister for the Olympics and London (Paymaster General)	Mandy Telford

[1]In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Andrew Maugham, David Pinto-Duschinsky and Geoffrey Spence to the Council of Economic Advisers.

Pay bands for 2008-09

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2008-09 are as follows:

Scheme Ceiling	£ 140,560
Pay Band 4	£87,651 - £105,285
Pay Band 3	£65,529 - £101,737
Pay Band 2	£51,443 - £68,242
Pay Band 1	£39,756 - £53,321

Advisers by Pay Band

At 22 July 2008, there were 73 special advisers in post. The number of special advisers in each pay band by Department is as follows:

Department	*Pay band*				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*Up to Scheme Ceiling*
No.10[1]	3	5	11		4
Cabinet Office (Includes Minister for the Olympics and London, Paymaster General)		1	2		
Chief Whips' Offices (Commons and Lords)	1	1	1		
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	1		1		
Children, Schools and Families	1		1		
Communities and Local Government (Includes Minister of State for Housing)	1	1	1		
Culture, Media and Sport	1		1		
Defence	1		1		
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	1			
Foreign and Commonwealth Office		2			
Health		2			
Home Office			2		
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality		1	1		
Leader of the House of Lords, and Lord President of the Council	1			1	
Innovation, Universities and Skills					
International Development	1				
Justice (Lord Chancellor)		1	1		
Northern Ireland Office	1		1		
Scotland Office		1			
Transport		2			
HM Treasury[2]	1	3	2		
Wales Office	1				
Work and Pensions (including Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform)	1	1	1		
Total	*16*	*23*	*28*	*1*	*4*

[1]Plus one unpaid adviser.
[2]Includes the three Members of the Council of Economic Advisers who are employed on special adviser terms.
[3]This figure includes salary, severance pay and estimate of pension costs.

Paybill costs

The paybill for special advisers in 2007-08 was £5.9 million[3]

Year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	6.1
2006-07	6.95
2007-08	5.3

Ministerial Travel 2007-08

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am today publishing a list of all visits overseas undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate.

Total expenditure on Ministerial overseas visits for the last three financial years is set out in the table below:

Ministerial Gifts (2007-08)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published lists of gifts given and gifts received by Ministers. Both lists provide details of gifts valued at more than £140 for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Copies of the lists have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published the ninth report of the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. The report provides an account of the work of the Committee in giving advice about appointments that Ministers and senior Crown servants wish to take up after leaving office. The report covers the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. I am grateful to Lord Mayhew of Twysden, who was the chairman over this period, and to all the other members, for giving their time and expertise so freely.

As the House has previously been informed, the business of this important Committee has been managed by Sir John Blelloch since Lord Mayhew stepped down as chairman on health grounds in March this year. I wish to thank him for generously agreeing to extend his service further for this purpose.

The Government intend to refresh the membership of the Committee over the coming months. I am pleased that Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, who is currently serving on the Committee, has agreed to step into the role of chairman over this interim period.

UK Visits 2007-08

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of UK visits made by my predecessor and me during the financial year 2007-08.

Date	*Official visit to*
Rt. hon. Tony Blair	
2-3 April 2007	Edinburgh/ Glasgow/ Nottingham/ Birmingham
11 April	Cardiff/ Port Talbot/ Milford Haven
13 April	Glasgow
19-20 April	Manchester
23 April	London
25-26 April	Glasgow/ Kilmarnock
1 May	Edinburgh
8 May	Belfast
11 May	London
14 May	Greenwich/ Northampton/ Altrincham
21 May	London
24 May	London
24-25 May	Redditch/ Birmingham/ Bromsgrove/ Dudley
12 June	London
14 June	Pangbourne
14-15 June	Liverpool
24 June	Manchester
26 June	London
Rt. hon. Gordon Brown MP	
29 June	London
30 June	Kingston, Surrey
4 July	Brighton
5 July	London
7 July	Doncaster/ Hull
10 July	London
13 July	London
18 July	London
23 July	Gloucester
25 July	Gloucester/ Tewkesbury
3 August	Weymouth/ Portland
6 August	London
6 August	Reigate
22 August	Wembley
30 August	London
15 October	London
25 October	London
31 October	London
9 November	Coleshill/ Selly Oak/ Leamington Spa
16 November	Manchester/ Liverpool
17 November	Glasgow
3 December	London
6 December	London
11 December	London
2008	
1 January	Slough
2 January	London
3 January	London
7 January	London
10 January	London
11 January	Leeds
14 January	London
28 January	London
1 February	Telford
5 February	London
10 February	Manchester
15 February	Llandudno
18 February	London
20 February	London
25 February	London
29 February - 1 March	Birmingham
7 March	London
11 March	London
20 March	London
25 March	Stevenage
27 March	London
28 March	Aviemore, Scotland
31 March	Leicester/ Coventry

Official Hospitality (Chequers)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of those who have received official hospitality at Chequers for the financial year 2007-2008 since I became Prime Minister:

Lord Richard Attenborough CBE
Lady Attenborough
Ian Austin MP
Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP
Caroline Benn
Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP
James Benn
Jonathan Benn
Michael Benn
Sally Benn

Tracy Bews
Sir Victor Blank
Lady Blank
Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP
Lady Joan Branson
Sir Richard Branson
Charlie Brooks
Damon Buffini
Debbie Buffini
Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham MP
Camilla Bustani
Bruce Byron
Dr. Tanya Byron
Stephen Carter CBE
Sir William Castell
Lady Castell
Nancy Claire
Sir Terence Conran
Lady Conran
Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper MP
Jamie Cooper-Hohn
Dan Corry
Richard Curtis CBE
Kathy Dacre
Paul Dacre
Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling MP
Maggie Darling
Lord Darzi
Lady Darzi
Gavyn Davies OBE
Jeanne Davies
Mervyn Davies
Clare de Lore
Sir Evelyn de Rothschild
Lady de Rothschild
Ed Denham
Rt. Hon. John Denham MP
Rose Denham
HRH the Duke of York
Lady Dyson
Sir James Dyson CBE
Howard Exton-Smith
Lady Foster
Lord Foster
Lady Antonia Fraser CBE
Emma Freud
Derek Gadd
Danyele Gamier
Dr. Jean Pierre Gamier
Anna Gorman
Jay Green
Stephen Green
Alan Greenspan (Hon. KBE)
Sabrina Guinness
Zaha Hadid CBE
Cyn Hall
Tony Hall CBE
Mike Halsall
Martin Halusa
Lady Hamlyn
Lady Hampton
Sir Philip Hampton
Rev. James Harding
Rt. hon. Baroness Hayman
Martin Hayman
Tony Hayward
Mrs. Hayward
Stuart Hercock
Les Hinton
Chris Hohn
Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP
Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP
Laura Johnson
Lord Jones
Kirsty Jones
Nick Jones
Pat Jones
Ella Joseph
Gavin Kelly
Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly MP
Simon Kelner
Lady Kinnock
Lord Kinnock
Sir Richard Lambert
Lady Lambert
Sally Ann Lasson
Lady Leahy
Sir Terry Leahy
Kathy Lette
Lady Sue Littlemore
Lady Lyons
Sir Michael Lyons
Lindsay Mackie
Lord Malloch Brown
Lady Malloch Brown
Sir George Martin
Lady Martin
Elsa McAlonan
Heather McGregor
Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon
Murdoch McLennan
Cath Miles
Andrea Mitchell
Piers Morgan
Alison Myners
Paul Myners CBE
Sandy Nairne
Indra Nooyi
Sue Nye
Sir Gus O'Donnell
Lady O'Donnell
Hon. James Ogilvy
Julia Ogilvy
Aurelian O'Rourke
Lucy O'Rourke
Sir John Parker
Lady Parker
Lucy Parker

Julia Paton
Richard North Patterson
Alice Perkins CB
Rt. Hon. James Purnell MP
Kath Raymond
Dinah Roake
Geoffrey Robertson QC
Lady Rogers
Lord Rogers
Ruthie Rogers
Lady Rose
Sir John Rose
Sir Stuart Rose
Lady Rothermere
Lord Rothermere
Baroness Jan Royall
Alan Rusbridger
Lady Sainsbury
Lord Sainsbury
Arun Sarin
Rummi Sarin
Albert Scardino
Dame Marjorie Scardino
Angela E. Smith MP
Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith MP
Nigel Smith
Terry Smith
Sir Tom Stoppard
Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP
John Studzinski
Sir Alan Sugar
Lady Sugar
Lisa Tickner
Lynda Till
Stewart Till CBE
Richard Timney
Baroness Vadera
Mrs. Marie-France van Heel
Rebekah Wade
Celia Walden
Lucy Walker
Richard Wallace
Kate Weinberg
Lady West
Lord West
Jasmine Whitbread
Bob Wigley
Sarah Wigley
Jill Wills
Michael Wills MP
Stewart Wood
Marienne Yacoub
Professor Yacoub
Baroness Young

Official and Charity Receptions: 10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing Street for the financial year 2007-08.

The total cost of official receptions held at 10 Downing Street and Chequers for the financial year 2007-08 was £78,900. The costs of the charity receptions are funded by the charities involved.

Date	*Event*	*Numbers*	*Host*
31/03/2008	Government - National Literacy Trust	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
25/03/2008	Charity - New Horizon Youth Centre	40	Mrs Brown
25/03/2008	Government - Bevin Boys	50	Prime Minister
18/03/2008	Charity -Able Child Africa	80	Mrs Brown
15/03/2008	Government - Fire Fighters Bravery Awards	150	Prime Minister
12/03/2008	Government – Children's Champions	60	Prime Minister
06/03/2008	Government - Head Teachers & Further Education Principals	150	Prime Minister
06/03/2008	Government - World Book Day	23	Prime Minister
05/03/2008	Government – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Reception	100	Prime Minister
04/03/2008	Charity - Leonard Cheshire Disability	80	Mrs Brown
3/03/2008	Mum of the Year Awards	40	Mrs Brown
26/02/2008	Charity - National Children's Bureau	80	Mrs Brown
14/02/2008	Charity - Piggybank Kids	150	Mrs Brown
12/02/2008	Charity - Arab International Women's Forum	80	Mrs Brown
07/02/2008	Government - Academy Sponsors	120	Prime Minister
31/01/2008	Government - Eid	130	Prime Minister
23/01/2008	Government - Political Editors	70	Prime Minister
16/01/2008	Government - Lobby Journalists	150	Prime Minister
15/01/2008	Charity - Grandparents Association	80	Mrs Brown
09/01/2008	Government - Regional Media	70	Prime Minister
08/01/2008	Government - National Year of Reading	40	Prime Minister
18/12/2007	Government - LifeSavers Awards	50	Prime Minister
12/12/2007	Government - Children of Courage Award Winners	30	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
10/12/2007	Tree Lighting - Book Trust	10	Mrs Brown
04/12/2007	Charity - Maggie's Centre	150	Mrs Brown
28/11/2007	Charity - Terrence Higgins Trust	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown

Date	*Event*	*Numbers*	*Host*
13/11/2007	Charity- Spouse in the House Club	70	Mrs Brown
05/11/2007	Government- Eve of Session	130	Prime Minister
18/10/2007	Charity – White Ribbon Alliance	150	Mrs Brown
16/10/2007	Charity - The British Red Cross Society	40	Mrs Brown
09/10/2007	Pride of Britain	150	Mrs Brown
18/09/2007	Charity – Down's Syndrome Association	40	Mrs Brown
11/09/2007	Charity – Autism Speaks	40	Mrs Brown
28/08/2007	Charity – Cannon Collins Trust	40	Mrs Brown
24/07/2007	Charity - Horsesmouth.co.uk	200	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
23/07/2007	Government - War Widows	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Brown
12/07/2007	Government - Police Bravery Awards	150	Prime Minister
04/07/2007	TUC Women's Academy	25	Mrs Brown
26/06/2007	Charity - Prostate Cancer Research Foundation	40	Mrs Blair
25/06/2007	Government - NHS Military Hospital Staff Reception	150	Prime Minister
20/06/2007	Charity – Scope	40	Mrs Blair
19/06/2007	Charity – Alder Hey Imagine Appeal	40	Mrs Blair
18/06/2007	Government - War Widows Reception	150	Prime Minister and Mrs Blair
16/06/2007	Charity - Tate Patrons	40	Mrs Blair
13/06/2007	Government - Public Services	450	Prime Minister and Mrs Blair
05/06/2007	Government - NHS Military Hospital Staff	150	Prime Minister
05/06/2007	Government - Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations	80	Prime Minister
22/05/2007	Charity - Concern Worldwide	40	Mrs Blair
21/05/2007	Government - Public Sector	150	Prime Ministes and Mrs Blair
15/05/2007	Charity - Royal Parks	40	Mrs Blair
09/05/2007	Charity - Lord Mayors Appeal (VSO)	40	Mrs Blair
08/05/2007	Charity - Speakability	40	Mrs Blair
02/05/2007	Charity - Jospice	40	Mrs Blair
01/05/2007	Charity - Nicholls Spinal Injury Foundation	40	Mrs Blair
30/04/2007	Government - Maternity Services	150	Prime Minister
03/04/2007	Charity The Children's Trust	40	Mrs Blair

Council of Europe and Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Assembly of the Western European Union is as follows:

Leader Rt. Hon. John Prescott MP

Full Representatives	*Substitute Representatives*
John Austin MP	Rt. Hon. Lord Anderson of Swansea
Mr Christopher Chope OBE MP	Mr. Tim Boswell MP
Bill Etherington MP	Mr. James Clappison MP
Paul Flynn MP	Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd MP
Mr. Mike Hancock CBE MP	Mrs. Claire Curtis-Thomas MP
Baroness Hooper	Mr. Nigel Dodds OBE MP
Baroness Knight of Collingtree OBE	Mr. Nigel Evans MP
Chris McCafferty MP	Baroness Gale
Rt. Hon. Lord McIntosh of Haringey	Mr. John Greenway MP
Mr. Humfrey Malins CBE MP	Mr. Oliver Heald MP
Mr. Alan Meale MP	Mr. Doug Henderson MP
Mr. Edward O'Hara MP	Mr. Jim Hood MP
Lord Russell-Johnston	Mr. Bob Laxton MP
Lord Tomlinson	Rt. Hon. Denis MacShane MP
Dr. Rudi Vis MP	Mr. Khalid Mahmood MP
Mr. Robert Walter MP	Mr. Mark Oaten MP
Mr. David Wilshire MP	Paul Rowen MP
	Mrs. Betty Williams MP

Security (Annual Reports)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today laid before both Houses the annual reports of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Christopher Rose (HC 659); the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy (HC 947); and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Gibson (HC 948).

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) established the regulatory framework for the use of a wide range of investigatory techniques. It sets out the purposes for which the powers can be used, the public authorities which can use them, the authorisation procedures which they must follow, and the use that can be made of the material obtained. It also provides for an appropriate oversight regime and a means of redress through the independent investigatory powers tribunal. The reports which I have laid before Parliament today set out how the RIPA investigatory powers have been used during the periods covered.

The Government continue to believe that the existing system of authorisations, inspections and other safeguards set out in RIPA is appropriate, and welcome the valuable oversight role discharged by the Commissioners appointed under RIPA. The independent oversight which they provide is vital in ensuring that the various powers are used appropriately and only when necessary and proportionate.

The Interception Commissioner's report notes that the investigatory powers tribunal reached determinations

on 83 cases during the period covered. The tribunal did not uphold any complaints during this period.

A great deal has been done already to improve public authorities' awareness of the obligations placed on them, and to ensure that proper consideration is given to necessity and proportionality. We recognise, however, that there is always more that can be done. The Government are reviewing those public authorities that have access to these powers to ensure that they have a continuing and justifiable requirement for them. On completion, the Government will list the authorities that can use each of the powers and the purposes for which they can use them, and set out revised statutory codes of practice, which Parliament will have the opportunity to debate.

I am grateful to Sir Christopher, Sir Paul and Sir Peter, and to their support staff, for their work on these thorough reports.

National Security Strategy

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): On 19 March, I published the United Kingdom's first ever national security strategy. It set out how we proposed to address and manage an increasingly diverse but interconnected set of security challenges and some of their underlying factors including climate change, competition for energy, poverty, and globalisation. The aim is to safeguard the nation, its citizens, our prosperity and our way of life, against a constantly changing security environment. I want to update the House on arrangements for support to the National Security Committee and proposals for parliamentary oversight of the delivery of the strategy.

As envisaged in the national security strategy, the Government will be establishing a national security forum. We want to promote a constructive and informed dialogue with experts, stakeholders and the public to understand the security challenges we face and how we need to tackle them. The forum will have a core group of 12 publicly appointed members reflecting the broad range of the subject areas in the national security strategy. It is likely to include people with a range of experience and expertise in these issues; and in addition to this core group we will create a register of up to 100 expert associates who could be called upon to provide advice in specific areas. The purpose of the forum will be to provide expert advice to the National Security Committee (Cabinet Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID)). It will be invited to focus on the published strategy to inform the annual updates, although it will be able to commission its own research subject to agreement of its programme by NSID.

In advance of setting up the forum as a non-departmental public body, I will be establishing an interim forum in the early Autumn. For the interim forum only, the Government will appoint their members on advice from the Cabinet Office. Though an interim body, it will begin substantive work immediately. The Chair of the interim body will be announced shortly. The national security forum will be supported by a new national security secretariat in the Cabinet Office. Alongside that, a horizon scanning unit will be established which will co-ordinate the security-related horizon scanning currently undertaken in a number of Government Departments, with the intention of giving it an overarching framework and a more coherent output.

It is important that we have the right form of parliamentary oversight of the national security strategy and its delivery. There are already a number of Select Committees, and the Intelligence and Security Committee, who have an interest in the development and implementation of the national security strategy; and any new arrangement should not duplicate their existing scrutiny work. I propose therefore to consult the parliamentary authorities and the Opposition through the usual channels about the establishment and terms of reference of a Joint Committee on the national security strategy comprising the Chairs of the key departmental Select Committees with an interest in national security, and other Members of Parliament and Peers with particular interests or experience.

In March, I said that Government would publish a "national-level risk register setting out our assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that may directly affect the UK". We will be writing shortly to the Chairs of the relevant Select Committees with our national risk register and placing copies in the Library of the House. Its purpose is specifically to give the public information about risks to the UK from natural disasters, accidents and malicious threats over the next five years so that those who wish to can prepare for the consequences. The national risk register will be a key tool in the development of community resilience networks, another national security strategy deliverable, which the Cabinet Office will be taking forward in the coming months and is the next step in improving the UK's resilience.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Dr. David Southall

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): On 20 February 2007 the then Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, announced a review of criminal cases in which Dr. David Southall had been a prosecution witness. The General Medical Council (GMC) had started a hearing to examine allegations that Dr. Southall had kept so-called "Special Case" (SC) files containing original medical records relating to his patients that were not also kept on the child's official hospital file. These files relate to the period 1980 to 2000. Concerns had been expressed that in some of those cases criminal proceedings may have been brought but the existence of the files not revealed, resulting in their not being available for disclosure as part of the prosecution process.

It was not clear at that stage whether or not there had been any such failures to discharge disclosure obligations. Lord Goldsmith decided to assess cases in which Dr. Southall had been instructed as a prosecution witness to determine whether he had kept a separate SC file; and if so to determine what further review might be required.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) undertook that assessment, establishing a Project Board and a Review Team under the leadership of a Chief Crown Prosecutor.

The Review Team

Identified criminal prosecutions to which individual SC files could be linked;

Retrieved original prosecution files;

Reviewed the SC files against the contents of the associated prosecution files to assess whether there were any grounds for concern as to whether the obligations of disclosure to the defence had been fully discharged; and

Reported their findings to the Attorney-General.

Dr. Southall provided all the SC files he held—a total of 4,344 files—in accordance with his undertaking to the GMC. Of the 4,344 SC files reviewed by the Team 82 were found to be linked to court proceedings of some kind. Of those, 40 were established to have been associated with a criminal prosecution conducted in this jurisdiction.

The Review Team then checked CPS records against these 40 SC files and identified a total of seven CPS prosecution files linked with a total of nine SC files. On reviewing these files in depth, the team found no grounds to suggest that there had been a failure to comply with the prosecution's obligations of disclosure to the defence. Accordingly the Review Team has advised, and the Attorney-General and I accept, that there is no reason to indicate that any of these cases needs to be referred to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

The ability of the Review Team to identify whether an SC file was linked with a prosecution, and then to locate the original prosecution papers, was constrained by a number of wholly practical factors. The team had to rely on the contents of the SC file for information suggesting that there may be linked criminal proceedings. In some older cases where there was such a link, the prosecution file no longer existed because of the application of the normal procedures for file destruction within the CPS after set periods of time. Differences between the methods of identifying SC files (which were linked to the patient) and CPS prosecution files (recorded by the name of the defendant) also made linking SC files to prosecution files difficult.

Nonetheless this review has been a valuable and worthwhile exercise. The Review Team has approached its task conscientiously and with care and thoroughness, for which the Attorney-General and I thank them.

The report makes a number of recommendations designed to reinforce the message that expert witnesses must fully understand their responsibilities in relation to the disclosure of information in criminal cases. These are explained in the CPS/ACPO "Guidance Booklet for Experts". The report's recommendations have been accepted and are being taken forward.

Recommendation seven is that the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) should consider whether to conduct a similar review in relation to possible disclosure failings in family court proceedings. DCSF have now considered this recommendation—they agree that there should be such a review and that they are the appropriate department to conduct it. The review will focus on the 82 SC files which the Review Team found were linked to court proceedings of some kind. Thirty six of these were definitely linked to family proceedings. It is to be noted that if a disclosure failure were detected, this may, or may not, have any impact on the case, bearing in mind the passage of time and the fact that the welfare of the child is paramount in family proceedings. However, DCSF will follow the recommendation of the Review Team and conduct a review of the family cases.

The Review Team's report and recommendations (edited to preserve the anonymity of individual patients) have today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Transport Personnel Review

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): Last December I commissioned an independent review of personnel security across the transport sector. This followed Lord West's review last year which focused on physical infrastructure and confirmed that, although it is impossible to eliminate every risk, a robust transport security regime is in place. The review of personnel security was conducted by Stephen Boys Smith who has now delivered his report. It contains a detailed assessment of current security processes and recommendations of where changes might be needed. Because of the sensitive nature of the subject matter, it is not appropriate to publish it in full, but I have published a short summary of the report, and of its key recommendations.

The Government and the transport industries are committed to countering the threat from terrorism. The existing security regime encompasses a wide range of measures which seek to reduce the potential threat from insiders. These measures include both personnel security measures, such as background checks, and physical security measures, such as the searching and screening requirements. Many of these physical security measures apply to industry staff as well as passengers. For instance, the UK requires airports to screen 100 per cent. of staff working in the restricted zone, and has played a leading role in ensuring that this approach has been incorporated into European regulations, as well as promoting it elsewhere.

Stephen Boys Smith's report acknowledges the effectiveness of the UK transport security regime, which overlaps multiple layers of security measures in this way. The report also points out that the more effectively the security regime mitigates external threats, the more likely it becomes that terrorists will look for vulnerabilities elsewhere. I therefore agree with the key message of the report: that there should be an increased focus on personnel security and that this should be informed by systematic analysis of the risks. This is consistent with work already in hand within the Government's counter-terrorism strategy "CONTEST", where personnel security is one of the workstreams.

The most important challenge will be to integrate fully a risk-based approach to personnel security into industry practices. This clearly cannot be delivered by Government alone. Only the industry has the detailed knowledge of its operations and systems that is needed accurately to identify the specific personnel security risks that it faces and how they might be mitigated. But the Government have a vital role to play in raising awareness of personnel security issues within the industry, providing guidance and support to the industry, and ensuring that full and rigorous assessments are carried out and that appropriate action is taken where vulnerabilities are identified.

For this reason, I have asked my Department to ensure with immediate effect that industry's attention is drawn to the advice which is already available (for example, that issued by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure), and to enhance the personnel security elements of our existing training programmes. Alongside this, my officials will urgently work up policy options over the summer for a cross-industry conference, to be held in the autumn. This conference will identify the most effective approaches to embedding risk assessment in the personnel security regime. The next phase will be for Government and industry to work together, including through ongoing working groups such as the National Aviation Security Committee, to ensure that the necessary risk assessments are carried out and a clear programme of work delivered. This will require sustained effort by all.

I agree with the report's view that identity is a key factor in personnel security regimes and note its conclusion that ID cards are a useful addition to identity assurance. This endorses the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 6 March that ID cards will be part of the identity assurance regime for airside workers, starting in 2009. Officials from the Home Office and my Department are currently in discussion with the industry about how best to do this.

I also accept the report's advice that, in the light of experience both in the Security Industry Association (SIA) and within some sectors of the transport industry, overseas criminal record checks are now a more viable option than they have been in the past.

While checks of this kind are primarily intended to reduce crime, they can also provide a useful additional check on an applicant's integrity as part of the overall personnel security regime. I have therefore asked my Department to produce clear guidance, building on the approach taken by the SIA, to support those organisations whose risk assessments identify posts for which checks of this kind are necessary. Wherever such posts are identified, I would expect the industry to take rapid action, and my Department will be engaging closely with them over the coming months to ensure that this is the case.

Alongside this voluntary approach, which extends existing good practice in the industry, I believe there is also a case for introducing a mandatory requirement for those posts which present the highest risks, such as those with specific security responsibilities (and which are already subject to a counter-terrorism check). However, before such a requirement can be put in place, there remain a number of legal and practical challenges to be overcome. These include identifying an effective means of dealing with the variability of international criminal records systems and documentation, and developing an approach which does not have undue implications for the ongoing efficiency and security of industry operations.

I have therefore asked my Department to begin immediate discussions with employers and employees in the industry to agree a workable and effective approach to introducing such a requirement, with a view to implementation by the end of the year. In line with Stephen Boys Smith's recommendation, I would expect this to apply to new applicants for these posts, as employers can assess the integrity of existing employees in other, more effective ways.

Over the longer term, as the exchange of information between countries becomes more efficient, it may be appropriate to extend this requirement to other posts. I note here also the statement made on 16 July by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary about Sir Ian Magee's review of criminality and the potential for overseas information to be more readily available to UK criminal record offices.

Finally, I agree with the view that whilst there should be some rebalancing of priorities between physical and personnel security activity, this should not result in a weakening of physical security programmes.

Copies of the report summary and recommendations have been laid in the Libraries of both Houses and will appear on the Department's web site.

Cost of Ministerial Cars for 2007-08

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am publishing today details of the number of, and cost to Departments of the provision of, allocated cars and drivers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Ministers during 2007-08.

The figures are:

Department	*No of Cars*	*Contracted Cost*	*Notes*
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	5	£345,400	1&2
Cabinet Office	7	£473,500	3
Leader of the House of Commons, the Government's Equalities Office and the Leader of the House of Lords	4	£245,300	
Office of the Chief Whips for the Commons and the Lords	1	£76,500	
Department for Communities and Local Government	6	£401,600	
Department for Culture, Media and Sports	3	£241,500	
Department for Children, Schools and Families	5	£346,800	
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	4	£267,800	
Department for International Development	4	£226,900	
Department for Transport	4	£272,700	
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	5	£248,000	
Department for Works and Pensions	6	£415,900	
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	5	£355,700	
Department of Health	6	£393,700	

Department	*No of Cars*	*Contracted Cost*	*Notes*
HM Treasury	5	£341,900	
Home Office	6	£477,000	4
Law Officers' Dept	2	£138,400	
Ministry of Justice	4	£307,900	
Northern Ireland Office	2	£291,500	
Scotland Office	1	£66,200	
Wales Office	2	£85,400	

Notes:
[1]The Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs was a post held jointly between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The Government Car Service (GCS) costs were met by BERR.
[2]The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade and Consumer Affairs was a post held jointly between the Department for International Development (DFID) and BERR. The GCS costs were met by DFID.
[3]Cabinet Office figures include cars for Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office and the Minister for the Olympics.
[4]The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration was a post held jointly between the Home office and HM Treasury. The GCS costs were met by the Home Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 1 September and Tuesday 9 September 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Manufacturing: New challenges, New Opportunities

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness has made the following statement:

"On 8 September the Government unveiled a new strategy for the UK's manufacturing sector—"New Challenges, New Opportunities"—to help UK firms take advantage of changing global trends in manufacturing. A summary document is also available.

In bringing forward its refreshed manufacturing strategy, developed by the Department for Business and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, in partnership with industry, the Government are reaffirming its commitment to the sector as a key part of a mixed and balanced UK economy in the future.

The refreshed strategy is intended to set out a dynamic framework which will shape further new policies and programmes in the future. It builds on the Government's manufacturing strategy of 2002, which was the first strategy for the sector for more than 30 years.

The environment facing manufacturers has undergone and continues to face significant change. To understand what is powering these shifts we have conducted consultations with the Ministerial Advisory Group on Manufacturing and other stakeholders, and drawn upon academic and survey evidence. This has revealed the importance of five inter-related dynamics that have been and continue to be instrumental in reshaping global manufacturing.

The increasing prevalence and complexity of global value chains, underpinned by developments in information and communication technology, and consequent fragmentation of processes, encouraging specialisation.

The accelerated pace of technology exploitation as the pace and demand for change implementation has increased.

The growing importance of investment in intangibles such as design, branding and R&D.

The increased recognition that investment in People and Skills is among the most important for companies to make.

The move to a low carbon economy as the response to climate change creates both new challenges and opportunities for manufacturing firms.

These dynamics are described in detail in the Economics paper: "Five Dynamics of Change in Global Manufacturing", which accompanies the strategy. The strategy itself sets out Government's view of what the sector needs for success in the long-term. It includes:

Global Value Chains: International fragmentation of production—Manufacturing attracts more FDI to the UK than any other country in Europe and globally the UK is second only to the US. Manufacturing growth in other countries means opportunities for the UK. UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) will allocate additional resources to target a package of new support for 600 UK companies of all sizes to identify manufacturing value chain opportunities in India and China. And the UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO) will advise on using and protecting IP in these markets.

Technology exploitation: Accelerating the spread of new technologies—In addition to the existing centre in Yorkshire and the centre currently being built in Glasgow, there will be a new Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry. It will have industrial scale pre-production and demonstration facilities, which could lead to £130 million of investment in business-led applied research and its exploitation over the next 10 years. And the Technology Strategy Board will invest £24 million into research central to high value-added manufacturing.

Intangibles: Competitive advantage from non-traditional elements of manufacturing—Firms in the UK are using other areas of leading British skills and industry to make them more globally competitive. UK and global businesses are growing their investment in intangible or knowledge assets, such as software, design, brand building in order to improve their global competitiveness and to meet the changing needs of customers. The Design Council and Regional Development Agencies will implement the findings of the current review of the Designing Demand programme to increase penetration of the programme across the regions. We have supported the creation of the UK Design Skills Alliance and will work with the alliance to help ensure the world-leading UK design sector has the skills required by manufacturers to compete in global markets.

People: Improving the skills base and attracting talent into manufacturing—The strategy sets out a renewed focus on apprenticeships, including the extension and expansion of high quality apprenticeships by approximately 1,500 new places, in addition to the 9,000 places announced earlier this year. We will expand apprenticeships by inviting bids from larger manufacturers to train additional apprentices, including for their supply chains. And for manufacturers, there will be a clear focus on simplifying their experience of the skills system so they can quickly and easily access the skills and training support they need. The "Memorandum of Understanding" published alongside the strategy sets out how delivery partners will work together to simplify the offer to employers.

A new body, "Manufacturing Insight" will be tasked with making the public perception of manufacturing reflect the reality of a successful, modern and broad sector and ensuring young people are aware of the exciting career opportunities available. There will also be a "Manufacturing the Future" schools campaign to promote manufacturing career prospects to young people.

Low Carbon Economy: Opportunities for manufacturing—Next year, a low carbon industrial strategy will address the challenges facing manufacturers as they try to reduce their carbon footprint and the huge opportunities from investment in energy and a shift to a low carbon economy. The Office of Nuclear Development will work with industry partners to develop the nuclear supply chain and maximise high value-added work captured by UK manufacturers from an estimated £20 billion capital expenditure in nuclear. And a new Office for Renewable Energy Deployment will be established to address barriers to renewables deployment including helping to develop the UK supply chain. Nuclear and renewables alone could create up to 260,000 jobs over the next ten years.

Related documents have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are:

Manufacturing: New Challenges, New Opportunities (summary document)

Manufacturing: New Challenges, New Opportunities (full strategy document—print out of document published on the BERR and DIUS websites)

BERR Economics Paper No. 2: Five Dynamics of Change in Global Manufacturing—Underpinning Economic Analysis

Memorandum of Understanding: Education and Training Support in the Manufacturing Sector."

TREASURY

Annual European Community Finances White Paper

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): I am today laying before Parliament, the annual European Community Finances White Paper "Statement on the 2008 EC Budget and Measures to Combat Fraud and Financial Mismanagement" (Cm 7371). This White Paper is the 28th in the series. It gives details of revenue and expenditure in the 2008 EC Budget and covers recent developments in EC financial management and measures to counter fraud against the EC Budget. It includes information on amendments to the arrangements for the financing of the annual budget of the European Communities in the Own Resources Decision area. It also includes updates on the EC Budget review, the new Own Resources Decision and recent measures taken to improve the management and control of the EC Budget.

The Public Accounts Commission: Sixteenth Report

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): I welcome the work of the Public Accounts Commission (TPAC) on the new governance arrangements for the National Audit Office (NAO) as set out in its "Sixteenth Report" (HC 1027) published on 24 July.

The Government will continue to work with TPAC, the NAO, Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Counsel to prepare provisions for the Constitutional Renewal Bill to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget ECOFIN)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): On 17 July 2008, the UK permanent representative to the EU represented the UK at the Budget Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

The Council conducted its first reading of the EC Budget for 2009. The Council adopted a draft Budget that was supported by all member states.

During a conciliation meeting between the Council and the European Parliament, six joint statements relating to the Budget were agreed. These concerned: Structural and Cohesion Funds and Rural Development 2007-13 programmes; Recruitment in Relation to the 2004 and 2007 enlargement; the EU Solidarity Fund; the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and Emergency Aid Reserve; Implementation of the Budget in 2009; and an update of Administration financial programming. In addition Council agreed further statements on Payment Appropriations and Evaluation of Agencies.

The Government are supportive of these statements, which call for a greater degree of transparency, sound financial management and budget discipline in the areas they concern.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Homes and Communities Agency as established in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 will for the first time bring together in one agency housing and regeneration funding, public land and expertise to deliver decent, affordable housing and regenerate our communities by creating places where people choose to live. It will play a key role in turning our ambition to deliver three million new homes by 2020 into a reality.

As part of that role, I am today announcing that from 1 December 2008 the Homes and Communities Agency will take on responsibility for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, which provides funding for the provision and refurbishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites. This approach will bring delivery of homes for Gypsies and Travellers into line with the arrangements for housing and accommodation delivery for the rest of the community. It reflects our determination to address the existing shortfall in accommodation for all in society, tackling the problems that can be caused by unauthorised camping and the poor life chances of Gypsies and Travellers themselves.

The HCA will be responsible for administering the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant to meet ambitious but realistic targets for the delivery of pitches across England. Through its close relationship with local authorities and other delivery partners, the HCA will be well placed to step up the pace of delivery for the benefit of both Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community. This approach responds to the findings of the independent task group on site provision and enforcement, chaired by Sir Brian Briscoe, whose report issued in December found that the policy framework for site provision was sound, but that delivery was slow.

Ministers will continue to have oversight of the programme, ensuring that it achieves the Government's objectives of meeting Gypsies' and Travellers' accommodation needs and supporting community cohesion. We will also be asking the HCA to recommend any changes to the programme for 2010-11 that may be necessary to improve delivery. The sum of £97 million was allocated for the grant through the CSR07 period, and funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be transferred in full to the HCA on its establishment.

DEFENCE

Service Children's Education

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The chief executive of Service Children's Education has been set the following key targets for 2008-09.

Key Target 1

To match England Performance at key stages 1, 2 and 3 in all subject elements.

Key Target 2

In each of the key stages 1, 2 and 3 exceed national (England) achievement by 3 per cent. in a majority of the 12 subject elements.

At the higher levels of attainment (that is, level 3+ at key stage 1, level 5+ at key stage 2, level 6+ at key stage 3) match or exceed the national level of performance in 10 of the 12 subject elements.

Key Target 3

At GCSE level, improve the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C (including Maths and English) from 2007-08 (45 per cent.).

At GCSE level, achieve an average points score within 10 points of the national (England) "capped" upper quartile figure.

At GCE "A"-Level, achieve 72 per cent. of pupil entries obtaining grades A-C.

Key Target 4

SCE to achieve a notional position in the English local authority league tables, within the leading 25 (of 150) LAs at each of key stages 1, 2 and 3.

Key Target 5

To achieve Grade 3, or above, for the overall effectiveness of the school in 100 per cent. of schools inspected, and Grade 2, or above, in not less than 66 per cent. of schools inspected.

Key Target 6

To achieve an overall parental customer satisfaction rating of at least 85 per cent. in the 2008-09 parental survey.

Military Low Flying

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I have today placed in the Library of the House a revised report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the training year April 2007 to March 2008.

The original report placed on 21 July 2008 was found to contain a number of printing errors that have been corrected.

The report can be viewed on the MOD's website at: http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/AirSafetyandAviation/LowFlying/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Hong Kong (Six-monthly Report)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The latest report on the implementation of the "Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong" was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk. The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2008. I commend the report to the House.

Georgia

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I refer hon. and right hon. Members to the written (Prime) ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

PA Consulting (Lost Data)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I would like to update the House on the loss of sensitive data by PA Consulting and to inform the House that the Home Office has terminated the contract with PA Consulting that covered the handling of these data.

On 19 August PA Consulting formally notified the Home Office of the loss of a data stick containing sensitive information relating to the JTrack system which PA manage under contract to the Home Office. I was informed the same day and immediately initiated an inquiry into this incident, undertaken by the Home Office Security Unit with advice and support from the Metropolitan Police. The incident inquiry has now been completed. The Information Commissioner and Cabinet Office have been kept fully informed. I have also today sent a full report to the Information Commissioner and have placed a copy in the House Library.

JTrack is the operational system used by the police and Crown Prosecution Service as part of the Government's Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) programme. The data on JTrack relate to prisoners and other offenders in England and Wales.

The inquiry found that data were transferred to PA from the Home Office in a secure manner. These data were not handled securely by a PA employee on their premises. Data were downloaded to a data stick. The data stick was used to transfer data between computers on the PA premises and was not encrypted or managed appropriately. The data stick went missing and, despite extensive searches, has not been found. This was a clear breach of the robust terms of the contract covering security and data handling.

Based on the findings of the inquiry, the Home Office have decided to terminate this contract. My officials are currently working with PA to take this work back in house without affecting the operation of JTrack or the PPO programme. Data transfers to PA for JTrack were suspended immediately following the incident, data handling has now been transferred to the Home Office, and the system is fully operational. Other PA activity such as system maintenance and user training will be transferred by December.

We are reviewing our other contracts with PA, specifically from a data handling and security perspective. Lessons learned from this incident more generally will be applied to working with suppliers on contracts involving sensitive data.

Together with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Ministry of Justice, we have undertaken careful assessments of the potential risks to individuals of this incident. The risk to public safety is assessed as low. The risk to individuals whose data were lost is also assessed as low. Appropriate measures are in place for individuals seeking information about the data held on them.

The Home Office has been very active in implementing the findings of the Hannigan Data Handling Review but as with other incidents of data loss the Government are reviewing the circumstances of this incident and will ensure that any lessons, including in relation to strengthening the delivery chain, are incorporated in the ongoing programme of work to provide support and guidance to Departments on information assurance.

Given the seriousness of this incident, I believe it is important both to provide external assurance to the public on our response to the incident and also to enable others to benefit from the lessons learned. Hence I have commissioned Dr. Stephen Hickey to undertake an external scrutiny of our response. I will be placing a report of his findings in the House Library in due course.

Police Pay

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): On 6 December 2007, I published Sir Clive Booth's report "Determining Pay in the Police Service". Sir Clive Booth recommended that a pay review body for police officers should be created. I indicated that the Government accepted his recommendations and we would consult on proposals for implementing the necessary changes to the police officer pay machinery.

On 8 January 2008, I wrote to the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) asking them to consider a multi-year deal for police officers based on the index used by the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT) in 2007. I made clear that if the PNB agreed such a deal then it could be implemented in full, and the issue of implementing a pay review body for police officers would become less pressing. We therefore deferred consultation on the implementation of a pay review body while negotiations on a multi-year deal were taking place. The Government's approach on this was also set out in "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together" (Cm 7448) published on 17 July 2008.

The official Side of the PNB made an offer of a three-year pay deal which was one of the most generous in the public sector. Regrettably, there was a failure to agree with the staff side on this basis. In the event that the PNB had agreed a multi-year deal there would have been no role for a pay review body for some time, but disappointingly for the third consecutive year a deal was not agreed.

The Government are therefore today beginning consultation on proposals for implementing a pay review body for police officers. Sir Clive Booth already consulted widely with policing stakeholders when undertaking his review. So this second consultation will be an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the detail of the proposed changes to the police officer pay machinery, including : the scope and purpose of the new body; its remit; membership and coverage.

The consultation will close on Wednesday 5 November 2008.

I have today placed a copy of the consultation document in the Library of the House.

Review of Police Injury Awards

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): On 25 August I published a consultation document, "Review of Police Injury Benefits: Government Proposals", which sets out proposals for a revised police injury awards scheme in the UK. We intend that the new scheme should be in place as early as is possible in 2009, following agreement of the key issues in the Police Negotiating Board by December this year.

The review of the current police injury awards scheme has given us the opportunity to ensure that we have a system of benefits with criteria suitable for modern-day conditions and which ensures that the financial support currently given to police officers and their families for injury or death in the line of duty is properly targeted and is effectively and consistently administered by police forces. The proposals in the consultation document cover a range of issues, including the eligibility criteria for receiving an award, the structure of benefits under the scheme for both former officers and their survivors, and the role of police authorities and medical practitioners involved in considering claims for awards.

Key proposals set out in the consultation document include:

The introduction, as announced by the Home Secretary to the Police Federation conference in May this year, of life-long adult survivor benefits and the extension of survivor benefits to nominated unmarried and unregistered partners in cases where an officer dies in the line of duty. At present survivor benefits for death in the line of duty are restricted to bereaved spouses and civil partners and are stopped on remarriage or cohabitation.

Simplifying injury and survivor awards so they are easier to understand and apply. For instance, if an officer dies or is totally disabled within one year of an injury in the line of duty, the lump sum payment made will as a matter of course be five times the officer's pensionable salary. Currently financial support is set at four times the officer's actual total salary if that works out to be the lesser amount.

Making injury and death payments fairer. The pensionable salary on which lump sum awards are based will be changed so that it is based on average pensionable pay. This will take account of a person's working hours averaged over his or her police career rather than simply the pensionable pay at the time the officer ceased to serve. This will protect those who may have just reduced their hours before being injured.

Revising the eligibility criteria and clarifying the definition for injuries received in the line of duty. This clarification will mean officers will be specifically covered for injury benefits as a result of a terrorist attack and will focus benefits on those injuries received in the line of duty. Proposals will also include withdrawing cover for injury or death sustained on a journey to or from work where the cause was not related to police duty—to bring injury benefits for the police service in line with injury benefits for other public servants.

A clearer link between injury awards and police duty, by introducing a five-year time limit for new post-retirement claims, except in the case of specified progressive illnesses and specified conditions with a long incubation period.

A clearer link between injury awards and compensation for loss of earnings, by introducing an absolute cut-off for new claims at age 65 or state pension age at the time if over 65.

Replacing injury pension reviews at age 65 (or the state pension age at the time if over 65) by introducing a new minimum retirement income guarantee. Under the current system officers injured early in their career can suffer a large reduction in financial support in their retirement if the review takes them to the lowest pay banding. The new retirement income guarantee will protect against this.

No longer paying injury pensions in cases where a former officer has suffered only a very slight loss of earning capacity as a result of the injury. In cases where the loss of earning capacity is 10 per cent. or less the former officer will receive a lump sum payment in recognition of the injury. This will allow benefits to be targeted where they are needed most.

Any changes made as a result of the review will apply to officers serving at the time of implementation, regardless of whether they have already sustained an injury. They will not apply retrospectively however, that is, to officers who have already retired when the changes come into force—they will still be dealt with under the system as it currently stands, even if they have not yet applied for an award.

Our aim is to create a transparent, fair and effective system that provides police officers reassurance to deal with the difficulties that 21st century policing brings. I hope that a constructive and active debate ensues on the proposals we have announced.

The consultation exercise is being conducted on a UK-wide basis in co-operation with the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Office. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library. Further copies can be downloaded from: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/current-consultations/. Comments have been requested by 18 November 2008.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

"Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances"

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Following debates in July, I published a consultation document, "Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances" (Cm7460) on 5 August, 2008. It outlines proposals for further action to improve the financial control and audit of the system of allowances claimed by MPs. Copies of the document are available at: www.commonsleader.gov.uk. I have requested that MPs submit their responses by Monday, 29 September 2008.

PRIME MINISTER

Extraordinary European Council: Georgia/Russia

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Between 8 and 12 August, Russian and Georgian troops clashed in Georgia's separatist region of South Ossetia. The resulting conflict led to a tragic loss of civilian life, and the displacement of over 100,000 people.

From the start of the conflict, the UK and its international partners have been involved in intensive discussions, including through the UN, EU, NATO, G7 and OSCE, to agree a ceasefire and to find a durable and peaceful way forward. I spoke to Russian President Medvedev and to other Heads of State, including Presidents Bush and Sarkozy, to try to find a way forward. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Georgia where he met President Saakashvili and Members of his Government.

On 12 August, the EU and OSCE were able to broker a ceasefire between the parties and agreement to a way forward. This agreement included six key principles:

the parties not to resort to the use of force;

the parties to stop all military actions for good;

the parties to allow free access for humanitarian aid;

Georgian armed forces to return to their places of usual permanent deployment;

Russian armed forces to withdraw to the line they occupied before the start of military actions. Until such time as an international mechanism is created, Russian peacekeeping forces to implement additional security measures;

the parties to engage in international discussions on the modalities of security and stability in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Despite this plan, on 26 August, Russia unilaterally recognised the independence of South Ossetia and of Georgia's other separatist region, Abkhazia. Russia also refused to withdraw its forces from Georgia and in some cases moved to reinforce them.

It was in this context that I and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the Extraordinary European Council on 1 September, convened by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in his capacity as current presidency of the EU, to discuss the current crisis in Georgia.

At this meeting the European Council unanimously condemned Russia's decision to recognise the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia; and expressed its grave concern about the consequences of the conflict and Russia's disproportionate military action. Russia's actions were in clear breach of international law and of successive UN Security Council Resolutions.

In response to Russian actions, the Council decided to conduct a comprehensive review of EU-Russia relations. This evaluation has begun and will continue in the run up to the next EU-Russia summit scheduled to take place in Nice on 14 November 2008. The EU has decided to suspend negotiations with Russia on the new EU Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) until Russian troops withdraw from Georgia to their pre-conflict line. We strongly support this decision. As I made clear during Council discussions, although the EU should continue discussions with Russia on areas of interest and concern to the EU, it cannot be "business as usual". This review will allow us to take a considered decision about the future of EU-Russia relations.

Russia's actions in Georgia illustrate the need for Europe to intensify efforts to ensure its long-term energy security. The European Council tasked the EU with examining initiatives to be taken to this end. We should explore all options for the diversification of energy supply in the EU, including increased support for infrastructure that diversifies energy sources, an increased commitment to renewable energy, measures to improve energy efficiency and measures to improve the internal market.

The international community must support Georgia in rebuilding the damage caused by the conflict. The European Council made clear the EU's commitment to supply humanitarian aid and support for Georgia's long-term reconstruction efforts, including in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Council and the Commission have been tasked to start preparations for an international conference to bring focus to reconstruction efforts. The UK will play its part. We have already committed £2 million to Georgia in humanitarian aid. The EU has pledged to step up its relations with Georgia, including through visa facilitation measures, appointing an EU special envoy and the possible establishment of a full and comprehensive free trade area as soon as the conditions are met.

At the European Council, the EU unanimously called on the parties to implement the EU/OSCE peace plan in full. On 8 September, President Sarkozy, EU Commission President Barroso and EU High Representative Solana travelled to Moscow to press Russia to abide by its commitments. I welcome the agreement reached during this meeting that Russia will withdraw its troops from Georgian territory outside Abkhazia and South Ossetia

and that Russia will commit to international discussions on future security modalities. This is a good first step towards peace and security. But it is only the start; Russia must now implement these commitments and must engage fully in finding a lasting solution to the crisis.

The international community will support efforts to ensure lasting peace and security in the region, including through the presence of observers on the ground. In line with the EU Council conclusions and the 8 September Moscow agreement, the European Union will contribute to these efforts. EU Foreign Ministers will discuss the deployment of EU monitors at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on Monday, 15 September. It is vital that international monitors are given free and unfettered access by all sides to carry out their mandate.

The EU's response to this crisis must also consider the implications for the EU's common neighbourhood. On 27 August my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary travelled to Kiev where he made a speech on the need for closer ties between the EU and the region. I am pleased that the Council agreed that the EU should strengthen its relations with the region, including Ukraine. I welcome the successful EU—Ukraine summit which took place yesterday (9 September). I look forward to the Commission's proposals for enhancing EU relations with the region, due in December this year.

The UK will continue to work with international partners to ensure that effective support is given to Georgia and that a lasting, peaceful solution is reached as soon as possible.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will continue to keep the House informed of developments.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Stakeholder Receptions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I have today published a list of receptions hosted by Department for Work and Pensions Ministers in the 2007-08 financial year.

The total cost of receptions held for the financial year 2007-08 was £368.00.

Date	*Event*	*Number invited*	*Host*
19 February 2008	Introductory reception with key Working Age stakeholders	27	James Purnell
5 March 2008	Introductory reception with key Pensions and Disability stakeholders	27	James Purnell

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Wednesday 10 September and Friday 12 September 2008

DEFENCE

QinetiQ

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): This statement updates the House on the successful sale by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) of its entire holding of ordinary shares in QinetiQ Group plc (QinetiQ). QinetiQ was created in 2001 from the majority of the MOD's in-house science and technology laboratories. Given the market sensitive nature of the transaction, it was not possible to inform the House in advance of the decision to sell.

The MOD announced on 9 September 2008 that it would sell its remaining 18.9 per cent. stake (comprising approximately 125 million ordinary shares) in the company. The sale process was completed on the same day through an accelerated bookbuild process, achieving a price of 206p per share and raising around £254 million (net of estimated costs) for the taxpayer. The price achieved by the MOD represented a discount of 7.8 per cent. to the closing price of QinetiQ shares on the day before the transaction. A discount is normal for a transaction of this scale. Between flotation and this sale, the average price of QinetiQ shares in the market was 194p.

The Government retain a special share in the company. This provides the Government with the right to block certain activities or ownership that could be contrary to UK defence and security interests, or which could threaten QinetiQ's ability to provide its MOD customers with impartial advice.

The sale brings the total raised for the taxpayer from the privatisation of QinetiQ to approximately £830 million (net of costs).

Project MASS

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to announce that on 20 August we signed a 15-year partnering agreement with BAE Systems Land Systems Munitions (BAES LSM) for the future supply of general munitions to the armed forces. This is the first opportunity since contract signature to inform the House.

The new contractual arrangements have been developed under the umbrella of Project MASS (Munitions Acquisition—The Supply Solution), which is a key strand for delivering the defence industrial strategy (DIS) within the general munitions field. The contractual partnering agreement is underpinned by a broader non-contractual strategic partnering arrangement between BAES LSM and the MOD for the longer-term delivery of joint objectives in the munitions sector.

At present, 80 per cent., by value, of the general munitions used by the armed forces for frontline operations and training are procured from BAES LSM under a contract due to end in 2010. The new, innovative partnering agreement will continue to cover about 80 per cent. of the general munitions requirement, including small arms and medium calibre ammunition, mortar shells and artillery shells and will ensure continuing security of supply for a minimum of 15 years. The new agreement, which is worth at least £2 billion and, depending on the level of demand, potentially in excess of £3 billion, also incentivises BAES LSM to deliver a modern, world class industrial base.

This is excellent news for defence. Not only will the new arrangements deliver a long-term, secure supply of battle-winning munitions for our armed forces, it will also ensure that the UK retains an important sovereign capability, directly sustaining some 1,700 UK jobs.

It is also excellent news for BAES LSM, and for their highly skilled workforce in the north of England and south Wales, who are to be commended for their continued commitment and contribution to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, under the current arrangements. During this period of high demand, the company has stepped up production to meet the challenge, providing up to 1 million rounds of small arms ammunition a day from their manufacturing facility at Radway Green, near Crewe.

Our new partnering agreement with BAES LSM is an important milestone in the implementation of the defence industrial strategy, which is providing a framework for real change within the defence industry and its relationships with the MOD.

HMS Tireless

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Following my statement on 12 June 2008 about the incident that took place on board HMS Tireless in March 2007, I would like to inform the House today that the investigation undertaken on behalf of the Chief of Defence Matériel to consider issues relating to the procurement, supply and management of oxygen generators has concluded.

This investigation has shown that when the Ministry of Defence introduced the self-contained oxygen generator (SCOG) into service on submarines, it assessed that the new unit delivered a substantial improvement to the safe generation of emergency oxygen over the previously used Mark V candle. The cap and seal present in the new design was believed to be proof against contamination. The investigation has, however, made it clear that this belief, and therefore the resultant understanding of any risk of explosion, was flawed and that we were complacent about the improvement in safety the new SCOGs delivered.

The investigation has also identified a number of shortcomings in the way we handled and managed SCOGs. In particular, it has demonstrated that logistics management processes were in some places ambiguous, and as a result were neither consistently applied nor comprehensively followed. The investigation found that these shortcomings existed across the logistics management system.

The investigation also looked at the issue of individual culpability. It concluded that although individuals had made mistakes, the errors made did not amount to negligence, and as a result disciplinary action is not

justified. Although no individual was found to be personally culpable, it is clear that we were complacent and, as I said in my statement on 12 June, the Ministry of Defence must bear responsibility for this tragic incident. As part of that responsibility it is our duty to ensure that the necessary changes are made to prevent a reoccurrence.

The DE&S investigation has made 14 recommendations for improvements across the logistics management process, including for the handling, storage and tracking of SCOGs. These recommendations have been accepted in full and are being implemented, along with those made by the board of inquiry, which consulted with a range of organisations, including NASA, while it looked into this incident.

The Ministry of Defence has already put in place a number of improved processes, guidance and equipment-related measures since the explosion on HMS Tireless. An interim replacement for the generation of emergency oxygen that is better protected than the SCOG has been introduced. This is being supplied to the submarine fleet as quickly as practicable. We have already fitted replacement oxygen generators to two of the fleet and expect to have rolled them out to the rest by the end of the year. These, along with any pre-existing SCOGs which remain in use over the next few months, will only be used in an emergency situation and are being handled appropriately. Work is also underway to develop and introduce a replacement oxygen generating capability for routine and emergency use in the future.

The outcome of this further investigation, its recommendations, and the improvements that are already being put in place do not change the fact that as a result of this tragic incident two submariners died and another was seriously injured. I would again like to offer my sincere sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues and assure them that the action we have taken significantly reduces the risk of such a tragedy happening again. My Department is continuing to provide the coroner with every assistance possible and is keeping the Heath and Safety Executive fully informed.

I am today placing a copy of the investigation report in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): It has been brought to my attention that replies I gave on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1578W to the hon. Member for North Devon (Mr. Harvey) and on 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1182W to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) over-reported the percentage and number of rejected claims made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

The original data and subsequent revisions are shown in the tables below.

Table 1: Previously released and revised AFCS rejection percentages (Excluding medical discharges).

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*April 07-December 07*
Released Percentages of Rejections	40%	36%	45%
Released Percentages of Rejections	40%	36%	37%

Table2: Previously released and revised AFCS rejection figures.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*April 07-December 07*
Released Percentages of Rejections	165	745	740
Released Percentages of Rejections	165	740	590

HEALTH

Health and Adult Social Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): On 11 August 2008 I published a consultation document, which is the latest stage in the development of the new system we are introducing for the regulation of health and adult social care.

"Changes to arrangements for regulating NHS bodies in relation to healthcare associated infections for 2009-10—A consultation for the NHS" takes forward our commitment to allow the Care Quality Commission to regulate NHS bodies with respect to healthcare associated infections from April 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The NHS has been working hard to tackle healthcare associated infections. We are on course to halve the number of MRSA infections from 2003-04 levels and reduce "C difficile" infections. Patients keep telling us that contracting a healthcare associated infection is one of their biggest concerns. It is crucial that we focus on bringing infection rates down even further and protecting patients, staff and visitors from the risk of infection.

Patients are looking for assurances that no matter who provides their care, they will receive a safe and quality service. They also look to the regulators of health and social care to support and encourage improvements in the services they use.

The NHS next stage review final report, "High Quality Care for All", emphasises the important role regulation plays in improving quality.

The Health and Social Care Act establishes the Care Quality Commission on 1 October this year and it will take over responsibility for regulating health and adult social care from April 2009. It will operate under a new legislative framework, with a wider range of enforcement powers. These include powers to inspect and investigate, to issue statutory warning notices and financial penalties, and, in the most serious cases, to prosecute, suspend or cancel registration.

This document sets out how we plan to carry forward the existing code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections into this new environment, and further details the full range of enforcement powers that will be introduced under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

This publication encourages all NHS organisations to engage with this process and provides an opportunity for them to comment. However, it will also be of interest to anyone working in health and adult social care and to patients and service users who are interested in how the reforms are going to improve the services they use. The consultation will close on 20 October 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers (11 June to 10 September 2008)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, three CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad-hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 June 2008 to 10 September 2008, one new non-derogating control order was made. Six non-derogating control orders were renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. In total, 16 control orders are currently in force, four of which are in respect of British citizens. Three individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating.

During this reporting period, 120 modifications of control order obligations were made. Sixty-one requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in sections 10(1) and 10(3) of the 2005 Act respectively against decisions by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent, and against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to modify any such obligation. Ten appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons relating to modifications to orders or the renewal of orders in this reporting period. One of these appeals was subsequently withdrawn.

Seven judgments have been handed down by the High Court in control order cases during this reporting period. Three of these judgments have been handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. Abu Rideh*. An interim judgment in a modification appeal was handed down on 23 June 2008 in which the court ordered that a modification be made to Abu Rideh's reporting requirements. Final judgment was reserved until the conclusion of the substantive review of the control order under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. Following the hearing under section 3(10) in July a judgment was handed down on 8 August 2008 in relation to the issue of compliance with article 6 of ECHR (a closed version of the judgment was handed down on 31 July 2008). The court ordered that further disclosure of the closed case against Abu Rideh should be made available to him or withdrawn from the case. No appeals against this judgment have been submitted by either side as yet. A further interim judgment in relation to modification appeals submitted by Abu Rideh was handed down on 15 August 2008. The court ordered some further modifications to Abu Rideh's reporting and visitor obligations but upheld the Secretary of State's decision to refuse to allow Abu Rideh to have access to the internet.

Two of the judgments handed down in this reporting period relate to the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AP*. A closed judgment in relation to article 6 compliance was handed down on 14 July 2008. A judgment was handed down in the substantive 3(10) review of *AP*'s control order on 15 August 2008. The court found that there was reasonable suspicion that *AP* is, or has been, involved in terrorism-related activity and that a control order is necessary to protect the public from a risk of terrorism. The court also found that no further disclosure was necessary in order to ensure compliance with article 6. The judgment dealt with two modification appeals lodged by the controlled person. On the first appeal, the court found that a modification made to *AP*'s control order by the Secretary of State had created a package of obligations which was in breach of article 5. *AP* was subsequently served with a modified control order. The second appeal in relation to restrictions on meetings and mosque attendance was dismissed. Both *AP* and the Secretary of State have sought permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal; decisions with regard to permission are pending.

Two judgments have been handed down in other cases in relation to modification appeals lodged by controlled persons. A judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AE* on 21 July 2008 in which the court upheld the Secretary of State's decision to refuse *AE* permission to study AS level human biology and chemistry. On 31 July 2008 a judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AU and AV* in which the court dismissed appeals by the controlled persons against the Secretary of State's refusal to make various modifications to the control order obligations.

Full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): I would like to inform the House that section 2 of the Further Education and Training Act 2007, which inserts section 18A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, placing a duty on the council to establish regional councils, has been enacted. The Learning and Skills Council has been successful in appointing members to each of its nine regional councils. The regional councils became operational on 10 September 2008. The chairs of the regional councils are:

North East: James Ramsbotham
North West: Roger Hoyle
Yorkshire and Humberside: Rachel Mann
East Midlands: Roger Begy
West Midlands: Ben Reid
East of England: Chris Paveley
South East: Norman Boyland
South West: John Savage
London: Claire Ighodaro[1]

[1]Claire is a member of the LSC's national council undertaking the role on an interim basis.

The Government have announced plans for replacing the LSC with a new structure for 16 to 19 and post-19 funding. Those plans would require parliamentary approval of new legislation. These appointments are being made pending the introduction of that legislation. Full details of all regional council members can be found on the LSC website at: www.lsc.gov.uk

JUSTICE

Front Office Services (Civil Courts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): On 15 September 2008 the board of Her Majesty's Courts Service, with my approval, has published a new framework for the provision of front office services in civil courts.

The new framework consists of national minimum standards for front office service provision and operational guidance to local court managers. The framework does not affect court hearings or the future of particular court buildings.

The minimum standards ensure a coherent but flexible system for providing front office services across the county court network. They guarantee appropriate access to the full range of services currently only delivered through the medium of a full-time public court counter. It will allow local HMCS managers some flexibility, working with the judiciary, to provide services through other and more innovative channels that are tailored to the needs and expectations of the local community, as well as improving overall efficiency and service standards.

The national minimum standards set a level below which the provision of front office services must not fall and introduce safeguards to ensure that any alteration to current arrangements do not deny access to services nor create an additional burden for the public. An appropriate level of local consultation, including Members of Parliament, will be required for all significant alterations.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The framework document is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): As hon. Members are aware, the provisions of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 will enable the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to introduce a range of new collection and enforcement tools in order to improve compliance.

These new powers include the ability to use a deduction from earnings order (DEO) as a basic method of collecting child maintenance. Up to now the Child Support Agency has used a DEO in circumstances where other suitable payment arrangements cannot be agreed or have broken down.

Compliance rates for DEOs are second only to those for direct debits and, as we made clear during the passage of the new legislation, the intention is for the Commission to pilot the use of DEOs as the primary method of collection for employed non-resident parents.

The design and timing of the pilot will need to be carefully planned so it cannot begin immediately. But the Commission is determined to improve compliance as soon as possible in order to get more money flowing to children. It is therefore intending to make use of the new power through regulations which will enable the Commission to implement an interim approach to the collection of child maintenance in order to increase compliance.

This will mean that non-resident parents who have not already agreed a method of paying their child maintenance will be offered the choice of either a direct debit or a deduction from earnings order—the payment methods with the best compliance rates. An alternative method of payment will only be used where the non-resident parent can not pay by direct debit and there is good reason for a deduction from earnings order not to be used. There will be a right of appeal to a Magistrates Court (or sheriff in Scotland) against a decision by the Commission that there is no good reason for a DEO not to be used.

The change, which the Commission plans to introduce by the end of this year, will not affect those non-resident parents who pay their maintenance direct to the parent with care or who have their child maintenance payments deducted from their benefit. And non-resident parents who have already agreed a payment method with the Commission before the change is introduced will be able to continue to pay by their chosen method.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 15 September and Tuesday 16 September 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I can confirm to the House that the Government will shortly commence the early recruitment and appointment of a chair and chief executive of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), before Royal Assent of the Planning Bill.

The IPC will act as the decision-maker for the majority of major infrastructure consents, acting within a national policy framework set by Government. Early appointments will give infrastructure developers the confidence to work on applications for development consent under the new regime, with the knowledge that the IPC will be operational and able to provide advice by the time the first national policy statements are designated, anticipated to be towards the end of 2009.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £50,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for CLG. Pending that approval, expenditure estimated at £50,000 will be met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund, under the established terms of that fund.

Regional Spatial Strategy (North-West)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is publishing on 30 September the final revision of the "Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North-West of England". This is a slight amendment to the late August or early September date which my 17 July statement suggested, *Official Report*, column 42WS. The reports of a consolidated "Sustainability Appraisal, a Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability" statement will also be published alongside the RSS on 30 September.

The "Regional Spatial Strategy" forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the North-West, and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It provides the spatial plan for the development of the region, and the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment.

The current strategy, initially published as "Regional Planning Guidance", became the "Regional Spatial Strategy" in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. A draft revision of the "Regional Spatial Strategy" was submitted to Government in January 2006 by the North-West Regional Assembly. It was subsequently tested in an examination in public between November 2006 and February 2007, and the report of the independent panel which conducted this examination was published in May 2007. The Secretary of State considered the recommendations of this independent panel, and took into account the representations made on the draft revision, and also changes in Government policy since the draft revision was submitted, before publishing proposed changes for further public consultation between March and May 2008.

The consultation period ended on 23 May. In total 1,836 representations were received from 149 people and organisations. All of these representations have been considered, along with updates to the "Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment". As a result a number of amendments and clarifications have been made to various parts of the plan.

Copies of the relevant documents will be available from 30 September in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Iraq

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The next roulement of UK forces in Iraq, known as Operation Telic 13, will take place from November. The Telic 13 force package will see the lead formation, currently 7 Armoured Brigade, replaced by 20 Armoured Brigade.

20 Armoured Brigade will take over the command of UK forces from early December and will provide the majority of the units serving in Iraq. The forces deploying include personnel from the following units:

20th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (200)
The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish)
35 Engineer Regiment
1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)
1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)
5th Battalion The Rifles
1 Logistic Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
110 Provost Company Royal Military Police
606 Tactical Air Control Party
618 Tactical Air Control Party
Elements of 1st Royal Tank Regiment
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 26th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographical)
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 2nd Signal Regiment
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 1 Regiment Army Air Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment Army Air Corps
Elements of 6 Supply Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 9 Supply Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 27 Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment

Elements of 22 Field Hospital

Elements of 3 Close-Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 101 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 103 Military Working Dogs Support Unit

Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade

Elements of 156 (North West) Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteer)

Elements of 148 Expeditionary Forces Squadron The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteer)

Elements of 28 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 78 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of Tactical Supply Wing

Elements of Joint Helicopter Support Unit

Members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Iraq as part of this force package, and we expect to issue around 175 call-out notices in order to fill some 150 posts during Telic 13. Prior to their deployment, and on completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and integration with their respective units. For the majority, their deployment to theatre will commence in November and most will serve on operations for six to seven months, although some may have shorter tours. The reservists will predominantly reinforce regular units and will perform a wide range of activities including force protection duties, intelligence and logistic tasks. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 10 members of the sponsored reserves to be in the operational theatre at any one time.

HEALTH

Organ Donation

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Government response to the House of Lords European Union Committee report on increasing the supply of donor organs within the European Union (Cm 7466) has today been laid before Parliament. The response is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Tomorrow I will deposit copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: Q2—April to June 2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fourth full year of freedom of information.

Suicide Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): There has been growing concern in recent years about whether current law is adequate to deal with misuse of the internet to promote suicide and suicide methods. The Government share the concerns that have been expressed about such misuse, in particular about suicide websites and the influence they may have over vulnerable people, especially young people.

In response to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon) on 11 March 2008, my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice said that we were looking at this issue and would make an announcement as soon as possible, *Official Report*, column 141. The Government subsequently accepted in full the recommendations of the Byron review including that consideration should be given to whether the law in this area could usefully be clarified. This statement sets out our conclusions.

The law of suicide comprises two offences. The first is the offence under section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a suicide or a suicide attempt; and the second is an offence under section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 of attempting to aid, abet, counsel or procure a suicide or a suicide attempt. Actions to assist or attempt to assist suicide can be carried out on or offline.

The complexity of the law in this area stems from the unusual nature of the offence in section 2 of the Suicide Act which provides accessory liability in respect of something that is not of itself criminal. We believe that the law as it stands is capable of catching the sort of material that is causing concern and, more generally, the encouragement of suicide through the medium of the internet. But in practice the application of the law, particularly in terms of what constitutes an attempt to commit the section 2 offence is complicated. It is difficult both to understand and to explain.

Accordingly, we have concluded that the scope of the current law should not be extended but that the existing statutory language of section 2 of the Suicide Act should be simplified and modernised in a way that will make it clearer for everyone to understand. Simplifying and modernising the language of the law should provide reassurance that the law is capable of reflecting the new ways of communicating and accessing information. This approach also builds on a recommendation from the Law Commission that there is a strong case for updating the language of section 2.

We therefore intend to legislate to update the Suicide Act as soon as parliamentary time allows. And with the support of my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins), Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office and the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in the Northern Ireland Executive (Michael McGimpsey), the legislation will also include Northern Ireland. The updated legislation will comply, as does the existing law, with the requirements of the Electronic Commerce (EC Directive) Regulations 2002.

TRANSPORT

Official Receptions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published a list of receptions hosted by Department Transport Ministers in the 2007-08 financial year.

The total cost of receptions held for the financial year 2007-08 was £408.10.

Official Receptions Hosted by Ministers at the Department for Transport

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
27 February 2008	Reception for Members of the Parking Working Group	20	Rosie Winterton

Petitions

Monday 14 July 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Cumbria)

The Petition of supporters of Hayton Post Office in Penrith and the Border constituency,

Declares that Post Offices are a vital part of the social fabric of the local community and must be preserved; notes that the Government is continually reducing Post Office business which should and could continue to be done by Post Offices thus keeping them viable. The Petitioners believe that mobile Post Offices cannot be a substitute for the village shop/Post Office which is often the hub of social and community life and the centre of informal networking which binds a village together.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd to retain Hayton Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Maclean, Official Report, Tuesday 20 May 2008; Vol. 467, c. 291 .]* [P000197]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures (primarily in smaller and more remote communities). Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cumbria, which includes the Penrith and Border constituency, has finished. POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet available on its website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL has confirmed that Hayton Post Office is to close.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process in November provided for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

HEALTH

Nurses' Training (Funding)

The Humble Petition of Mrs R Downey editor of Nursing Times magazine and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That since 2005-06 Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) have diverted more than £5000 million away from Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET) budgets to pay for other services and plug financial deficits. Both mandatory and non-mandatory post-registration nurse training have been severely reduced across the country as a result. The situation continues, putting nurses' career progression and patient safety at risk.

The Nursing Times' Time Out For Training campaign urges the Prime Minister to ring-fence post-registration nurse training funds to stop SHAs spending the money elsewhere.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Health to ring-fence Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET) funding given to Strategic Health Authorities which is used in part to provide nurse training, and to support the Nursing Times' Time Out For Training campaign.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Dr. Howard Stoate, Official Report,* 25 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 464.] [P000222]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The role of the Department of Health is to focus on outputs and accountability rather than on ensuring a fixed amount of money is spent for a particular purpose regardless of local authorities.

Although the Multi-Professional Education and Training budget is not ring-fenced, a service level agreement is issued with the allocations to ensure that Strategic Health Authorities are held to account for training support for healthcare students and the NHS workforce. In the longer-term ring-fencing is inefficient and has been ineffective in the past.

Petitions

Tuesday 15 July 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Acton)

The Petition of People of Acton,

Declares that we the undersigned strongly object to the planned closure of our local Post Office

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ask Post Office Limited to reconsider their plans to force the Petitioners to use the inadequate facilities in the Main Post Office on King Street, W3

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andy Slaughter, Official Report,* 29 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 276 .] [P000185]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year, and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website, confirming the closure of the Churchfield Road Post Office branch in W3. The Bollo Bridge Road branch has been submitted for further review. Details of the closures and further review are available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (East Londonderry)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closures of the Sub Post Offices, in the East Londonderry Constituency,

Declares that the importance of these Post Offices to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep these Post Offices open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Gregory Campbell, Official Report,* 22 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1285 .] [P000174]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for

example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Northern Ireland, including the East Londonderry constituency,has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklets on its website.

Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL has confirmed the closure of the Bolea, Cloyfin, Drumraighland and Milburn Post Office branches in East Londonderry.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
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> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Staffordshire)

The Petition of residents of the village of Great Bridgeford in the Parish of Seighford and surrounding areas in the County of Stafford against the closure of their rural Post Office,

Declares that the supporters recognise the importance of the Post Office and shop to their community, which they depend on as the only retail outlet in the village of Great Bridgeford and oppose the current closure plan.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Great Bridgeford Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Kidney, Official Report,* 17 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 917 .] [P000214]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures. Primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire, including the Stafford constituency, finished on 9 June. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL have confirmed that Great Bridgeford

Post Office is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography, when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Facebook (Cornwall)

The Petition of residents of Cornwall,

Declares that Cornwall should have its own Network Region on Facebook. Cornwall possesses one of the world's oldest natural borders, its own language and flag, and a population of 500,000 people. We therefore believe that the owners of Facebook should now recognise this by introducing the Cornwall Network region.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for of Culture, Media and Sport to put pressure on the owners of Facebook to grant Cornwall network region status.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Julia Goldsworthy, Official Report,* 14 May 2008; Vol. 1510, c. 475 .] [P000193]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

The Government recognise the proud cultural heritage of Cornwall, and notes the desire amongst a number of its inhabitants for the creation of a network region for Cornwall on Facebook.

Facebook is a private company, which describes itself as a social utility that helps people communicate more efficiently with their friends, family and colleagues. The company claims to develop technologies that facilitate the sharing of information through online mapping of people's real-world social connections. It is responsible for the creation and maintenance of all Facebook networks.

As such, the creation of Cornwall as a regional network is a matter for Facebook, not for Government.

Petitions

Wednesday 16 July 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Leeds)

The Petition of those opposed to the closure of Far Headingley, Bramhope and Newall Post Offices.

Declares that Far Headingley, Bramhope and Newall Post Offices are a vital resource, highly valued by the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to ensure that Far Headingley, Bramhope and Newall Post Offices remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc—*[Presented by Greg Mulholland, Official Report,* 24 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 260 .] [P000220]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures (primarily in smaller and more remote communities). Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for West Yorkshire, including the Leeds North West constituency, finished on 23 June and POL will publish its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website in due course. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at:

www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy.

Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. Last November there was an addition to the review process. This provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Maidenhead)

The Petition of those concerned about Post Office closures in the Maidenhead constituency.

Declares that the closure of the Post Office in Cookham Road would be an unacceptable loss to the local community and pose serious difficulties for all the local people who rely on it.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to instruct the Post Office Ltd to keep open Cookham Road Post Office and to listen to the views of the local people in respect of their objection to the closure of this vital part of the local community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Theresa May, Official Report,* 6 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 2021 .] [P000142]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures (primarily in smaller and more remote communities). Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year, and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Surrey, Berks and West Sussex finished on 3 March, and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL has confirmed that the Cookham Road branch has now closed. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access(such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Thursday 17 July 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Post Office Closures (Cheshire)

The Petition of Mrs Shelagh Beswick, Manager, Wincham Post Office, Mr Alastair Carmichael, Sub Post Master, Barnton Post Office, and others of like disposition,

Declares that they and others care deeply about their local Post Office, where they wish to be able to continue to use their Post Office Card Account, as they are unable to easily visit the bank in their nearest town.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure that POCA2 remains a Post Office product.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. George Osborne.]*

[P000248]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Shepherd's Bush)

The Petition of the people of Shepherd's Bush and Hammersmith,

Declares that we cannot afford to lose four Post Office branches.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ask Post Office Limited to reconsider their plans to close so many branches in our area

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andy Slaughter, Official Report, Tuesday 29 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 276.]*

[P000184]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures (primarily in smaller and more remote communities). Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete.

The consultation period for London has finished, and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website, confirming the closure of Askew Road and Goldhawk Road post offices. In addition, POL has also confirmed the closure of the Boileau Parade, Haven Green, Churchfield Road and Fulham Road branches within this constituency. Details of the closures are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. For closure decisions after the public consultation process, the Review Process applies when Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Restructuring (Coventry)

The Petition of the Communication Workers Union, Coventry Area Branch,

Declares that they do not agree with the franchise of Hertford Street Crown Post Office in Coventry City Centre. They do not want WH Smith, or any other private company, running this public service, we believe that the Crown Post Office at Hertford Street Coventry should continue to be provided by Post Office Ltd. and should remain at its current location.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to withdraw its franchise plans for Hertford Street Crown Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jim Cunningham, Official Report,* 18 December 2007; Vol. 823, c. 469 .] [P000095]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The future viability of directly managed offices, otherwise known as 'Crown Offices', needs to be addressed in the wider interests of the network as a whole, in view of the major changes and challenges it faces. Post Office Limited's (POL) current policy, which has the Government's support, is to maintain a core network of directly managed offices, whilst continuing to drive efficiencies in an effort to reduce costs and return the business to profitability.

This strategy includes, as recommended in the Performance and Innovation Unit Report on the future of the post office network (a copy of which can be found at: www.berr.gov.uk), the conversion of individual, directly managed offices to franchise or agency status, where suitable opportunities arise. The commercial agreement between POL and WH Smith allows for the franchising of around 70 Crown post offices, which will involve WH Smith introducing a Post Office operation into more of its stores, as it has already done in other parts of the country.

Crown post offices are those that are directly staffed and managed by Post Office Ltd and are around 380 from a network of 13,000 branches—the rest (97%) are 'sub-post offices' operated under contract by agents and franchise chains. The network has always relied on private business for the majority of its outlets. Losses in the Crown post offices have been running at around £70m per year and clearly action has to be taken to reduce these losses. Franchising helps maintain services which could be under threat, due to the large scale of the losses in the Crown network. These losses represent money that could be better used for the benefit of customers and it is absolutely right that POL look to find more cost effective ways of providing the main Post Office service to customers.

Operational matters are, of course, the direct responsibility of POL management, though it is not POL's intention to downgrade any of the branches under its franchise agreements. The franchising will simply mean that the business will be run by another company on its behalf, albeit at a new location nearby. Customers will continue to have access to the same level of Post Office services as they do now. Research has shown that post offices that have run in partnership with franchise partners have proved to be very popular with customers, who very often find that service is actually enhanced, due to new premises, longer opening hours and wider retail offerings. Experience also shows that this allows the Post Office and retail sides of the business to complement each other, increasing footfall and improving financial viability.

Hertford Street Crown Post Office branch was converted on 15 May 2008 and relocated to a nearby WH Smith store.

TREASURY

HMRC Workforce Change

The Petition of local businesses of Hove & Portslade, the PCS and others,

Declares the Petitioners serious concerns about the HMRC's Workforce Change proposals which will close twenty-five offices, including Hove, and lead to a reduction in staff by 2300 across the South-East. The Petitioners further declare that the proposed changes in the HMRC are aimed at generating financial savings and do not take into account the quality of service delivery and the adverse impact both on staff and on customers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to prevent the planned closure.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow, Official Report, Wednesday 25 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 7P .]* [P000188]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government note the petition, and makes the following observations:

"The Government notes that similar representations were made during the consultation exercise that HM Revenue & Customs held with staff, unions and key external stakeholders including local authorities, on its initial proposals for restructuring its operations in Cluster 42, which includes Brighton, Hove, Lewes, Newhaven and Worthing. All representations were taken into account before final decisions were made on the future of Hove and the other offices under review. Decisions will be announced today. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining Enquiry centre services at or near their current locations".

The Petition of employees of HM Revenue and Customs, the Public and Commercial Services Union and others,

Declares that they are seriously concerned about the future of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Kendal, and also similar threats facing their colleagues in Lancaster and Barrow. The proposal to close these offices will mean that local people and businesses will be left without access to these services. They are also concerned about the likelihood of staff affected by the closures being able to find alternative work within the local area. They further declare their support for the PCS campaign to keep these offices open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the HM Treasury to withdraw the threat of closure to local HMRC offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tim Farron, Official Report,* 1 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 835 .] [P000223]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government note the petition, and make the following observations:

"The Government notes that HMRC published on 11 June 2008 its proposals for restructuring its operations in cluster and individual locations in the North West, which include Kendal, Lancaster and Barrow-in-Furness. All representations will be taken into account before final decisions are made later this year on the future of Kendal, Lancaster, Barrow-in-Furness and the other offices under review. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining Enquiry centre services at or near their current locations".

The Petition of people of South Holland,

Declares that large parts of their public services are being cut and privatised and that across the UK public servants are struggling to deliver good quality service in the midst of redundancies, low pay and rising workloads. Further declares that the HMRC Office in Spalding is vital to helping those that are self employed, employed, families on tax credits, pensioners and unemployed persons.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to work to ensure that the HMRC Office in Spalding remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Hayes, Official Report,* 9 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 1513 .]

[P000232]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government note the petition, and make the following observations:

"The Government notes that similar representations were made during the consultation exercise that HM Revenue & Customs held with staff, unions and key external stakeholders including local authorities, on its initial proposals for restructuring its operations in Cluster 15, which includes Boston and Spalding. All representations were taken into account before final decisions were made on the future of Spalding and the other offices under review. Decisions will be announced today. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining Enquiry centre services at or near their current locations".

Petitions

Monday 21 July 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

NHS GP Surgeries

The Petition of supporters of NHS General Practice surgeries,

Declares that in the 60th year of the NHS the House of Commons should support existing NHS GP surgeries, improve services to patients by further investment in existing GP surgeries and be aware of the risks posed by Government plans to promote the use of commercial companies in general practice. Further declares that they do not want public funding to move from GP practices to commercial companies who are accountable primarily to shareholders rather than patients, and declares that they wish to be treated by GPs who see them as patients, rather than as customers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to continue support for existing GP surgeries, improve services to patients by further investment in existing GP surgeries, and to halt its plans to promote the use of commercial companies in general practice because this risks destabilising local surgeries and threatens the comprehensive, high quality care currently received from GPs.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Dunne.]* [P000258]

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Smoking Ban

The Petition of those against the current laws on smoking tobacco,

Declares that the current ban on smoking in public places leaves smokers exposed to the elements of the British winter. Current laws force people to go outside when they smoke, potentially enduring harsh conditions such as rain, snow and extreme cold. The laws should be assessed so that certain venues, such as bars and pubs, are not subject to the same bans as other types of public places such as shops and restaurants. It is unfair to treat bars and pubs the same as other public places when it comes to smoking, as smoking tobacco is something people traditionally do in bars and pubs.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to allow for up to a twenty percent provision for smoking in pubs and bars that does not leave smokers exposed to the elements of the British winter.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report,* 8 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 1380.] [P000230]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The new smokefree law in England was introduced to protect employees and the public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. Bars, pubs and clubs have employees and customers who have a right to be protected from secondhand smoke in the same way that employees and customers in other hospitality settings. In practice, all are protected equally by the smokefree law.

During consideration of the Health Bill in 2006, both Houses of Parliament decided by a very significant majority across all parties, on a free vote, to include both licensed premises and members' clubs within the new law. They gave very careful consideration to the inclusion of all hospitality premises at that time. Parliament decided that all bars, pubs and clubs should be covered by the smokefree law. In commercial terms, the new law created a level playing field within the hospitality sector, which was seen to be the fairest solution whilst also protecting workers and the wider public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Parliament also gave consideration to exposure to the elements of a British winter for those who go outside and smoke. Smoking or exposure to the harmful effects of secondhand tobacco smoke was considered a greater danger to public health than requiring those who wish to smoke to do so outdoors. It is generally recognised that winters in this country are much less harsh than in other countries such as Canada and Norway where comprehensive smokefree laws had been successfully enacted before the law in England.

The evidence of the success of the smokefree law is published in the report Smokefree England - One Year On published on 1st July 2008. This shows that the vast majority of people (76 per cent.) support the law and even a majority of smokers support it (55 per cent).

A copy of the report can be found on the following website: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

TREASURY

HMRC Workforce Change

The Petition of employees of HM Revenue and Customs, the Public and Commercial Services Union and others,

Declares that they are seriously concerned about the future of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Crewe, and also similar threats facing their colleagues elsewhere in the North West of England. The proposal to close this office will mean that local people and businesses will be left without access to these services. They are also concerned about the likelihood of staff affected by the closures being able to find alternative work within the local area, it being unreasonable for them to travel to alternative HMRC sites by public transport for reasons of cost, time and care for their families. They further declare their support for the PCS campaign to keep these offices open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Government to withdraw the threat of closure to the Crewe HMRC office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Timpson, Official Report,* 15 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 213.] [P000231]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

"The Government note that HMRC published on 11 June its proposals for restructuring its operations in cluster and individual locations in the North West, which includes Crewe. All representations will be taken into account before final decisions are made later this year on the future of Crewe and the other offices under review. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining enquiry centre services at or near their current locations".

Petitions

Tuesday 22 July 2008

PRESENTED PETITITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Hospital Closures (Cornwall)

The Petition of the People of West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Declares that our support for the cross-party (and non-party political) campaign to:

oppose any plans to reduce or close hospital services at St Michael's or Penzance; express our dismay that NHS money is being used to build up and support private hospitals while the Trust is contemplating the closure of the excellent St Michael's Hospital; object to the waste of money on administrative gimmicks rather than frontline public services; demand an Independent Review of hospital services and for fair funding; support an increase in emergency as well as acute and diagnostic services in the West of Cornwall.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to ensure the maintenance of hospital services at St Michael's or Penzance, two of west Cornwall's most crucial public services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ardrew George.]*

[P000250]

Post Office Closures (Buckinghamshire)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Hazelmere Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Hazelmere Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan.]*

[P000262]

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Waterside Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Waterside Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan.]*

[P000263]

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Botley Stores Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Botley Stores Post Office open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan.]*

[P000264]

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Chalfont Common Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Chalfont Common Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan.]*

[P000265]

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Old Amersham Post Office,

Declares the importance of this Post Office to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Old Amersham Post Office open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan.]*

[P000261]

Post Office Closures (Merseyside)

The Petition of Birkenhead consitituents opposed to Post Office closure,

Declares that Holt Hill Post Office should remain open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise to keep Holt Hill Post Office open, as losing a local Post Office will be a detrimental loss when no other alternative is presented.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Frank Field.]*

[P000266]

Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre (Dartford)

The Petition of the Bridge Court Action Group at the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Resource Centre in Dartford

Declares that the Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre in Dartford gives disabled people a chance to develop their skills for IT, Health and Fitness, Sports, Sign Language plus other skills, to aid disabled people get back to independent living.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Health to support the Bridge Court Action Group in its efforts to keep the resource centre open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Howard Stoate.]*

[P000260]

Driving Test Centre (Spalding)

The Petition of the people of South Holland and the Deepings and others,

Declares that due to the closure of Spalding Driving test Centre the cost of learning to drive will increase for the residents of South Holland, as they will be forced to travel to Peterborough. This will further increase the CO_2 emissions and the carbon footprint as a result of the extra miles travelled.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reverse the closure of Spalding Driving Test Centre.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Hayes.]* [P000259]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Oxfordshire)

The Petition of the residents of Neithrop,

Declares that the Petitioners are extremely concerned about the threat to close Orchard Way sub-Post Office.

Further declares that this Post Office is at the heart of this community. It offers a vital service to some of the most vulnerable people, including those on low wages, unemployed and the elderly.

Further declares that the Government has persistently undermined our Post Office network over a number of years. Ministers have prevented the Post Office competing in the market by penalising them and instead playing to the High Street bank network, by seeking to withdraw the Post Office Card Account, and by preventing Post Offices selling TV Licences and other products to keep them competitive.

Further declares that the Federation of Small Business has said that small business will also be adversely affected by Post Office closures and that the Federation of Sub-Post Masters and Mistresses, which presented the largest ever petition in support of Post Offices, has said the closures will devastate communities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to stop action which will lead to the immediate closures of Post Offices and urgently review funding for Post Offices and the services offered by them to enable Post Offices to continue to serve as a cornerstone of the community for individuals, business and the most vulnerable in society.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tony Baldry, Official Report,* 4 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1716 .] [P000128]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year, and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. As you may be aware, the consultation period for Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire finished on 17 March and POL have decided to close the Orchard Way Post Office Branch. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. After the public consultation process, the review process will apply if Postwatch shows that;

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November

provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of residents of Grimsbury,

Declares that the Petitioners are extremely concerned about the threat to close Grimsbury sub-Post Office.

Further declares that this Post Office is at the heart of this community. It offers a vital service to some of the most vulnerable people, including those on low wages, unemployed and the elderly.

Further declares that the Government has persistently undermined our Post Office network over a number of years. Ministers have prevented the Post Office competing in the market by penalising them and instead playing to the High Street bank network, by seeking to withdraw the Post Office Card Account, and by preventing Post Offices selling TV Licences and other products to keep them competitive.

Further declares that the Federation of Small Business has said that small business will also be adversely affected by Post Office closures and that the Federation of Sub-Post Masters and Mistresses, which presented the largest ever petition in support of Post Offices, has said the closures will devastate communities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to stop action which will lead to the immediate closures of Post Offices and urgently review funding for Post Offices and the services offered by them to enable Post Offices to continue to serve as a cornerstone of the community for individuals, business and the most vulnerable in society.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tony Baldry, Official Report,* 3 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1562.]

[P000129]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. As you may be aware, the consultation period for Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire finished on 17 March and POL have decided to close the Grimsbury Post Office Branch. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. After the public consultation process, the review process applies where Postwatch shows that:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. In November, there was an addition to the review process. For very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

TREASURY

HMRC Workforce Change

The Petition of the Public and Commercial Services Union and others opposed to the closure of Launceston tax office.,

Declares that HMRC should reconsider its proposals to close its Launceston office which saves the country money by identifying fraud and ironing out errors. Further declares that Civil Service jobs in this location should be retained.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to ensure that the Launceston tax office remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dan Rogerson, Official Report,* 14 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 110.]

[P000233]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

"The Government notes that HMRC published on 11 June its proposals for restructuring its operations in cluster and individual locations in the South West, which includes Launceston. All representations will be taken into account before final decisions are made later this year on the future of Launceston and the other offices under review. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining Enquiry centre services at or near their current locations".

HMRC Workforce Change (Lincolnshire)

The Petition of staff and customers of the Revenue and Customs Office in Boston, Lincolnshire,

Declares that they are concerned about cuts to public services, particularly the proposed closure of the HMRC office in Boston.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to reconsider the decision to close the office in Boston, which provides an excellent service to local people.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mark Simmonds, Official Report,* 16 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 373.]

[P000234]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

"The Government notes that similar representations were made during the consultation exercise that HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) held with staff, unions and key external stakeholders including local authorities, on its initial proposals for restructuring its operations in Cluster 15, which includes Boston and Spalding. All representations were taken into account before final decisions were made on the future of Boston and the other offices under review.

On 17 July HMRC published the decision to withdraw from Chantry House, Boston as part of the Department's need to address new and challenging customer demands by restructuring its business and estate in the most effective and efficient way possible. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers from Chantry House, Boston or from an alternative location nearby".

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Family Courts (Reform)

The Petition of the O'Gorman Family,

Declares that a case in the Family Court has highlighted an injustice in the current system. The three children of Philip O'Gorman have been put up for adoption because it is alleged one of them missed some days in school, some medical appointments were missed, they were seen to be dirty and unkempt and that they would not co-operate with social services. The family contest the allegations, and believe that neither of these allegations is sufficient to warrant children being forcibly adopted into another family. The petitioners further believe that these actions were driven by a desire to increase the numbers of children adopted rather than to protect the children concerned. The petitioners believe that the response of the authorities was totally disproportionate in this case.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the government to legislate to prevent courts from accepting these arguments as sufficient cause to forcibly remove children from their birth families and ensure that parents are facilitated to contest the allegations made by the authorities

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Hemming, Official Report,* 19 May 2008; Vol. 476, c. 132.]

[P000196]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families:

It is not appropriate for the Government to comment on the details of an individual case which is a matter for the courts.

The Government recognises that the decision to remove a child from its family is never an easy one. Putting children through a court process should only ever be the last resort, and local authorities have a duty to support children in their families where that is possible.

Where there are concerns that a child is being harmed it is right that social workers are able to intervene to protect the child. It is a matter for the courts to decide on the evidence in each individual case whether the threshold of significant harm set out in the Children Act 1989 has been crossed and whether a child needs to be removed in order to protect them from further harm.

It is also right that parents are able to give their side of the story. Whenever a local authority brings a case to court, the parents have the right to a publicly funded legal aid lawyer to provide them with advice and represent them in court.

The extensive checks and balances in the care and adoption systems (that is, the independent judiciary, publicly funded solicitors for all parties and CAFCASS children's guardians/reporting officers) combine to ensure that care and adoption orders are only made after proper scrutiny of local authorities' work and proposals.

Where a child is brought into care through the courts, local authorities must continue to work to reintegrate that child into their family with support to help make that work. The majority of looked after children are ultimately reunited with their families.

Sadly, sometimes this is not possible, and local authorities must work out a plan to ensure the child has a permanent and caring placement that meets the child's assessed needs. Adoptive placements are one of the many options available.

There are currently no national targets relating to numbers of adoptions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Whaling

The Petition of those concerned about whaling,

Declares that the situation for whales is bleak. More than 30,000 whales have been killed for commercial purposes since the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling came into effect in 1986, in blatant disregard of global conservation efforts. In the next 12 months Japan and Norway intend to kill around 2,000 whales, including endangered species such as fin whales.

Japan claims that the whaling it conducts is for scientific research. However, Japan's "scientific research" is simply a means to carry on commercial whaling despite the moratorium. Whaling is also extremely cruel. There is simply no way to kill a whale humanely at sea.

Japan has also been continuing its attempts to recruit more developing countries to the IWC in order to regain a simple majority at this year's IWC meeting in June and promote commercial whaling. If Japan were to succeed, it would be a disaster for whales. Many whale species have still not recovered from the intensive commercial whaling of the past and face many other threats such as climate change, ship strikes and pollution. It is therefore extremely important that the current pro-conservation majority at the IWC is both maintained and strengthened.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to demand that the Japanese Government end its cruel and unnecessary "scientific" whaling programmes; to continue and enhance his efforts, at the highest ministerial and diplomatic levels to recruit more pro-conservation countries to the IWC and to persuade those countries which currently vote with Japan to vote instead for whale conservation; and to work with other anti-whaling countries to turn the IWC into a body exclusively focused on protecting and conserving whales for future generations.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Anderson, Official Report, 24 June 2008; Vol. 478, c.261.]* [P000219]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your Petition on the subject of Whaling, 24 June 2008. I have been asked to reply as policy on whaling is Defra's responsibility.

The UK Government has consistently voiced its opposition to Japanese "scientific" whaling, and has made repeated representations to the Japanese Government regarding their whaling operations under the JARPA II Whaling programme.

In December 2007 the UK called on Japan to "cease all its lethal scientific research on whales, and assure the immediate return of the vessels which are implementing JARPA II". The following month, Jonathan Shaw, as the minister responsible for whaling, met Japanese embassy officials to express the UK's outrage over Japan's whaling activities. The UK Government will continue to make our opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that they are undermining the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of whale stocks world-wide.

The UK has also led an effort with other countries who share our view, to recruit more countries to the IWC through our publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" (endorsed by Gordon Brown and Sir David Attenborough). This has been sent to over 60 countries urging nations to protect whales worldwide. In addition, in the build up to this year's IWC meeting, the Secretary of State for Environment and the Foreign Secretary wrote to a dozen EU and Accession States encouraging them to join in the protection of the species. This approach has again brought success, with Romania joining the IWC and other EU member states pledging to join in the near future.

The UK continued to uphold its strong opposition to whaling at the IWC's annual meeting in Santiago in June 2008, urging the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to safeguard the future of all whales and dolphins.

Speaking at the event, the Environment Minister Lord Rooker also spoke out about the current cruelty of whaling operations and called for Japan to reconsider the methods it uses. On commercial and scientific whaling Lord Rooker said: "The UK will continue its vociferous opposition to this unnecessary, inhumane operation, and urge countries that continue to kill whales to reconsider their position".

I hope this is helpful.

JUSTICE

Complaints Against Churches

The Petition of Patricia Anne Davies,

Declares that the Christian Churches in the United Kingdom show enmity to those who have cause to complain against its' Ministers; asserts that the Methodist Church would not hear her complaint of mental abuse by a Methodist Minister; that upon appealing to the Minister herself for reconciliation, she was threatened by the Minister with legal action if she did not drop the matter, and that her subsequent complaint was ignored and that it was only after much correspondence and time that she was eventually heard through the churches quasi-judicial system.

The Petitioner further declares that the hearing refused to show the complainant evidence put forward by another Minister from her own church denomination (The URC) even though she was entitled to see it and in doing this breached Methodist Church rules, but that the Methodist church, to this very day, refuses to enforce those rules.

Further declares that she has twice called upon written submissions through the rules of the Data Protection Act but has never received a response to her request for personal data; has made two complaints about the church to the Information Commissioner's office and they have advised the church of their breaches of the Act, but that the church still refuses to disclose the required documents.

Further declares that she has evidence to support her claim that the churches hold 'secret files' and that they refuse to disclose these under the Data Protection Act.

Further declares that the law has proved ineffective and an inappropriate tool for resolving this case, and that the law is daunting and expensive and therefore out of reach of most normal people.

Further declares that abuse of any nature is damaging and abusing a mentally ill depression patient is dangerous and can push a sufferer to suicide; this being borne out by the suicide figures showing that seventeen people die of suicide caused by depression every day.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to make time for a debate in the House on the subject and further gives consideration to the establishment of an independent body to hear complaints against the churches.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Official Report,* 23 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 21P.] [P000177]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Ministry of Justice notes the issues raised in the petition.

The Methodist Church is a private body it does not receive state funding and is entitled to live by its own rules so long as it does not break the general law.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is independent of the Government, and neither Ministers nor officials may intervene or comment on decisions reached by the Commissioner.

Therefore these are not matters on which the Government can comment.

Prison Sentences (Early Release)

The Humble Petition of Mrs D Todd and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That having lost her husband through the wilfully despicable act of one man, this man Alexander Dix should not be considered for early release. 3 years for the death of another person is not long enough. The consideration that space is needed in prisons should not impact on offenders' prison sentences by means of reducing them.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Home Secretary to consider the plight of Mrs Todd and others in a similar situation and to endeavour to keep this person in prison for longer.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Steve Webb, Official Report,* 2 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 994 .] [P000226]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government takes the issue raised very seriously and expresses its condolences to Ms Todd and her family; we would like to highlight the following points in response:

Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, it is the statutory position that those offenders who receive a determinate sentence will be released into the community on licence at the halfway point of sentence. They remain under supervision, and liable to recall to prison should they breach the terms of their licence, until the end of their sentence.

Prisoners are released in this way in order that they can serve a proportion of their sentence on licence, which is an integral part of the sentence and necessary for the purposes of safely reintegrating offenders back into the community in a controlled and supervised way, and to reduce the risk of further offending. If offenders were to serve the whole of their sentence in custody it would not then be possible for them to be subject to supervision following release, as the supervision period must be within the overall period of the sentence imposed by the court.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 14 July 2008

WALES

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217876]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None, but my Department issued guidance to all staff in June 2006 to switch off their personal computers and networked printers when not in use.

Reminders are sent to all staff periodically.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213520]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the past three years my Department spent nothing on furnishings in 2005, £850 in 2006 on new desks and chairs in the Cardiff Office. In 2007 a refurbishment program was undertaken to Gwydyr House at a cost of £52,900. This involved the replacement of curtains provided for security reasons, worn carpets replaced on health and safety grounds and the replacement of worn and damaged furniture.

All artwork is on loan from the National Museum of Wales or the Government Art Collection.

All vehicles used by the Wales Office are leased through the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218039]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Figures for the level of sickness absence at the Wales Office are available for each financial year since April 2004.

The number of days of sickness absence is as follows:

	Days
2004-05	233
2005-06	175.5
2006-07	267
2007-08	[1]505.5

[1] Includes isolated incidents of long-term sickness absence.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217891]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not have a canteen, or host meals, but fish dishes have occasionally been served at Departmental receptions among other hors d'œuvre. It would not be possible to identify separately any of the details requested from the cost of the reception.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218054]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Figures for absence due to industrial action are only available since April 2004.

The number of working days lost due to industrial absence by employees at the Wales Office was 16.

This relates to two events in 2007.

Trade

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will discuss increasing Welsh trade representation at the British Embassy in Washington with the Foreign Secretary. [215812]

Mr. Paul Murphy: UK Trade and Investment staff in UK embassies, high commissions, consulates and trade offices represent all parts of the United Kingdom, including Wales.

Additionally International Business Wales, part of the Welsh Assembly Government, has responsibility for supporting companies from Wales in their efforts to trade internationally.

It also has a strong and close relationship with UKTI both at home and overseas. This cohesive approach provides for a robust service to clients and I understand that globally International Business Wales' intervention in 2007-08 helped facilitate deals of almost £170 million for companies in Wales.

TRANSPORT

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to make a decision on proposals to improve the A14 around Kettering. [217035]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has investigated options for improving the A14 in the Kettering area and I expect to receive advice shortly.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on official cars, for which Minister outside the Cabinet a car manufactured in the UK was purchased. [218123]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Investment is provided with an official car that has been manufactured within the UK.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215550]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In financial year 2007-08, the Department for Transport (Central) and two of its agencies, HA and VCA, together recorded a total of 2,766 individual domestic flight sectors. These were purchased from central travel contracts at a combined cost of £384,671.75.

In addition, DVLA purchased a further 1,832 domestic flights but the agency does not record the cost of such flights separately from other travel costs, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's remaining four agencies, DSA, GCDA, MCA and VOSA, do not record this information centrally, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Fuels: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of rising petrol prices on the usage of cars in England and Wales. [218414]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In its work for the Eddington transport study, the Department for Transport assesses the effect of sustained high oil prices on car usage. We compare the traffic growth assuming two different long-term oil prices, one using the 'central' Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform oil price projections at the time of the Study, the other using a significantly higher projection.

Traffic is forecast in England to grow by just under a third between 2003 and 2025 in the central case. This assumes oil prices are $35 in 2025 (2004 prices). When Brent crude per barrel prices are assumed to be $100, traffic growth is still increasing in the period, but lowered by 6 per cent. relative to the central forecast growth.

Official Cars: Fuels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car Service spent on fuel in each of the last six months for which records are available. [217239]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency spent a total of £161,600 on fuel for its Government Car Service as follows:

	£
December 2007	22,400
January 2008	31,800
February 2008	26,600
March 2008	24,100
April 2008	27,800
May 2008	28,900

Official Cars: Ministers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are any circumstances in which a Minister's request to be provided with a British-built car would not be met by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [218608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 427W.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministerial colleagues have had with (i) the Olympic Delivery Authority, (ii) Transport for London, (iii) the London Development Agency, (iv) the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, (v) train operating companies and (vi) the Minister for the Olympics to discuss transport plans for the 2012 Olympics in each of the last three years. [218426]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State and her ministerial colleagues have had several meetings over the past three years with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), Transport for London, train operating companies and the Minister for the Olympics, together with officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. There have been no ministerial meetings with the London Development Agency to discuss transport for the 2012 games to date. A more detailed breakdown could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Bridges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Office of Rail Regulation has assumed Network Rail will receive in payments from third parties who wish to build a bridge across a railway in *(a)* 2004 to 2009 and *(b)* 2009 to 2014. [215969]

Mr. Tom Harris: No specific allowance has been assumed by the Office of Rail Regulation in respect of payments received by Network Rail from third parties who wish to build a bridge across the railway in *(a)* 2004 to 2009 and *(b)* 2009 to 2014.

Railways: Licensing

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on EU proposals to harmonise *(a)* training and *(b)* licences for train operators. [217980]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Train Driver Licensing Directive (2007/59/EC) was adopted on 23 October 2007 as part of the Third Railway Package. The directive aims to harmonise the licensing and certification of train drivers and other train crew with a safety related role. Although it specifies the minimum requirements that need to be met by a train driver, the directive does not include measures to harmonise training requirements.

The directive must be transposed by 3 December 2009. In transposing the directive for the UK the Government will work closely with all stakeholders to achieve a balanced and workable implementation in line with the principles of better regulation.

Road Traffic

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there has been in levels of traffic congestion in the 10 largest urban areas of England in the last three years. [214030]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables show morning peak period speeds across the 10 largest urban areas in England in 2004 and 2006, based on surveys conducted by the Department and Transport for London:

Miles per hour

	2000-03	*2003-06*	*2006-09*
London[1]			
Central	9.9	10.6	9.3
Inner	11.6	11.7	11.2
Outer	16.9	16.3	..

[1] Surveys are run over three years for the three areas of London, beginning with the central area and ending with the outer area.

Miles per hour

	2002	*2004*	*2006*
West Midlands	21.1	20.5	18.9
Greater Manchester	23.2	21.0	18.5
Leeds/Bradford	20.1	20.4	20.8
Tyneside	27.8	24.7	25.5
Merseyside	23.7	19.8	18.7
Sheffield	18.8	18.6	19.0
Bristol	23.2	19.0	20.2
Nottingham	15.9	16.4	16.5
Leicester	15.6	14.7	15.8

The 10 largest urban areas set congestion targets as part of the Department's urban congestion PSA indicator, using a new, more detailed data source. The following table shows the first report of progress towards these targets, in terms of the percentage change in person journey time per mile from the baseline[1] to 2006-07 (percentage increases reflect slower journey times).

[1] The baseline is a mix of 2004-05 and 2005-06 data. Comparable data before the baseline are not available.

Percentage

	LO	*GM*	*ME*	*SY*	*TW*	*WM*	*WY*	*BR*	*LE*	*NO*	*ALL*
Change in person journey times (progress to 2006-07)	-3.5	-3.4	-4.3	-3.0	-1.0	-2.3	2.2	-0.4	-1.3	1.6	-2.4
Change in person journey times (2010-11 target)	1.5	0.0	5.1	7.6	7.0	5.0	7.0	14.0	6.25	10.5	3.6

Notes:
1. LO London, GM Greater Manchester, ME Merseyside, SY South Yorkshire, TW Tyne and Wear, WM West Midlands, WY West Yorkshire, BR Bristol, LE Leicester, NO Nottingham
2. The percentage changes of less than 2 per cent. are unlikely to be statistically significant; that is not necessarily indicative of real changes in congestion.

The urban congestion indicator covers key routes in each urban area (mainly principal A roads) during the weekday morning peak, excluding school holidays. Congestion in urban areas is measured by "person journey time per mile". Person journey times per mile are the average journey times per mile experienced by individual road users, rather than the vehicle average. These take into account average vehicle journey times, average vehicle occupancies and the number of vehicles on the route segment (vehicle flow). Figures are based on the academic year (September to August).

The data in the aforementioned table was published in the 2008 Departmental Annual Report, Annex D, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2008/

Roads: Accidents

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities of *(a)* drivers, *(b)* passengers, *(c)* other vehicle occupants and *(d)* other road users there were in crashes in which one of the drivers was aged between 17 and 24 years in each year since 1995. [218409]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities of *(a)* motor vehicle drivers or riders aged 17-24, *(b)* passengers of a 17-24 year old driver or rider, *(c)* occupants of other motor vehicles (including drivers) and *(d)* other road users (mainly pedestrians and cyclists) in reported personal injury accidents involving at least one motor vehicle driver aged 17-24 in Great Britain in 1995 to 2007 are shown in the table.

Number of fatalities

	Drivers or riders aged 17-24	*Passengers of driver or rider aged 17-24*	*Other motor vehicle occupants*	*Other road users*
1995	440	271	218	290

Number of fatalities

	Drivers or riders aged 17-24	*Passengers of driver or rider aged 17-24*	*Other motor vehicle occupants*	*Other road users*
1996	421	311	233	296
1997	450	261	213	259
1998	382	222	222	224
1999	375	238	168	224
2000	398	225	196	179
2001	411	234	208	179
2002	437	256	212	173
2003	468	261	201	145
2004	439	263	225	182
2005	453	256	192	183
2006	475	229	190	160
2007	416	229	206	143

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been allocated to *(a)* road repair, *(b)* road improvement and *(c)* road building schemes in each local authority area in each of the last 12 years. [210179]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Central Government provide a number of funding streams that local authorities are able to apply to road repairs, improvements and building. Authorities are also able to apply their own resources to their networks.

I have placed details of funding from the Department for Transport in the House Libraries, as follows:

(a) block capital funding made available to local authorities since 2000-01 as part of the LTP settlement. This funding is not ring fenced and authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Where joint plans were prepared, the figures relate to the plan rather than individual authorities. The table includes aggregate figures for funding provided prior to the introduction of the LTP settlement.

(b) revenue and capital funding provided to authorities since 2001-02 for the maintenance of recently detrunked roads. This funding is also not ring fenced. Prior to 2000-01 funding was provided by the Local Transport Capital Expenditure settlement. I am also including the allocations from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 in this table.

(c) capital funding that the Department has contributed (or is expecting to contribute) to local authority major road schemes generally costing over £5 million. The table shows schemes completed since 2000 and those that are being delivered or at the various approval stages in line with our local major scheme guidance.

(d) PFI credits allocated to schemes. This shows PFI credits allocated to English local authorities (including London boroughs) for improvements in their street lighting and highway maintenance where contracts have been signed or are in procurement.

(e) funding provided for emergency repairs to local highways in 2001-02, 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Local authorities are also provided with financial support for the revenue required for road maintenance through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. There is no separately identified highways maintenance component in RSG and it is for each authority to determine how much of it should be allocated to their highway network.

Funding for highway maintenance and for transport in London has generally since 2000-01 been a matter for the Mayor.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail franchises have approached her Department prior to a formal application being submitted to request additional rolling stock during the current franchise. [218361]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since the Department for Transport took over responsibility for rail franchise management in 2005, some operators have held discussions with the Department proposing additional rolling stock, usually linked to a wider package of contract alterations. These discussions are commercially confidential. The Department considers all such proposals to determine whether they are consistent with procurement law, affordable, provide value for money for the taxpayer and fit with objectives for the rail network.

The Department set out its requirements in the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway 2007, that it would procure through the operators an additional 1300 new vehicles. These discussions are now taking place and will result in the delivery of the vehicles.

Rolling Stock: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the process is by which rolling stock companies are consulted on franchise specifications before they are decided; and if she will make a statement. [216734]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rolling stock companies are welcome to comment on franchise specifications during the consultation phase, along with all other stakeholders. Thereafter it is for bidders for the franchise to agree their rolling stock plans with the owners of the stock.

Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she has *(a)* produced and *(b)* plans to produce on the importance of wearing seat belts correctly; how many (i) males and (ii) females, broken down by age group were (A) killed and (B) injured in road accidents as a result of not wearing their seat belts correctly in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [217904]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not produce such guidance and has no plans to do so. Information on seat belt usage, whether correctly worn or not, by those injured in crashes is not collected by the police for the purposes of the Department's road casualty statistics. The Department's publicity and other guidance focuses on the need to use seat belts.

SCOTLAND

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217890]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has no in-house catering facilities and the provision of food is generally limited to catering associated with official hospitality and is supplied by external contractors. The Office does not separately record the purchase of fish.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215163]

Mr. Woodward: In the last two years the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have entered into the following IT contracts:

Business Intelligence Solution Support Contract;

JSE Computing Call-off contract (001-005);

NOVOSCO—Citrix Goldcare Service Level Agreement;

EOS—Contract 64:1 Hardware and Software support for Apple Macs;

Oracle Support Services for Integra Accounting and NIPS PAFIS—Service Level Agreement;

iSoft Business Solutions (Ireland) Ltd Systems Support Agreement;

System Support Agreement for SIPS Systems;

System Support Agreement for VIRBS Systems;

NI Prison Service and Accenture UK Ltd Systems Support Agreement;

Gold Service Level Agreement for Server Hardware Support between British Telecommunications and NI Prison Service.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215653]

Mr. Woodward: It is not possible to separate the costs of premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels from the overall subscription costs paid by my Department and agencies for digital services.

Domestic Animals: Theft

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many reports of theft of domestic animals in Northern Ireland there were in each of the last five years. [213472]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following table details the number of incidents of theft of domestic animals recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]	*Total*
Birds	0	0	0	0	20	20
Cat	1	0	2	1	4	8
Cattle	45	33	38	40	42	198
Dog	67	63	68	67	67	332
Donkey	2	5	6	1	4	18
Exotic	4	1	1	1	1	7
Fish	0	0	0	0	8	8
Goat	0	2	0	0	2	4
Horse	13	7	16	9	19	64
Pig	0	1	1	0	1	3
Poultry	0	0	0	0	5	5
Rabbit	8	2	5	7	0	22
Reptiles	1	0	1	5	3	10
Rodents	1	2	0	0	2	5
Sheep	49	23	31	21	18	142
Wildlife	0	1	0	1	0	2
N/A	20	18	15	15	15	83
Total	211	158	184	168	211	932

[1] Detailed property information linked to the crime record has been used to provide the figures. With the introduction of a new crime recording system in April 2007, the way the property details are linked to crime records has changed—prior to April 2007 the property was linked to each individual crime, since April 2007 property is linked to an occurrence which may contain one or more crimes therefore linking the property to all crimes in each occurrence. This change means that there may be some inflation in the crime levels based on this property information from 2007-08 onwards. (Please note that crime records are counted in exactly the same way on both systems.) It should also be noted that whilst the categories of animal types on the two crime recording systems are broadly similar, there are some differences.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to domestic abuse prevention initiatives in *(a)* A District Command Unit area, *(b)* B District Command Unit area and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [207756]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has spent the following amounts on domestic abuse prevention initiatives over the past two years:

	£
2006-07	53,193
2007-08	228,000

This is in addition to the funding allocated by DHSSPS towards implementing the 'Tackling Violence at Home Strategy', which was launched by both Departments in October 2005.

The PSNI has also spent a total of £348,296 on a range of initiatives relating to victims of domestic abuse across Northern Ireland since 2005.

It is not possible to provide the information as requested.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on the Pentameter 2 initiative in the last 12 months; what financial and logistical support his Department gives to the initiative in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [217010]

Paul Goggins: The budget for the Pentameter 2 initiative comes from the PSNI's Crime Operations annual budget.

Pentameter 2 is a one-off operation co-ordinated by the Home Office and ACPO, which commenced on 3 October 2007 and finished on 31 March 2008. A Chief Inspector from the PSNI, attached to the Immigration Service, heads a team of detectives based at Templepatrick, who were involved in Pentameter 2.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much it cost to establish the new Police Service of Northern Ireland Pentameter 2 office in Belfast; what the annual operating costs of the new office are expected to be; and if he will make a statement. [217011]

Paul Goggins: There is no specific Pentameter 2 office in Belfast. The Organised Crime Squad within Crime Operations Department managed Pentameter 2 on behalf of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The initiative was co-ordinated from Belfast by a Detective Chief Inspector, Organised Crime Squad.

Police officers throughout Northern Ireland have worked towards the goal of Pentameter 2 along with the Immigration Service and other agencies.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian support staff are working on the Pentameter 2 initiative in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the specialist Belfast Pentameter 2 office. [217012]

Paul Goggins: There is no specific Pentameter 2 office in Belfast. 20 detectives were involved in the Pentameter 2 operation, ranging from Detective Constable to Detective Chief Inspector rank along with three civilian support personnel.

When conducting search operations the expertise of Tactical Support Groups were employed to carry out the search.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Computer Devices

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in the House when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217877]

Nick Harvey: We do not keep statistics on computer devices left on overnight in the House. However, the new online induction course to the parliamentary network, which all new users (Members, their staff and staff of the House) must complete, includes guidance on shutting down personal computers each day. In addition to this, all computers have Microsoft power saving settings enabled; these also reduce energy consumption.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much fish was procured by the House and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217892]

Nick Harvey: No records are available for the quantity and value of fish purchased by the House prior to 2007-08, but the records are available to provide details of the quantity of fish consumed in each year since 2004-05; for the sake of consistency, the information for 2007-08 is therefore also presented in this format, as set out in the following table. No records are available for 2003-04.

Unit (kg)

	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Fish				
Anchovy	88	158	140	82
Black Bream	364	439	70	102

	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	Unit (kg) 2004-05
Brill	0	60	30	30
Cod (Icelandic preferred)	3,709	2,979	1,608	1,393
Coley	32	3	0	429
Eel	25	51	51	58
Escolar	176	0	0	0
Gurnard	42	0	0	0
Haddock (Icelandic/North Sea)	3,285	3,281	1,803	1,319
Hake	370	21	52	5
Halibut	99	78	90	132
Herring	65	185	215	17
Herring (Kipper)	158	180	156	66
Herring (Rollmop)	657	650	333	47
Hoki	12	0	0	0
Kingfish	218	241	36	0
Mackerel (North Sea, Cornwall and South West)	355	1,475	1,311	470
Monkfish (Channel, South West Coast, Scotland)	83	643	257	32
Mullet, Grey	312	564	119	25
Mullet, Red	326	275	7	37
Octopus	43	14	22	21
Pangasius	94	0	0	0
Plaice	779	901	696	675
Pollock	260	272	48	0
Red Bream	249	8	0	255
Salmon (Scottish farm SSPO approved)	6,566	6,927	8,181	4,899
Sardines	228	299	177	5
Sea Bream (EU farmed)	530	707	56	145
Sea Bass (EU farmed)	1,063	808	721	570
Skate	18	5	116	57
Snapper	29	57	186	311
Sole, Dover	6	72	54	131
Sole, Lemon (English Channel, Irish Sea)	466	492	520	647
Squid	143	220	502	582
Swordfish	8	208	478	248
Talapia	89	44	35	23
Trout (English farmed)	602	1,196	652	401
Tuna (line-caught, Yellowfin)	589	2,346	2,494	1,344
Turbot	9	0	0	0
Whitebait	5	15	0	0
Whiting	22	0	0	0
Shellfish				
Clams	227	137	85	49
Cockles	38	9	7	13
Crab (whole)	35	243	51	16
Crab Meat	237	283	292	124
Lobster	58	104	129	48
Mussels	296	63	232	729
Oysters	7	0	0	60
Prawns	1,811	1,937	2,346	1,933
Scallops	235	65	162	111
Scampi	134	103	160	127
Shrimps, Brown	69	13	21	22

No records are kept of the amount and value of fish purchased that meet the Marine Stewardship Council's environmental standard for sustainable fishing. However, the current instructions issued to suppliers of fresh and frozen fish expressly stipulate that "all fish supplied must come from approved sustainable sources" and provide specific provenance requirements in the case of cod, haddock and other fish regarded as over-exploited by the Marine Stewardship Council or Marine Conservation Society. Furthermore, the House is currently in the process of letting a new contract for the supply of fish. Both the Marine Stewardship Council and the Seafish Industry Authority had input into the specification of requirements regarding environmental sustainability standards, and the relevant clauses were developed using the toolkit provided by DEFRA under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative.

Members' Centre

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost has been of the refurbishment of the e-Library to create a new Members' Centre in Portcullis House; what the cost has been of the new *(a)* furnishings and *(b)* technological equipment installed in the new Members' Centre; what the reasons were for the establishment of the new Members' Centre in Portcullis House; and whether a cost benefit analysis was carried out before the new Members' Centre in Portcullis House was commissioned. [217114]

Nick Harvey: The total cost of the refurbishment of the e-Library to create the Members' Centre was £38,100. The furnishings installed in the centre cost £25,900 and the technological equipment cost £12,200. The centre was established as a part of the response to Sir Kevin Tebbit's review of the management and services of the House. It is intended to help provide a more integrated and responsive service to hon. Members and to their staff across the range of the services provided by House Departments. Benefits were assessed against costs before the centre was commissioned, though no formal cost/benefit analysis was conducted. The extent of the centre's use, and the support it has received from hon. Members and their staff, albeit after just one week of operation, suggests that the centre will fully justify its costs.

Members: Allowances

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Aberdeen (Mr. Doran) North, of 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 546W, on Members' allowances, (1) how much time hon. Members will be given to examine documents relating to them which are due for disclosure to the public, prior to such disclosure; and whether documents to be scanned may be edited *(a)* before and *(b)* after scanning; [218362]

(2) what procedure will be adopted to ensure that when personal details are redacted from hon. Members' documents disclosed to the public by the House authorities the redacted details will be undetectable; [218457]

(3) whether all hard copy documents from which hon. Members' personal details have been redacted will be photocopied again before distribution to any member of the public in order to ensure the integrity of the redaction. [218458]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows.

(1) The exact timetable is still being finalised. However, it is anticipated that Members will have approximately one month to examine documents relating to them, which are due for disclosure to the public, prior to such disclosure. The documents will be edited after scanning.

(2) The scanned documents will be edited using a proven and secure software product, which will remove pages and remove and replace text and images according to the editing scheme before the document is re-saved. The redacted material will not be detectable in the published information.

(3) Only permanently redacted images of original documents will be made available to the public, rather than photocopies of original documents. The integrity of the redaction will be assured as follows:

The original documents will be scanned and retained. At the end of the imaging and editing process there will be three electronic versions of the scanned documents:

(1) An image of the entire original document before editing

(2) An image of the document with the editing marked but with all underlying text readable

(3) A final version for publication with all edited text removed from the image of the document.

Images 1 and 2 will be retained for auditing purposes in the event of any query about the editing and redacting process. Image 3 will be the only version made available to the public.

Members: ICT

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps are being taken to ensure that hon. Members' staff based off the parliamentary estate are offered an equivalent IT service to hon. Members' staff based in the House. [218201]

Nick Harvey: The Administration Committee considered proposals prepared by the Parliamentary ICT (PICT) Directorate in June 2008 for improving support and services to Members and their staff while working away from the Parliamentary Estate, and specifically in their constituency offices. The proposals included:

1. Regionally based engineering services that can provide a face to face response to Members and their staffs' issues more quickly than can be achieved at present.

2. Local areas network (LANs) in constituency offices, including wireless access where feasible, and support of the networks on an ongoing basis.

3. Upgrades to the current broadband services.

While not providing an equivalent level of service for off-site users to that available to Members and their staff based in Westminster, these proposals would provide a much improved level of service. Delivery of these proposals is dependent on financial approval. A business case will be presented in the autumn.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will undertake a review of *(a)* the contract with Demon and *(b)* the service offered to hon. Members by PICT. [218517]

Nick Harvey: The contract with Demon, the third party service provider, is subject to regular review meetings with Demon. Some service issues have already been addressed. For example, through collaborative working between BT and Demon disruption to broadband services due to constituency office moves has been reduced considerably. Further improvements are expected in the future. In the short term, the parliamentary ICT Directorate (PICT) and Demon are planning to upgrade some of the slower broadband services. A complete new broadband contract is expected to be procured within the next year.

PICT services to Members were subject to review by the Administration Committee last year. The recommendations made in the Committee's report

Information and Communication Technology Services for Members (HC 498) are reflected in PICT's forward plan of work relating to Members' IT, many of which have now been delivered.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Government Equalities Office met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204707]

Barbara Follett: The civil service diversity targets apply to senior grades and are for the civil service as a whole to achieve. The first of the four specific targets is for 37 per cent. women in the senior civil service (grade five officers and above). In the Government Equalities Office, four of the six senior civil servants are women. The second target is for 30 per cent. women in top management posts (those occupied by grade three and above). In GEO one of the two top managers is a woman. The third target, for 4 per cent. ethnic minority staff in the SCS, is not met in the GEO.

The fourth target is for 3.2 per cent. disabled staff in the senior civil service. Staff may declare disabilities voluntarily. GEO will consider whether to disclose any relevant information about this target, taking account of the need to ensure that individuals cannot be identified. This is a particularly important consideration for Departments like the GEO where total staff numbers are small.

Information about gender and ethnicity in the GEO work force is on the GEO website:

www.equalities.gov.uk

The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

Equal Pay

John Bercow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the gender pay gap in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sectors. [204305]

Barbara Follett: In recent months I have received representations from hon. Members of the House of Commons and members of the public on the gender pay gap in the civil service and the public and private sectors and equal pay in local government and the United Kingdom as a whole.

Closing the pay gap between men and women is a high priority for this Government because it allows families to make real choices about how they live their lives. The pay gap perpetuates the unequal division of labour in the home and prevents fathers from playing a more active role in their children's early years and women from fulfilling their opportunities to work. Closing the pay gap is now one of the indicators in the new Equalities Public Service Agreement. This will help to build on other practical measures we have introduced, such as giving the parents of young, or disabled, children and the carers of adults the right to request flexible working, and providing more access to child care.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost of 10 Downing Street was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [217341]

The Prime Minister: For information for the financial year 2006-07 I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1098-99W. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 are not yet available.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff were employed by 10 Downing street in *(a)* April 2007 and *(b)* April 2008. [217342]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to answers I gave the hon. Members for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W, and the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W, on departmental aviation, in what format information on domestic flights and expenditure incurred on them is held. [217432]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by 10 Downing Street for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213773]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1625W.

G8: Japan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers and officials will accompany him to the G8 Heads of Government Summit in Japan; and if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* post on his office's website links to the papers submitted to the summit by (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) other participants. [217096]

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Prime Minister if he will raise the human rights situation in Tibet with world leaders during the G8 summit in Japan. [217500]

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister whether he raised the issues of *(a)* malaria, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* HIV/AIDS eradication with his international counterparts at the recent G8 summit in Japan; and what progress has been made through the G8 towards disease control, with particular reference to Africa. [218212]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to my statement on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1547. Copies of all 2008 final G8 Summit communiqués have been placed in the Library of the House. Further copies can be found at the Japanese G8 presidency's website:

http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/index.html

Members: Electronic Surveillance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether communications traffic data on telephone calls made *(a)* by and *(b)* to hon. Members are covered by the Wilson Doctrine. [217354]

The Prime Minister: I set out the position on the Wilson Doctrine on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister which special envoys he has appointed since taking office; what remuneration is paid to each; what allowance each receives for expenses; and how much each has been reimbursed for claims for *(a)* expenses and *(b)* travel expenses. [211748]

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what special envoys he has appointed; and for what purposes in each case. [216779]

The Prime Minister: Since June 2007, I have appointed my hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) as the Special Envoy for Forestry. My right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd) has served since 2003 as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Human Rights in Iraq and has been reappointed.

Separately, I have appointed my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) as the Special Representative to Cyprus.

They are entitled to claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred as part of their work. These expenses are paid in accordance with existing departmental guidelines on allowances and subsistence.

Paul Sinclair

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* job specification of Mr. Paul Sinclair is in Downing Street. [217390]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are employed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Communication Skills

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure the effective development of speech and language skills in children; and if he will make a statement. [218459]

Kevin Brennan: The Government recognise that speech and language skills are vital to all areas of a child's development. Together with the Department of Health we are taking a number of steps to ensure all children get the right support to develop these skills, including targeted or specialist support for children and young people with speech, language and communication difficulties.

On 8 July we welcomed the final report of the Bercow Review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). We support fully the report's call for action to raise the profile of speech, language and communications across Government, local agencies and wider society and to improve services for children and young people with SLCN. We will publish a plan for implementation of the recommendations made by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) in the autumn. We have already asked Sir Jim Rose to examine how schools can better focus on speech, language and communication as part of his review of the primary curriculum.

Alongside our response to the recommendations in the Bercow Report, on 8 July the Government announced a new £40 million early language programme, Every Child a Talker, which aims to improve the understanding of early language development among the early years workforce. It will provide practitioners with training and materials to enable them to support children's speaking and listening skills more effectively and free up time for practitioners to spend working with parents to enrich the home environment and networking with each other to share good practice. This will complement the materials delivered through the Inclusion Development Programme, which is focusing in its first year on SLCN, along with dyslexia.

Sure Start Children's Centres (SSCC) play a key role in the positive promotion of children's speech and language development. In our Children's Centre Practice Guidance (December 2006) we said that speech, language and communication should be a priority for SSCCs in developing their services and that all staff should have the skills and understanding required for high-quality, responsive interaction with children.

In addition, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), being introduced from September this year, recognises the importance of supporting and extending children's learning and competence in communicating, speaking and listening and providing opportunities for children to use these skills in a range of situations and for different purposes. One of the key roles for practitioners within the EYFS is to identify and respond to any particular difficulties in children's language development at an early stage.

Early identification of SLCN is further promoted through the Child Health Promotion Programme (CHPP), led by the Department of Health. CHHP is the early

intervention and prevention public health programme that lies at the heart of all universal services for children and families. It highlights a child's speech and language development as one of eight priority topics for health and development reviews of children.

Children: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local authorities *(a)* on the status of a disabled child whilst in short-term respite care and *(b)* on the transportation of such children between school and (i) the family home and (ii) the place providing respite care. [218177]

Kevin Brennan: The White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" set out a commitment to issue statutory guidance (within the revised Children Act 1989 guidance) specifically on the issues of short break care to clarify the applicable regulations for different settings and arrangements. The guidance will set out the circumstances in which it would be expected that the child would be looked after.

In 2004, the Department published 'Home to School travel for pupils requiring special arrangements' and following the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which extended entitlement to free transport for low income families, published its 'Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance' in May 2007. This guidance covers local authority duties and powers relating to sustainable school travel, and the provision of school travel arrangements for children and young people.

Guidance to local authorities and PCTs on short break delivery will be issued very shortly and addresses transport to such provision.

Donors: Health Education

Kali Mountford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to make materials available to schools and colleges for 16 to 18-year-olds on registering for bone marrow donation; and when he expects these materials to be included in the national curriculum. [218358]

Jim Knight: There is a variety of opportunities for young people to learn about bone marrow donation within the curriculum through PSHE, citizenship and science. In science, young people explore how health is affected by diet, drugs, disease and medical treatments and they are also given opportunities to use real life examples when finding out about science. Through PSHE and citizenship, young people are encouraged to make real choices and decisions and take informed action.

The Department is working closely with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to improve the accessibility and emphasise the curriculum opportunities on their 'Give and Let Live' website. The site will be re-launched in September 2008, and includes facts and information on bone marrow donation. The Secretary of State for Health and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families will write jointly to schools and colleges in September, highlighting how donation can be taught within the curriculum and referring to the revised Give and Let Live resource.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what arrangements his Department has agreed with examination boards in England on the timely marking of GCSE and A level papers in 2008; and on what dates he expects schools to release *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level results to those sitting such examinations; [218254]

(2) what representations he has received from examination boards on progress in marking 2008 GCSE and A-level papers; and if he will make a statement. [218353]

Jim Knight: The independent regulator, Ofqual, is responsible for monitoring the processes that are in place with awarding bodies for the timely marking of GCSE and A-level papers. It has regular discussions with awarding bodies about progress. It is Ofqual's assessment that awarding bodies are on course to release A-level results to candidates on 14 August and GCSE results on 21 August as planned.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 280W, on pre-school education, which local authorities have childminding networks delivering the free entitlement. [218176]

Beverley Hughes: Figures from the 2008 Early Years Census show that 73 local authorities have childminding networks delivering the free entitlement offer. They are:

Barnet
Barnsley
Bath and North East Somerset
Bedfordshire
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bournemouth
Bradford
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Buckinghamshire
Calderdale
Cambridgeshire
City of Kingston Upon Hull
Cornwall
Croydon
Cumbria
Derbyshire
Devon
Dorset
Dudley
Durham
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Essex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire

Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Isles of Scilly
Kent
Kirklees
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicester
Lincolnshire
Manchester
Medway
Milton Keynes
Norfolk
North East Lincolnshire
North Somerset
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Richmond Upon Thames
Rochdale
Rutland
Sefton
Sheffield
Somerset
South Gloucestershire
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Staffordshire
Stockport
Surrey
Swindon
Telford and Wrekin
Thurrock
Torbay
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Wiltshire
Worcestershire
York

Secondary Education: Stoke on Trent

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what submissions his Department has received from Stoke-on-Trent City Council in respect of its preferred option for the reorganisation of the city's secondary schools; what response his Department has made to the latest submission; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant correspondence. [218250]

Jim Knight: Stoke-on-Trent city council has not made a formal submission to the Department in respect of its current plans to reorganise the city's secondary schools through Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

The council has been reviewing its plans for secondary schools, following the decision to place its Children and Young People's Services under Government intervention in 2006, and we have been discussing these plans with it. We have asked the council to set out its vision for transforming secondary education through a 'Strategy for Change' for BSF. This strategy should explain how it proposes to raise secondary school standards and aspirations and address falling pupil numbers in the city. We expect this to be submitted to the Department shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Batteries: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of discarded portable household batteries which have been *(a)* recycled in the UK, *(b)* sent to landfill and *(c)* exported for recycling in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217779]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Most of the 25-30,000 tonnes of portable batteries that are placed on the market each year are currently sent to landfill. At present only about 600 tonnes are collected for recycling. The EU batteries directive sets targets that 25 per cent. of portable batteries placed on the market should be collected by 2012 and 45 per cent. by 2016.

Of the 600 tonnes of batteries collected some types are recycled in the UK (e.g. button cells) though some of the more common types (e.g. alkaline) are exported to other EU countries for recycling since at present there are no such facilities in the UK.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards establishing a compliance system for the recycling of household batteries to ensure producer responsibility. [217780]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The consultation on a producer responsibility scheme for household, industrial and automotive car batteries closed in March. 113 responses were received. We published a Government response to the consultation on 1 July and are now preparing draft regulations. We will consult stakeholders on these regulations in the autumn.

Biofuels

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to develop and promote sustainability criteria for the production of agrofuels. [217331]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is working closely with the Department for Transport, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and other domestic and international partners to ensure that policies incentivise the use of the most sustainable biomass fuels for heat and power generation and transport biofuels, with strong safeguards against unsustainable production.

The UK is playing a full part in current EU negotiations on sustainability requirements for both the renewable energy and fuel quality directives. We are pressing for robust sustainability standards for all biomass fuels. Domestically, the renewable transport fuel obligation is designed to encourage the use of only the right sort of transport biofuels. Fuel suppliers have to report on the carbon savings of their biofuels and their wider environmental impacts. We are taking forward the key findings of the Gallagher review which looked at the indirect effects of biofuels on land use change and the consequences for greenhouse gas savings, and the effects on food prices.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to *(a)* encourage other countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* assist poor countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [217571]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The UK Government are happy with the decision taken at the UN climate change conference in Bali in December to begin negotiations on a global climate change agreement to reduce emissions. This will be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009.

A key part of the negotiation process will be to look at how all countries, developed and developing, could reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and how the developed world could support developing countries.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have been funded by his Department to conduct research on personal carbon trading in the last three years. [217806]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have recently completed an initial assessment of the potential value of personal carbon trading, compared to other approaches to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The study explored some key issues highlighted by an initial scoping study produced for DEFRA by the Centre for Sustainable Energy in November 2006.

The following DEFRA-funded research was published in May:

the technical feasibility and potential cost of personal carbon trading, which was produced by Accenture;

the distributional impacts of personal carbon trading, by the Centre for Sustainable Energy; and

an assessment of the public acceptability of personal carbon trading, by Enviros and Opinion Leader.

In addition to this research, DEFRA provided a grant to the RSA (The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) which has been leading a three year project into this area.

Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) through what mechanism payments to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund are made by individual Departments; and whether the calculation of the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent to be offset is made by the relevant Department or by the fund; [217355]

(2) who administers the operation of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. [217356]

Mr. Woolas: Individual Departments calculate their total air mileage, subdivided into domestic, short haul and long haul flights. From these figures, the emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, and the costs of offsetting them, are calculated using agreed formulae. This information is passed on to DEFRA, which then makes a formal request for payment into the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund holding account by the relevant Department.

EEA Fund Management administers the operation of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund.

Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Breaking the Climate Deadlock group on climate change. [217097]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) and myself have not received representations from the Breaking the Climate Deadlock group. However, DEFRA officials have recently met and maintain regular contact with the chief executive of the Climate Group, which has been working closely with Breaking the Climate Deadlock.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of household waste was recycled in each English local authority area in 2006-07. [214426]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* The household recycling and composting rates for all English local authorities are calculated from data submitted to WasteDataFlow by local authorities. Figures for 2006-07 and the most recent two quarters published are in a table which I will deposit in the House Library.

Recycling and composting rates are affected by seasonal variation in waste generation and therefore the rates for the financial year 2007-08 may be notably different to the figures given in the table.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 245W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, when the research reports on *(a)* bonfire smoke complaints and *(b)* emissions of dioxins will be placed in the Library. [217960]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that the reports in question were deposited in the House Library on 30 January.

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place for the Environment Agency to co-ordinate catchment flood management plans with river basin management and the EU Water Framework Directive, with particular reference to policy on land use changes. [214230]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency works to ensure that flood risk management and environmental protection are brought together in the River Basin Management Plans required under the Water Framework Directive.

Catchment Flood Management Plans set out the Environment Agency's flood risk management policies. These need to be incorporated in the River Basin Management Plans so that the plans complement each other. The teams working on both sets of plans liaise regularly on the issues.

Flood Control: Training

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of levels of provision of training of flood defence and drainage engineers to ensure sufficient trained engineers in the future. [217142]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* We commissioned a comprehensive report on Engineering Skills for Flood Risk Management from the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), which was produced in October 2004. This followed the ICE's review floods of the autumn 2000 floods.

The Environment Agency has had a capacity plan since May 2004 and a three year strategy to address the civil engineering skills shortage since August 2005. The Environment Agency also operate a Foundation Degree in Science for River and Coastal Engineering and have a new Graduate Training Programme. These are both supported by national recruitment campaigns.

The Environment Agency is currently reviewing its skills and capacity strategy in the light of various reports following the summer 2007 floods.

Flooding: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with the Environment Agency the condition of the Glynbridge Gardens site of the River Chelt in Swindon village, Gloucestershire following the 2007 flooding; and if he will make a statement. [218373]

Mr. Woolas: I am aware that the Glynbridge Gardens area of Cheltenham was badly affected by flooding last summer. The Environment Agency is currently repairing damage to the river banks and flood defences along George Readings Way. The agency is also excavating material from the river channel to improve the capacity of the River Chelt. This work will be completed by the end of August and will reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what types of critical infrastructure were categorised as at risk of flooding by the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many of each type were categorised in each year; [211902]

(2) when the Environment Agency's list of critical infrastructure at risk of flooding was last updated; and if he will make a statement. [211905]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency commissioned a major project in 2007 to map and improve its understanding of flood vulnerability at a national scale. The resulting database, which draws heavily on information held by other parties, provides a summary of vulnerability to flooding in each 100 metres of land in England and Wales.

The following table sets out a summary of the Receptors Vulnerable to Flooding database. It shows the number of infrastructure assets, divided into sectors, that are at either a significant, moderate or low flood risk probability. Where the following definitions of flood risk probability are used:

Significant: the chance of flooding in any year is greater than 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75)

Moderate: the chance of flooding in any year is 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75) or less, but greater than 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200)

Low: the chance of flooding in any year is 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200) or less.

Environment Agency study showing infrastructure overlain on flood risk maps (river and sea flood plains)

	Number of sites in flood zone (flood risk probability)			
Asset	*Significant (1 in 75)*	*Moderate (1 in 75-200)*	*Low (1 in 200 or fewer)*	*Total in all three zones*
Water and sewerage	737	223	179	1,145
Electricity (generation and distribution)	2,215	2,263	3,818	8,423
Gas (works and distribution)	5	8	10	23
Telephone exchanges	82	67	86	241
Motorways (km)	139	104	132	382
A roads (km)	884	553	809	2,278
Railway lines (km)	1,470	750	948	3,213

As the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stated in the House on 25 June, electricity and water providers are responsible for ensuring continuity of supply. The electricity industry has identified just over 1,000 grid and primary sites which are in flood zones, and is working with the Environment Agency to

see which of these might need additional protection. Every water company is reviewing how its critical assets may be at risk from flooding in order to prioritise investment plans. This information will be used as the basis of a planned nationwide programme to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure which Government will produce later this year.

Food: Wastes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce food waste by *(a)* producers, *(b)* wholesalers, *(c)* processors, *(d)* retailers and *(e)* consumers. [216789]

Joan Ruddock: The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working with stakeholders across the food sector—producers, wholesalers, processors, retailers and consumers—to tackle the problem of food waste. For example:

The Courtauld Commitment between WRAP and major food and drink retailers and manufacturers aims to reduce packaging waste and 'to identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste'.

WRAP will also be running a programme jointly with Envirowise to help the industry reduce packaging and food waste in the grocery supply chain.

WRAP provides an advisory service to local authorities on their waste collection arrangements, and has been involved in managing a series of food waste collection trials in 19 local authority areas. Where appropriate, WRAP is able to advise local authorities to consider opportunities for the co-collection of food waste from commercial premises with food waste from domestic properties.

WRAP is running a consumer-facing campaign, "Love Food Hate Waste", to encourage behaviour change. The campaign is being delivered in partnership with stakeholders from across the food industry and retail sector, and organisations such as the Food Standards Agency and the women's institute. Its aim is to develop practical advice, to help people get the most from the food they buy, and to waste less of it.

DEFRA is also working closely with the food industry to improve its environmental impact through the Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS). The FISS targets a reduction in the food industry's own wastes of 15-20 per cent. by 2010. In responding to the targets outlined in the FISS Champions' Group on Waste report to Ministers last May, the Food and Drink Federation's "Five Fold Environmental Ambition/Making a real difference" document set themselves a target to send zero waste to landfill by 2015.

Forests: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental implications of the release of genetically-modified trees. [217332]

Mr. Woolas: Under European Union legislation, any proposed release of a genetically modified (GM) organism is subject to a case-by-case risk assessment, based on appropriate scientific evidence. This process considers all the conceivable risk factors, including the potential for gene transfer to other organisms. Approval for a release will only be granted if the evidence indicates that it will not have any adverse effect on human health and the environment.

No releases of GM trees have been proposed in the UK in recent years. Trial releases in England of GM apple, eucalyptus and poplar plants were approved and completed in the 1990s.

Hazardous Substances: Fly Tipping

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of fly-tipping involving hazardous waste have been investigated by the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many such investigations have resulted in convictions. [211671]

Joan Ruddock: The following table shows hazardous waste fly-tipping incidents, investigations and convictions data that has been taken from the Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System.

The term 'investigated' means that the incident has been attended or evidence has been provided by a trusted third party. Additionally not all incidents that are reported as being 'hazardous' are ultimately confirmed as such. Cases can also take many months or even years to be brought to court.

Due to changes in Environment Agency data recording systems and methods, figures prior to 2004 are not comparable.

Hazardous waste fly-tipping

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Reported incidents	551	478	294	308
Incidents investigated	404	321	204	215
Convictions	1	6	7	3

These figures do not include local authority prosecutions, because it is not possible to distinguish between prosecutions for hazardous and non-hazardous fly-tipping incidents.

Incinerators: Waste Disposal

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the results of the sampling studies which informed the recently revised Environment Agency WM2 guidance on incinerator bottom ash. [217656]

Joan Ruddock: The recent revision to WM2 (technical guidance on the interpretation of the definition and classification of hazardous wastes) was required due to changes to European chemical legislation (approved supply list) and was not the result of any sampling studies on incinerator bottom ash.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether further changes are proposed to Environment Agency WM2 guidance on incinerator bottom ash; and if he will undertake public consultation on any further changes. [217657]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency does not propose any further changes to WM2 (technical guidance

on the interpretation of the definition and classification of hazardous wastes) at this time.

The recent review to the chapter on the assessment of ecotoxicity was published on 16 May 2008. The assessment of ecotoxicity is applicable to all wastes and not just incinerator bottom ash. This review underwent external consultation in October 2007, as would any change to WM2.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to incorporate small waste oil burners within the remit of the European Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). [218675]

Joan Ruddock: Regulators may determine that some devices—such as small waste oil burners—in which waste is burnt lack the technical sophistication which would place them within the definition of plants which are subject to the waste incineration directive. The use of such devices may nevertheless be subject to other controls such as those under the waste framework directive (2006/12/EC) or national environmental legislation.

Recycling: Catering

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements and regulations are in place on recycling of glass, plastic and metal waste products by businesses in the catering and hospitality industries. [217572]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* There are no sector specific requirements or regulations in place for recycling by businesses in the catering and hospitality industries. However, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations oblige businesses in the packaging chain which have an annual turnover of more than £2 million, and which handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year, to recover and recycle a specified amount of packaging waste. This amount is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging handled. The packaging recovery note (PRN) system was established as the mechanism for businesses to provide evidence of compliance with these Regulations.

Businesses with a lower annual turnover, or handling a lower tonnage of packaging, were excluded from the obligation in order to lessen the regulatory burden on small businesses.

Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned into the *(a)* feasibility and *(b)* environmental consequences of ocean fertilisation. [217333]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is not undertaking or commissioning research in this area.

The issue of ocean fertilisation has been considered under the convention on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter (London convention 1972) and its protocol, global legal instruments to which the UK is a contracting party. In 2007 the convention's scientific group released a statement of concern that

> 'knowledge about the effectiveness and potential environmental impacts of ocean fertilisation currently was insufficient to justify large-scale operations'.

This statement was endorsed at the meeting of the convention and protocol in November 2007. A legal intercessional correspondence group has been set up, coordinated by DEFRA, which is working with our international colleagues to review how the framework of the convention and its protocol would apply to fertilisation. Its findings will be considered at the next meeting of the London convention and protocol in October.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applicants were offered a grant from the Warm Front scheme but declined it in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 2000; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for those declined grants. [215335]

Mr. Woolas: The following table illustrates the number of Warm Front applications cancelled at the client's request and the associated number of households assisted.

No patterns in reason for cancellation have been identified, however the most common reasons include:

client moving accommodation/applicant deceased;

wishing to retain funds for heating repairs in the future; and

not interested.

	Scheme year							
Area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
St. Ives Constituency	2	10	17	94	30	37	56	82
Cornwall (Falmouth and Cambourne, North and South East Cornwall, St. Ives, Truro and St. Austell constituencies)	16	42	120	366	191	168	264	439
England (all)	468	2,008	5,344	12,192	13,476	15,670	25,062	40,410
England (Households assisted)[1]	75,434	190,233	169,285	143,403	134,811	117,610	227,239	238,878

[1] Figures provided are based on known receipt of measure, i.e. provision of compact fluorescent light bulbs and/or installation of at least one main measure.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people resident in Stroud constituency applied for Warm Front grants in each year since 2000; how many of these were successful; how many were unable to proceed with the works in each year; and how many received a grant to cover partial costs only in each year. [217777]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Waste Management: Prisons

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1244W, on waste management: prisons, whether Schedule 2 producers may be charged for waste *(a)* collection and *(b)* disposal. [217964]

Joan Ruddock: Local authorities are entitled to charge all schedule 2 producers for waste collection, but not disposal.

Whales: Japan

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Japan on the illicit trade in whale-meat from Japan's scientific whaling programme. [218425]

Jonathan Shaw: I have not discussed this issue specifically with the Japanese Government.

I have taken note of the allegations made by Greenpeace. The UK Government continue to oppose all forms of whaling apart from some limited subsistence whaling when there is a substantiated need. The UK has also protested against Japan's 'scientific' whaling operations, which we argue are unjustified, cruel and unnecessary, at every appropriate opportunity.

Most recently, the UK maintained its strong anti-whaling position at the annual International Whaling Commission meeting which was held in Santiago, Chile in June 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason he has asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to respond to the question 216797 tabled to him by the hon. Member for Vale of York, on 3 July 2008, on development in flood risk areas, pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on flood control: planning; and if he will make a statement. [217246]

Mr. Woolas: I referred the hon. Member's question to Communities and Local Government as it is the Department which has responsibility for planning issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Construction: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress made towards the zero waste construction target in the Thames Gateway area. [216799]

Caroline Flint: We are continuing to investigate how we might make the Gateway a 'zero construction waste zone' including through work with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the private and public sector stakeholders to determine the costs and deliverability of doing so.

Co-operative Party

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with representatives of (i) the Co-operative Party and (ii) the Co-operative Group on eco-towns. [215066]

Caroline Flint: There have been no meetings between Ministers in Communities and Local Government and either the Co-operative Party or the Co-operative Group on eco-towns. In my role as Housing Minister I was invited by my hon. Friend for Huddersfield (Mr. Sheerman) to speak about eco-towns at the Westminster Sustainable Business Forum's annual summer dinner, which was attended by their members, including representatives from the Co-operative Group. I was pleased to attend and speak at this event on 25 June 2008.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are entitled to a second home council tax discount; and what proportion of these are charged at *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent. and *(c)* another proportion of the full charge. [217251]

John Healey: As at September 2007, local billing authorities reported there were 239,000 properties recorded as second homes for council tax purposes in England. Of these 16 per cent. of the properties were charged at 50 per cent. of the full council tax charge, 82 per cent. were charged at 90 per cent. of the full council tax charge and the remaining 2 per cent. were charged at another proportion of the full charge.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which council tax billing authorities have exercised the power to charge *(a)* 90 per cent. and *(b)* between 50 per cent. and 90 per cent. of the council tax charge on second homes. [217265]

John Healey: I have today placed in the Library, a table containing details of the authorities in England that have exercised the power to charge *(a)* 90 per cent. and *(b)* between 50 per cent. and 90 per cent. of the council tax charge on second homes.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which buildings occupied by her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214672]

Mr. Dhanda: The following buildings, which are leased and occupied by the Communities and Local Government agencies and non-departmental public bodies, have leases due for renewal in the next four years.

Audit Commission

2nd Floor, Witham House, The Pelham Centre, Canwick Road, Lincoln, LN5 8HE

Part 4th Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2UG

Suite 1, Observer House, Horsefair, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 5DE

Part Grd Floor, Opus House, Priestly Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford, ST18 0LQ

2nd Floor, Sheffield House, Lytton Way, off Gates Way, Stevenage, SG1 3HB

Rooms 201-205, Crosskill House, Mill Lane, Beverley, HU17 9JB

1st Floor Rear, 16 South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1AN

Community Development Foundation

Baltic Chambers, Units 301-309, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow, G2 6HJ

The Geoffrey Hubbard Building, The Michael Young Centre, Purbeck Road, Cambridge, CB2 2HM

Josephs Well, Suites 6D and 4D Josephs Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds, LS3 1AB

English Partnerships

Fairburn Hse, Park Lane, Allerton Bywater, West Yorks WF10 2AT

81 Station Road, Ashford, Kent

110 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SA

Firebuy

St. David's House 70 Wray Park Road Reigate Surrey RH2 0EJ

Housing Corporation

Beaufort House, 51 New North Road, Exeter EX4 4EP

Attenborough House, 109-119 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FQ

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Wyndham House, 189 Marsh Wall, London E14 9SH

Ordnance Survey

Furlong House Dodington Ash Bristol BS37 6RU

BLDG 3 Eastern Bus Pk Cardiff CF3 5EA

Unit 9 The Tech Centre East Kilbride Glasgow G75 0QD

Shield House Harlow CM9 5AR

Langstone Tech Pk Havant P09 1SA

Unit 8 The Pavilions Lytham FY4 2DP

Unit 8 the Point Market Harborough LE16 7QU

Triangle Bus Pk Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4YB

Algo Bus Centre Perth PH2 ONJ

Peartree Bus Centre Poole BH21 7PP

Valuation Tribunal

Block One Angel Square 1 Torrens Street London EC1V 1NY

2nd Floor Walton House 11 Parade Leamington Spa Warks CV32 4DG

3rd Floor Pearl Assurance House Friar Lane Nottingham NG1 6BT

The Hollies Newport Road Stafford ST16 1BY

34 Greenhill Way Harrow Middlesex HA1 1LE

2nd Floor Black Lion House 45 Whitechapel Road London E1 1DU

17-18 Navigation Business Village Navigation Way Ashton-on-Ribble Preston PR2 2YP

Ground Floor, Block B, Southfield House, Southfield Way, Durham DH1 5JY

Upper Ground Floor Parkside Grove Road Weston-Super-Mare North Somerset BS23 2AA

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in her Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [217860]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not compile ongoing records for this information. A spot check conducted overnight in one departmental headquarter building (Eland House) during July 2008 established that computer devices left on overnight when not in use represented 2.3 per cent. of total computer devices within that building.

Departmental records for this information have not been compiled and do not exist for the last five years.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217377]

Mr. Dhanda: 166 staff from Communities and Local Government and 26 staff in the Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years.

Departmental Email

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* special advisers in her Department are permitted to access webmail accounts from departmental computers. [217836]

Mr. Dhanda: All staff (inclusive of those aforementioned) can access webmail for personal use and for emailing non-protectively marked information. However, this is currently under review.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of staff of her Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217369]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the proportion of staff who did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years.

	Staff below senior civil service	*Percentage Senior civil service*
2006-07	73	100
2005-06	87	100

Pay settlements for 2008 have not yet been agreed. Staff below the SCS who received an overall 'exceeded' marking in their 2005-06 and 2005-06 performance report received a non-consolidated performance award, paid as a non-pensionable lump sum.

The maximum bonus for SCS staff in each of the last two years was 20 per cent. of existing salary. No members of the SCS received a bonus of 20 per cent. of existing salary in these periods.

In Communities and Local Government, bonus payments are made to those members of staff who are found to have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of the team's, and/or Department's, objectives. Individuals are expected to show that they have exceeded the requirements set for the achievement of the objective and have demonstrated exemplary behaviour in doing so.

Our senior civil service staff members are also assessed against a range of factors, such as:

The achievement of their prime objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;

Degree to which business objectives are met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of skills such as judgement, leadership and the PSG skills;

Effective resource management.

Details of bonuses paid in the Department's agencies are not held centrally.

Deprivation Indicators

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will rank *(a)* the bottom 100 super output areas as measured by the index of multiple deprivation, showing the local authority in each case and *(b)* the bottom 100 local authority wards as measures by the index. [216924]

John Healey: The following table lists the lowest ranked 100 (i.e. most deprived) super output areas by local authority.

As the index is not produced at ward level I am unable to supply the list of the lowest ranked 100 local authority wards.

Lower super output area code	*LA name*	*GOR name*	*Rank of IMD (where 1 is most deprived)*
E01006755	Liverpool	North West	1
E01005204	Manchester	North West	2
E01021988	Tendring	East of England	3
E01012721	Blackpool	North West	4
E01006778	Liverpool	North West	5
E01006467	Knowsley	North West	6
E01006539	Liverpool	North West	7
E01006561	Liverpool	North West	8
E01006468	Knowsley	North West	9
E01012673	Blackpool	North West	10
E01005484	Rochdale	North West	11
E01006676	Liverpool	North West	12
E01024858	Burnley	North West	13
E01008836	Sunderland	North East	14
E01005482	Rochdale	North West	15
E01009585	Coventry	West Midlands	16
E01005486	Rochdale	North West	17
E01009365	Birmingham	West Midlands	18
E01006647	Liverpool	North West	19
E01006469	Knowsley	North West	20
E01013137	North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	21
E01007532	Doncaster	Humber	22
E01012070	Middlesbrough	North East	23
E01006599	Liverpool	North West	24
E01006703	Liverpool	North West	25
E01007122	Wirral	North West	26
E01006740	Liverpool	North West	27
E01008380	Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	28
E01006646	Liverpool	North West	29
E01012720	Blackpool	North West	30
E01012041	Middlesbrough	North East	31
E01006699	Liverpool	North West	32
E01006563	Liverpool	North West	33
E01006560	Liverpool	North West	34
E01012655	Blackburn with Darwen	North West	35

Lower super output area code	LA name	GOR name	Rank of IMD (where 1 is most deprived)
E01013818	Nottingham	East Midlands	36
E01006756	Liverpool	North West	37
E01010606	Bradford	Yorkshire and The Humber	38
E01005067	Manchester	North West	39
E01005658	Salford	North West	40
E01012875	Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yorkshire and The Humber	41
E01006442	Knowsley	North West	42
E01007127	Wirral	North West	43
E01012678	Blackpool	North West	44
E01006674	Liverpool	North West	45
E01006630	Liverpool	North West	46
E01005568	Rochdale	North West	47
E01024908	Burnley	North West	48
E01006777	Liverpool	North West	49
E01005256	Manchester	North West	50
E01006732	Liverpool	North West	51
E01005655	Salford	North West	52
E01006679	Liverpool	North West	53
E01028276	Mansfield	East Midlands	54
E01006704	Liverpool	North West	55
E01005350	Oldham	North West	56
E01005196	Manchester	North West	57
E01006540	Liverpool	North West	58
E01013139	North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	59
E01010485	Wolverhampton	West Midlands	60
E01013136	North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	61
E01024877	Burnley	North West	62
E01005228	Manchester	North West	63
E01006515	Liverpool	North West and The	64
E01010617	Bradford	Yorkshire Humber	65
E01009488	Birmingham	West Midlands	66
E01025041	Hyndburn	North West	67
E01008291	Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	68
E01012266	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	69
E01020909	Wear Valley	North East	70
E01012069	Middlesbrough	North East	71
E01010823	Bradford	Yorkshire and The Humber	72
E01012114	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	73
E01005096	Manchester	North West	74
E01009358	Birmingham	West Midlands	75
E01006779	Liverpool	North West	76
E01006677	Liverpool	North West	77
E01009476	Birmingham	West Midlands	78
E01006558	Liverpool	North West	79
E01012897	Kingston upon Hull, City	Yorkshire and the Humber	80
E01008011	Sheffield	Yorkshire and the Humber	81
E01006598	Liverpool	North West	82
E01005099	Manchester	North West	83
E01005203	Manchester	North West	84
E01006760	Liverpool	North West	85
E01009379	Birmingham	West Midlands	86
E01025286	Preston	North West	87
E01006417	Knowsley	North West	88
E01005667	Salford	North West	89
E01005612	Salford	North West	90
E01007132	Wirral	North West	91
E01008214	Gateshead	North East	92
E01015842	Southend-on-Sea	East of England	93
E01005205	Manchester	North West	94
E01007133	Wirral	North West	95
E01006470	Knowsley	North West	96
E01007128	Wirral	North West	97
E01015155	Plymouth	South West	98
E01006746	Liverpool	North West	99

Lower super output area code	LA name	GOR name	Rank of IMD (where 1 is most deprived)
E01005613	Salford	North West	100

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 950W, on economic and monetary union, if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* her Department's euro changeover plan as updated in June 2007 and *(b)* the plans of each of the agencies and non-departmental public bodies listed in the Answer. [217440]

Mr. Dhanda: The Communities and Local Government euro changeover plan was placed in the Library in February 2006.

There has been no change of note to Communities and Local Government and its agencies and NDPB's euro changeover plans since then.

It is therefore not proposed, for this reason, to place a copy of such plans in the Library at the present time.

Eco-towns

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 715, on eco-towns, whether the required planning consents for eco-town developments will be determined exclusively by local planning authorities. [217001]

Caroline Flint: We would expect applications for eco-towns to be considered as a planning application by the appropriate local planning authority unless called in by the Secretary of State. In such cases these powers would be used in accordance with normal and established practice in development control.

Eco-towns: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 38W, on eco-towns: motor vehicles, how the composition of a New Town corporation will be determined in circumstances where her Department judges such a delivery vehicle is required; and what role in determining planning applications relating to eco-town developments such a corporation would have. [217959]

Caroline Flint: We would only use these powers in exceptional circumstances to support delivery of complex and challenging developments, and where partner local authorities could see benefit in the exercise of these powers, for example where the task of infrastructure provision and related investment was of a scale where a statutory body would have significant advantages. We have no current plans to establish a body.

Eco-towns: North East Elsenham

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the proposed eco-town development at North East Elsenham on the surrounding economies in East Hertfordshire, with particular reference to the economy of Bishop's Stortford; [216945]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely locations for employment of residents of the proposed eco-town development at North East Elsenham if the development proceeds. [216946]

Caroline Flint: We have published the initial assessments of all the proposed locations, including Elsenham, on our website, and we are further reviewing the issues raised there, including impacts on growth and regeneration of the surrounding areas for these locations.

We have assessed Elsenham and all the eco-town proposals against a criteria relating to jobs and the outcomes we expect to see. This includes developing a clear strategy to maximise employment opportunities and enabling links to existing clusters of employment. We will also be consulting on employment and the other criteria in the draft planning policy statement on eco-towns.

Eco-towns: Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provision of *(a)* roads, *(b)* railways, *(c)* water and *(d)* sewage infrastructure serving eco-towns will be (i) governed by the general frameworks set in National Policy Statements and (ii) determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [216985]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1037W, given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), and 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Eco-towns: Public Participation

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what geographical criteria were used when selecting interviewees for the Andrew Irving Associates YouGov survey on eco-towns, published by her Department on 30 June; what information was provided to these interviewees before their interview; and if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the commissioning brief for and *(b)* the results of the survey. [218171]

Caroline Flint: With regards to the geographical criteria used in selecting interviewees for the recent YouGov survey on eco-towns, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on Monday 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1355W.

No information was provided to respondents beforehand as the survey sought to ascertain their current knowledge and opinions. The omnibus survey was commissioned verbally so we cannot provide a copy of the commissioning brief but the results of the survey will be placed in the Library.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public agency will be responsible for *(a)* enforcing the display energy certificate requirements and *(b)* issuing fines for breaches of such requirements. [216022]

Caroline Flint: Local authority trading standards officers will be responsible for compliance with the requirements and will issue civil financial penalties where appropriate.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the impact assessment for display energy certificates. [216023]

Caroline Flint: The impact assessment for display energy certificates forms part of the 'Regulatory Impact Assessment Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Articles 7-10', published in March 2007. This was deposited in the Library on 23 March 2007.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided on compliance with the display energy certificates requirements. [216024]

Caroline Flint: The Department produced, 'A guide to Display Energy Certificates and advisory reports for public buildings' which was published in May. This guidance was produced in consultation with a range of stakeholders. It explains among other things what a DEC is, how it should be produced and how the requirement will be enforced.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Essex Fire and Rescue Service spent on *(a)* overseas training courses and *(b)* overseas conferences or visits in each of the last five years; [218339]

(2) how many administrative staff from Essex Fire and Rescue Service attended the conference in Texas in June 2008 attended by the service's chief and assistant fire officers; [218340]

(3) what the gross salaries, including bonuses and other benefits, of the chief and assistant chief fire officers of the Essex Fire and Rescue Service were in the most recent period for which figures are available; [218341]

(4) who was in operational command of the Essex Fire and Rescue Service in the absence of the chief fire officer and assistant chief fire officer in June 2008; [218342]

(5) how much the attendance of the chief fire officer and assistant chief fire officer of the Essex Fire and Rescue Service at the fire safety conference in Texas in June 2008 cost the public purse. [218343]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and is a matter for Essex Fire and Rescue Authority.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of those compiling home information packs supplemented the required local searches with searches commissioned by home buyers since the introduction of the packs. [217839]

Caroline Flint: Given the confidential relationship between solicitors and their clients it is not currently possible to accurately obtain data on this issue.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homeless households had duty discharged to them because they rejected temporary accommodation offered in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London local authority in each of the last five years. [217139]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what functions relating to the Thames Gateway undertaken by the Thames Gateway Executive she plans to transfer to the Homes and Communities Agency prior to March 2009; what the timescale for such transfers is; and if she will make a statement. [216960]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, by my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper).

Subject to progress with the Housing and Regeneration Bill, we plan to set up the Homes and Community Agency in April 2009, and for the transfer of functions to be complete by then. However, in order to give greater certainty to staff and stakeholders, and to bring forward the benefits of the new Agency, we are exploring the scope for accelerating its establishment.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what final allocation criteria are being used for housing and planning delivery grant; what the timetable is for the first payments to be assessed and made; and what performance indicators will be collected from local authorities for the purposes of the delivery grant allocation; [216018]

(2) how much her Department has allocated for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant in each year of the current Spending Review period. [216020]

Caroline Flint: The consultation paper Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) consultation on the allocation mechanism, published in October 2007, set out proposed allocations in each year of the current spending review period as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	£100
2009-10	£160
2010-11	£250

Confirmation of the final allocation mechanism and provisional allocations for the current spending period will be announced shortly. Payments will follow in autumn this year. Assessment criteria for allocations will be based on data collected as part of the local performance framework national indicator set.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the surplus in the national housing revenue account was in 2007-08; what estimate she has made of the likely account surplus in each of the next five years; and to what use the account surplus is put. [212325]

Caroline Flint: There was no national surplus in 2007-08 arising from the housing revenue account subsidy calculations. Our current estimate of the potential surplus in 2008-09 is £195 million. It is too soon to say what the actual figure for the current financial year will be, but it will be different from estimates depending on factors such as interest rates, and the dwelling stock remaining in local authority ownership.

Beyond 2008-09, our forecasts will depend on decisions yet to be taken by Ministers on the annual housing revenue account subsidy determination, on which we aim to consult shortly with local authorities.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the home-building industry adopts lifetime homes standards in new housing. [217116]

Caroline Flint: As stated in the National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, in the first instance Lifetime Homes Standards will be a mandatory element in the Code for Sustainable Homes at level 6 from 2008, at level 4 from 2010 and level 3 from 2013. This will have the effect of ensuring that all public sector funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011.

We will also monitor how the take up of Lifetime Homes Standards is working in the new home market generally and will undertake a review of progress across all sectors in 2010. We will then consider whether further measures are necessary.

In the meantime we have established a Building Regulations Advisory Committee Working Group to look at the issue of Adaptable Housing and Lifetime Homes. We will also work with stakeholders to develop further technical guidance for designers and developers who wish to include the standards in new homes.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in establishing a Green Homes Service in the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [216800]

Caroline Flint: The Department is currently developing proposals for energy advice services for the Thames Gateway with the Energy Savings Trust, which will be supported by up to £1.5 million of CLG funding.

Local Authorities: Community Relations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements she plans to impose on local authorities to establish a tension monitoring committee; and whether such groups will monitor *(a)* complaints of noise nuisance and *(b)* high hedge disputes. [217833]

Mr. Dhanda: Tension monitoring is not a mandatory requirement for local authorities.

"The Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring", published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which each local authority can use to monitor local issues that may lead to tension and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. These issues could include complaints about noise nuisance or high hedge disputes. It is up to each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the functions of local authority tension monitoring groups will include monitoring the activities of local political parties. [217852]

Mr. Dhanda: "Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring" published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which local authorities can use to monitor local issues that may lead to local community tensions and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. It is up to each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning.

Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria parish councils are required to meet to be eligible to use the power of well-being. [217802]

Mr. Dhanda: The conditions which must be met for a parish council to be eligible to use the well-being powers will be prescribed by order to be made under section 1(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 (inserted by section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007). It is intended to make this Order before the end of 2008.

Property Development

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will put in place measures to inform local authorities to criminal convictions of development companies. [214452]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have no plans to put such measures in place.

Recreation Spaces: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of open green space in the Thames Gateway area is managed to Green Flag award standards; and if she make a statement. [216979]

Caroline Flint: A total of 554 green spaces received a Green Flag Award in July 2007 and 28 sites are in the Thames Gateway area. This year's winners will be announced on the 17 July. A list of Green Flag Award winning parks is available on the Green Flag website at www.greenflagaward.org.uk and includes those in the Thames Gateway area.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan's objectives for the capital development programme of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation in respect of *(a)* the Innogy site acquisition, *(b)* the Carpet Right site in Rainham, *(c)* the upgrade of Prescot Lock, *(d)* the Barking town buy-backs and *(e)* the Wildspace Conservation Park visitor centre. [216978]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation's Corporate Plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11 was published on 7 May 2008. The Corporate Plan sets out how they will investment some £237 million to take forward the strategic regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley and Barking-Havering Riverside areas.

Progress on the individual developments is as follows:

(a) Innogy site acquisition (spend to date £18.85 million)

This 26 acre site at Dagenham Dock was acquired by the corporation in May 2008 for around £18 million and will form part of the London Sustainable Industries Park, which is being developed jointly with the London Development Agency. The site has been acquired to provide premises for Environmental Technology Industries some of whom are being relocated to allow other projects in the London Thames Gateway to proceed as planned. The corporation are already in negotiation with a number of businesses and the first deals are expected to be agreed later this year.

The first occupier of the Sustainable Industries Park, Closed Loop Recycling, the UK's first food grade plastics recycling facility, opened on 27 June. The plant will divert a significant amount of waste from landfill.

(b) Carpetright site in Rainham (spend to date £15.87 million)

The seven acre site at New Road, Rainham was acquired by the corporation in March 2007 subject to a leaseback to Carpetright plc until May 2008. The deal helped facilitate the development of a new state of the art distribution centre for Carpetright in Thurrock and has released seven acres of land adjacent for new housing and jobs adjacent to Rainham Village centre.

Agents have been appointed to seek a private sector partner to progress the project and the opportunity will be advertised later this month.

In the meantime a contract to progress the demolition of most of the buildings on the site has been let and terms have been agreed to let another of the buildings to Havering College to establish a Construction Skills Training Centre. This will be a temporary facility while the corporation works with Havering College to develop a new 80,000 square foot campus on an adjoining site. This is planned to open in 2011.

(c) Upgrade of Prescott Lock (spend to date £5 million)

The corporation has contributed £5 million towards the construction of water control structures in Prescott Channel and Three Mills Wall River. The project will achieve tidal exclusion and allow waterborne freight delivering construction materials to the Olympic Park. The project is located in a deprived area with the potential for future housing and other developments and will result in a number of environmental, social, leisure and health benefits through the creation of a useable waterway park, an increase in boat journeys, use of cycle paths and walkways. British Waterways is the delivery agent for the project and partners include the corporation, DFT and TfL.

The project started on site in March 2007 and the planned completion date is now February 2009. This is slightly behind schedule due to land contamination issues and the discovery of an unexploded bomb on 2 June 2008 but the project is now on track to provide significant benefits to the local community by removing heavy goods vehicles from the road network and creating an improved environment for existing and new waterside homes and businesses.

(d) Canning Town buy-backs (spend to date £8.8 million)—there is no buy back programme in Barking Town.

The investment by the corporation of £9.9 million for the Canning Town buy-backs has helped to achieve vacant possession of most of the site ear-marked for the first phase of the Canning Town centre re-development. Only three properties now remain outstanding and negotiations with the owners are ongoing.

Demolition work is progressing in parallel to clear the site. A panel of developers has now been appointed who will be invited to tender for the site in September 2008 with a start on site planned for summer 2010.

(e) Wildspace Conservation Park visitor centre (spend to date £1.9 million on related access and improvement projects)

Wildspace is being developed as a flagship green space for the Thames Gateway on 1,500 acres in Havering and Thurrock. The corporation are working in partnership with a number of organisations including the local authorities the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Veolia to deliver a number of projects across the park. Projects completed to date include the Purfleet Environment and Visitor Centre (part funded by Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation and managed by the RSPB); The Rainham to Purfleet path and cycleway; Discovery Zones; and improved bus access

routes to Ferry Lane. The Wildspace Project Board meet on 8 July to agree a detailed programme of work for the next five years.

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding under the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund has been drawn down in the Thames Gateway area in each year since 1 April 2005, broken down by local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [216959]

Caroline Flint: The information is provided in the following table. This shows amounts received by local authorities in the Thames Gateway area from the following CLG funding streams which merged to form the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund from April 2005: neighbourhood management pathfinders, the liveability fund, neighbourhood wardens, single community programme, the neighbourhood element, and the cleaner safer greener element. As 2005-06 was a transitional period, the figures include amounts paid in that year for funding streams that merged into the SSCF from April 2006.

£

Local authority	Total 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	285,546	81,007	0
Bexley	0	0	0
Greenwich	2,009,578	115,010	473,000
Havering	0	0	0
Lewisham	425,300	57,991	0
Newham	426,853	1,551,901	1,646,000
Tower Hamlets	701,970	2,048,142	2,162,000
Thurrock	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	0	412,800	516,000
Castle Point	0	0	0
Basildon	222,060	0	450,000
Rochford	0	0	0
Medway	1,725,000	0	0
Swale	0	0	0
Dartford	0	0	0
Gravesham	0	0	0

Sustainable Development: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the establishment of an eco-quarter in the Thames Gateway area in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [216958]

Caroline Flint: The Thames Gateway Eco-Quarter concept was proposed in November 2007 in the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, as an extension of the Eco-Towns programme. Further development of the Eco-Quarter concept is being considered in the context of the current ongoing work on Eco-town assessments, the forthcoming Planning Policy Statement and initial Eco-town selection.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to fund the Thames Gateway element of *(a)* the green homes project and *(b)* the Act on CO2 advice line for 2008-09. [217242]

Caroline Flint: Over the next three years the Department has allocated up to £1.5 million to fund energy advice services to be provided through the Energy Saving Trust in the Thames Gateway.

Transport: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide a breakdown of the expenditure to date in respect of local transport projects identified for funding under the auspices of the Community Infrastructure Fund in the Thames Gateway area by main budget area; and if she will make a statement. [216798]

Caroline Flint: The following table sets out the allocations to the Thames Gateway projects under the first round of the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Project	Allocation (£ million)
Fastrack—Everard's Link	6.080
Fastrack—Thames Way	7.370
Fryerns/Craylands, Basildon	5.896
Langdon Park DLR Station	5.700
Greenwich Waterfront Transit/East London Transit/DLR Bank-Lewisham 3 Car Upgrade	34.000
Pontoon Dock Station Bridge	1.340
Tidal Basin Roundabout	0.960
Woolwich New Road	2.620

Expenditure on these projects was incurred in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 except for two projects where flexibility has been formally agreed allowing the projects to spend the following amounts in 2008-09:

Fastrack Everard's Link: £0.7 million; and

Pontoon Dock Station Bridge: £ 1.277 million.

These amounts are included in the total allocation figures for these projects shown in the table.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund: Thanet

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to Thanet from the Working Neighbourhood Fund; for what purposes it has been allocated; and how it will be spent. [218346]

John Healey: Thanet has been awarded £1,012,404 from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) for 2008-09. The authority will receive further funding in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The purpose of the WNF is to provide resources to local authorities that have some of the highest concentrations of worklessness and lowest levels of skills and enterprise. As WNF is paid as an element of Area Based Grant Thanet district council has the freedom and flexibility to use the funding in innovative ways to meet the objectives of the fund.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Infant Mortality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policies designed to reduce the rate of child mortality in Central and Western Asia in the last three years. [217017]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports health programmes in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan which include initiatives to reduce child mortality. These focus on essential care of newborns, nutrition interventions including breast feeding promotion, immunisation, early community and hospital management of common childhood illnesses, and improved water and sanitation. Under-five mortality has fallen in all these countries in the past three to five years and DFID's support aims to accelerate this rate of reduction.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from what sources the $60 billion committed to fighting HIV and AIDS by the G8 at Heiligendamm in June 2007 will be provided; and what proportion of that sum has been committed by the Government. [217224]

Gillian Merron: At the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in 2007, the G8 committed to scale up their efforts to provide a projected $60 billion over the coming years for disease control and health systems. One of the UK Government's objectives at Toyako was to encourage other donors and developing countries to meet those commitments.

The Toyako 2008 G8 communiqué builds on and takes forward the commitments made at previous G8 meetings and reiterated its commitment to the goal of universal access and to continue efforts to work towards the goal of providing at least a projected US$ 60 billion over five years (by mid 2012) to fight infectious diseases and strengthen health.

In "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" the Government committed £6 billion to strengthen health systems and services over seven years to 2015, including for HIV-AIDS support. In addition to this recent commitment, the UK Government have made a long-term commitment of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Developing Countries: Trade

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to advocate particular trade proposals to developing countries; and what factors are taken into account in deciding whether to advocate a particular proposal. [217038]

Mr. Thomas: Development has been at the heart of UK's trade policy for the past 10 years. The Government have promoted trade policies that bring real benefits to developing countries. This continues to be our position in various ongoing global and regional trade talks involving both developed and developing countries.

The Department for International Development (DFID) also aims to provide countries with the tools and knowledge they need to form their own positions in trade negotiations. DFID funds research through the World Bank, UN and think tanks on critical trade and development issues. For example, DFID has supported IDEAS, a Geneva based NGO, to help West African cotton producing countries to better grasp the challenges and opportunities linked to emerging proposals on cotton in the WTO negotiations.

DFID supports a number of initiatives which strengthen developing countries trade policies. For example, the Enhanced Integrated Framework will help developing countries to mainstream trade within their broader policies on growth and development.

EU Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the Lisbon Treaty not coming into effect on the delivery of the EU humanitarian aid programme; [213237]

(2) what assessment he has made of the possible effect of the Lisbon Treaty being abandoned on the delivery of the EU humanitarian aid programme; [217043]

(3) what the reasons were for his statement in his Department's latest departmental report that the success and adoption of the 2007 Lisbon Treaty was necessary to provide a clear legal basis for humanitarian aid. [217042]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EU as a whole is the world's largest provider of humanitarian aid. The EU's mechanisms and structures for humanitarian response give it global capability and capacity to respond to a range of disasters.

The Lisbon treaty (article 214) states that the adoption of the framework of the Union's humanitarian aid operations will be by qualified majority and co-decision. This is not new. The existing framework regulation on humanitarian assistance (regulation 1257/96 of 20 June 1996) was adopted using qualified majority voting, on the basis of development cooperation provisions introduced at Maastricht (currently article 179 of the EC treaty).

The change made by the Lisbon treaty is to provide a specific legal base for such assistance and to make clear that humanitarian aid must conform to principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination. These principles make clear that the delivery of aid must be guided by need and not by political or ideological considerations. This provision, including the specification of the appropriate legal base, is a positive innovation of the treaty and the Government supports it. These changes will not come in unless and until the Lisbon treaty enters into force.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs set out the Government's position on pursuing the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty following the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland in a statement to the House on 16 June 2008. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also made a statement to the House on the outcome of the discussions at the European Council on 23 June 2008.

France: Foreign Relations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to strengthen relations with France prior to its assuming the EU presidency, as referred to in his Department's most recent departmental report; and what effect those steps have had on the UK's influence over how EU aid is distributed. [217046]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has been working with other Whitehall departments to strengthen our relationships with France on development. I and my ministerial colleagues have had several meetings with French counterparts, as have my senior officials. The UK-France summit provided evidence of the close working relationship between the UK and France on development, with the communiqué noting shared commitments in a number of areas.

At an EU level, we worked closely with the French Government to agree at the June European Council an agenda for action on the millennium development goals, which demonstrates the EU's leadership in accelerating progress on poverty reduction. The UK will continue to liaise closely with France and other member states on the level of Community assistance to partner countries in discussions in the Council.

Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who appointed the members of the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact. [218638]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Members of the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact were appointed by the Secretary of State for International Development.

Selection complied with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the salary and other remuneration is of the Chairman of the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact. [218639]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Work undertaken by the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI) is paid on an honorarium basis. The chairman receives £250 per day, on a three year contract (up to a maximum of 80 days). The Department for International Development (DFID) will also meet the cost of travel and expenses necessarily incurred in respect of the appointment.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost has been of running the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact since its inception. [218641]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The cost to date has been approximately £40,000. This has covered: recruitment of International Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI) members; committee members' fees and expenses; and the Evaluation Department Secretariat's direct costs.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what authority the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact has to expose shortcomings in his Department. [218642]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact has been established to strengthen and assure the independence of the evaluation function in the Department for International Development (DFID), and the use of evaluation results to enhance delivery and impact of UK development assistance.

The full terms of reference of the Committee are available on DFID's external website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken towards delivering the millennium development goals call to action in 2008. [217229]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the Government's involvement in the MDG Call to Action campaign. The campaign aims to encourage action by a wide range of stakeholders,

including governments, the private sector, NGOs, faith groups and other parts of civil society to accelerate progress on the MDGs and help make 2008 a turning point in the fight against poverty.

We have worked with other Government Departments to ensure that summits of the EU, and G8 discuss MDG issues. We are also actively supporting preparation by the UN of their High Level Event on 25 September, which will be attended by governments and other key stakeholders. We hope that this meeting will be a focal point for adding further momentum to efforts to achieve the MDGs.

In May this year the UK Government co-hosted an event in London along with the United Development Programme (UNDP) on the Business Call to Action (BCTA). At the meeting more than a dozen global companies announced new initiatives which use their unique business skills to solve problems on the ground and to transform people's lives. Since then DFID has been working with the World Economic Forum, UNDP and the International Business Leaders Forum as part of the preparations for a UN-hosted Private Sector Meeting in September.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which members of his Department plan to attend the high-level meeting on the millennium development goals in New York in September 2008; and what the projected travel and accommodation costs are. [217230]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have yet to decide on the numbers, and therefore the costs, of the UK delegation. I intend to attend.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have agreed to support the Call to Action initiative as a result of UK intervention; and whether his Department continues to seek the support of more countries. [217231]

Mr. Thomas: To date 45 countries have signed up to the Call to Action initiative. In order to help efforts to get the MDGs back on track, the UK Government have actively encouraged countries to sign up to the Call to Action and attend the UN High Level Event in September. UK Government representatives have sought to raise the Call to Action with bilateral partners in a range of meetings over the past year, helping increase the numbers of signatory countries.

The Department for International Development, as part of a concerted effort with other UK Government Departments and other stakeholders, continues to seek the support of more countries for the Call to Action.

Overseas Aid: Health

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provision the International Health Partnership makes for *(a)* co-ordination among aid donors and *(b)* a development focus on health systems; and if he will make a statement. [217232]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: At the global level, the International Health Partnership (IHP) provides a framework for the eight major international health agencies, the "H8", to co-ordinate and accelerate their efforts to meet the health-related MDGs. In addition, at country level, IHP country teams bring aid donors together with governments to develop "country compacts". These compacts commit development partners to co-ordinate their support around a government-led health plan that includes a national strategy for health systems strengthening.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria were used to select the eight countries where the International Health Partnership has been implemented; and what plans there are to extend it to further countries. [217233]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The first eight countries to join the International Health Partnership (IHP) were selected on a number of criteria including:

good leadership in the health sector;
several donors active in the health sector; and
a good prognosis for delivering.

All eight countries indicated their interest in further developing and testing the IHP in its early stages.

The IHP is not exclusive. Madagascar and Nigeria have joined the IHP since the launch. Any country interested in joining the IHP can approach the WHO and World Bank directly, once they have discussed IHP membership with their partners in-country.

Tamils

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation of Tamils in Sri Lanka. [218669]

Mr. Malik: The humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka is remains very serious. As a result of violence, long-term conflict and the 2006 tsunami, there are over 800,000 internally displaced persons. The continuous closure of the main A9 highway linking the Jaffna peninsula with the mainland has made land access impossible for the mainly Tamil speaking residents, severely compromised the local economy and led to the increase in the prices of essential items. Internally displaced people from the Jaffna district as well as parts of north-eastern Sri Lanka remain unable to return to their homes due to the demarcation of large areas as "High Security Zones".

The UK, EU and the wider international community have repeatedly pressed the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE to guarantee free access for relief agencies to deliver humanitarian aid to all Sri Lankans affected by the fighting. In September 2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £1 million to the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross to help provide protection and humanitarian assistance to people affected by the violence. DFID has already contributed a further £250,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 2008 Appeal. DFID continues to closely monitor the humanitarian situation, including by sending regular monitoring missions to Sri Lanka, the last being in November 2007.

Transparency International: Finance

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to Transparency International in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how much of such funding was allocated to projects in Venezuela. [218601]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has provided the following funding to Transparency International:

	£
2005-06	250,000
2006-07	1,000,000
2007-08	[1]1,125,000

[1] Estimated

All of this was unrestricted funding provided to the Berlin-based Transparency International Secretariat. None was ear-marked for Venezuela.

JUSTICE

Credit Cards: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of fraud involving credit card skimming in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217109]

Maria Eagle: There is no specific offence relating to credit card skimming, however people may be prosecuted under various sections of the 1968 and 1978 Theft Acts. Data covering offences under the relevant sections of these acts for the number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Frauds occurring after 15 January 2007 may be prosecuted under various sections of the Fraud Act 2006. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the following table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for certain offences relating to fraud, in England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2, 3]

	Found guilty
2002	10,868
2003	10,018
2004	9,072
2005	8,001
2006	6,484

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15
Obtaining property by deception
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15A as added by Theft (Amendment) Act 1996 S.1
Obtaining a money transfer by deception
Theft Act 1968 Sec 16 (1)(2)(b) and (c)
Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception (except railway frauds)
Theft Act 1978 Sees 1 and 2
Railway Frauds
Theft Act 1978 Sec 1
Obtaining services by deception (except railway frauds)
Theft Act 1978 Sec 2
Evasion of liability by deception (except railway frauds)
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and each of its agencies are assigned to a people action team. [217438]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not have staff who are part of a 'people action team'.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215214]

Mr. Wills: Details of my Department's centrally funded expenditure on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications is as follows: 12 months to June 2007: approximately £1,250 per month; 12 months to June 2008: approximately £16,591 per month. However, approximately £4,400 per month is recovered locally from prisoner monies.

The latter figure includes expenditure for the National Offender Management Service, including Her Majesty's Prison Service, following the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

Expenditure on subscriptions held locally by courts, tribunals and other business areas for which my Department is responsible, could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 55W, on departmental security, what types of data breaches were notified by public sector organisations. [217439]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner encourages organisations to report serious data breaches to his Office, although there is no legal obligation on them to do so. The severity and impact of the breaches varies, in part because of the subjective criteria used by organisations when deciding whether to notify. Breaches referred to the ICO only involve information relating to individuals.

The types of data breaches recorded by the Information Commissioner, based on voluntary notification by public sector organisations from November 2007 to July 2008 include the loss or theft of computer or laptop; website security problems; loss of paper records; loss of removable media or discs and inappropriate disclosure of information.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, on economic and monetary union, for what reasons he is not planning to place a copy of his Department's euro changeover plan in the Library. [217437]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is undergoing a huge transformation, and is still in the process of settling into the reorganised structure.

It would be inappropriate to place a copy of the Plan in its current format in the Library, as it requires updating to reflect the new Department.

The Euro Team will consider the timing and appropriateness of updating the plan, and a decision to place an updated copy in the Library will be made in due course.

Electoral Register

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people eligible to vote who are not on the electoral register in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each London local authority area. [217140]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any estimate of the number and proportion of people eligible to vote who are not on the electoral register in England, each English region and each London local authority area.

The Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote in their report, "Understanding Electoral Registration", which was published in September 2005. However the number of electors registered in England continues to grow and between 2 December 2006 and 1 December 2007 the number of parliamentary electors grew from 37,588,775 to 37,817,466 and the number of local government electors grew from 38,223,259 to 38,599,775.

The Government have taken a number of steps to increase voter registration rates. Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house enquiries and inspecting records that they are permitted to inspect. It is for the ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with. To support such activities we have made £2.5 million available each financial year under our Participation Fund, which allows EROs to apply for additional funding to assist them in promoting electoral awareness within their areas.

The Electoral Administration Act also includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for electoral registration officers. The Electoral Commission are currently developing these standards and the final set of standards will be published in July 2008. A copy of these standards which will be laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will give us a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of those eligible to vote who are registered as electors in *(a)* Luton South and *(b)* the UK; and what steps he is taking to increase levels of voter registration. [217434]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any estimate of the proportion of those eligible to vote, who are registered as electors in Luton, South and the UK. However, as of the 1 December 2007 the parliamentary registration figure for Luton, South is 70,221 and the combined figure for local government electors in the Luton borough is 138,409. I am aware that the decrease in electoral registration rates in Luton, South may be due to a change in the local population, which is made up of student accommodation and large properties converted into dwellings of multiple occupancy.

The Office for National Statistics has recently published electoral registration rates for the UK following the 2007 annual canvass. These confirm that the levels of voter registration in parliamentary elections increased by 307,669 to 45,082,854 and the levels of voter registration in local government elections increased by 463,340 to 45,920,503.

The Government have taken a number of steps to increase voter registration rates. Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house enquiries and inspecting records that they are permitted to inspect. It is for the ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with.

To support such activities we have made £2.5 million available each financial year under our Participation Fund, which allows EROs to apply for additional funding to assist them in promoting electoral awareness within their areas.

The Act also includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for EROs. The Electoral Commission is currently developing these standards and the final set of standards will be published during July 2008. A copy of these standards will be laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will give us a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214905]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214906]

Bridget Prentice: Catering services to meet the Ministry of Justice's requirements are contracted out and provided by commercial suppliers. It is not possible to identify the five countries from which the greatest amount of food was procured during the period 1 July to 30 June 2007 as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, information requested for Her Majesty's Prison Service is as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	39.35
2003-04	42.14
2004-05	43.28
2005-06	47.90
2006-07	47.32

The only figure that is available for food of British origin procured by Her Majesty's Prison Service is £17,508,400 in 2006-07.

37 per cent. of food was domestically produced (as previously published in the DEFRA report:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf.

George Kelly

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence officials in his Department have had (i) internally and (ii) with the Treasury Solicitor's Department on the proposal to resolve the outstanding issues in the George Kelly case by mediation; [217290]

(2) what invoices his Department has received for work undertaken by the Treasury Solicitor on his Department's behalf in connection with matters related to the George Kelly case; and what payments have been made in respect of such invoices. [217291]

Bridget Prentice: The proposal to resolve the issues in the late George Kelly case by mediation is still under consideration and there have been a number of discussions both internally, and externally with Treasury Solicitor. In the case of the level of compensation due in respect of Mr. Kelly's wrongful conviction and subsequent hanging in 1950, these are matters entirely for the independent assessor now that the case has been approved for compensation under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Invoices totalling £39,102.25 (including VAT) have been raised in relation to Treasury Solicitor's time spent on litigation involving Mr. George Kelly plus £10,434.07 (including VAT) for disbursements.

Government Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Information Commissioner has provided to Departments on whether the cost of time taken to redact information should be taken into account in deciding whether a response to a freedom of information request exceeds the appropriate fees limit. [217358]

Mr. Straw: My Department has published comprehensive guidance on its website to help public authorities calculate the fees limit under the Freedom of Information Act. We believe that redacting both exempt information and information that is not within the scope of a request are countable activities towards the section 12 cost limit.

The Information Commissioner has said he will publish guidance on this subject in the near future.

Hunting Act: Prosecutions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have *(a)* been brought and *(b)* resulted in convictions under the Hunting Act 2004; and whether any convictions have been successfully appealed against. [217264]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The Hunting Act 2004 came into force on 18 February 2005.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2004	0	0
2005	3	3
2006	11	5

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute and corresponding offence description:
Hunting Act 2004 SS.1 and 6
Hunting a wild mammal with a dog
Hunting Act 2004 SS.3(1) and 6
Knowingly permitting land to be entered or used in the course of hunting a wild mammal with dogs
Hunting Act 2004 SS.3(2) and 6
Knowingly permitting a dog to be used in the course of hunting a wild mammal
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(1) (a) and 6
Participating in a hare coursing event
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(1) (b) and 6
Attending a hare coursing event
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(1) (c) and 6
Knowingly facilitating a hare coursing event
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(1) (d) and 6
Permitting land to be used for the purpose of a hare coursing event
Hunting Act 2004 S.5(2)
Permitting etc a dog to participate in a hare coursing event

Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Information Commissioner

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 683-84W, on the Information Commissioner, what steps he is taking to assist the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to speed up the processing of its caseload; and what consideration he has given to providing additional resources to the ICO. [217112]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent body created by statute. Its responsibilities include handling complaints made under the Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The ICO's freedom of information work is funded by grant in aid paid through my department. Separately, the ICO's data protection work is funded by the notification fees it receives when data controllers register with the ICO and which the Office is allowed to retain with the Treasury's agreement. Within this funding framework, as an independent office, the ICO has autonomy to decide how to allocate resources to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

The Government are committed fully to both freedom of information and data protection. My Department and the ICO regularly review the resources available to his office and as part of that dialogue my Department provides constructive challenge to ensure that the ICO delivers maximum efficiency and secures the best value from the public money allocated for its statutory responsibilities.

In each of the last four financial years, my Department has given the ICO additional funding for his freedom of information work. This year the additional funding represented a 10 per cent. increase on his baseline.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice has promoted a secondment scheme to assist the ICO in tackling the outstanding backlog of freedom of information cases. Under the scheme secondees from central Government Departments, paid for by their Departments, will work at the ICO to assist with clearing the backlog. This was in response to the Commissioner's request for staffing as well as funding.

My Department is also in discussion with the ICO about funding for its data protection responsibilities. Government have agreed to consider new powers for the ICO for data protection inspections and that the fee arrangements should be reviewed to ensure that new powers are accompanied by funding to support the exercise of these powers.

Michael Shields

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what decision he has reached on the determination of his jurisdiction in the case of Michael Shields; and if he will make a statement. [217648]

Mr. Straw: I have held a number of meetings with my hon. Friend and other supporters of Michael Shields, most recently on 3 July 2008. I expect to write to Mr. Shields' legal team shortly on the issue my hon. Friend has raised and I will, of course, copy her in my letter.

National Identity: Public Participation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are to use citizens' juries or citizens' panels to discuss the Government's policy on Britishness. [217366]

Mr. Wills: We are planning a wide-ranging engagement process for the British Statement of Values to enable as many people as possible to participate in the debate. This will involve a series of deliberative style events, which could include citizens' juries or citizens' panels. We expect to make an announcement about the way ahead before the summer recess.

The Government have recently published a discussion document "A national framework for greater citizen engagement" that sets out proposals for greater use of deliberative engagement techniques in national policy making-including citizens' juries.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 have been *(a)* female and *(b)* male. [217113]

Mr. Straw: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that there were no convictions for 2006 for this offence.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figure provided relates to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to amend the sentencing guidelines for magistrates courts for offences of possession of an offensive weapon due to commence on 4th August 2008. [217570]

Mr. Straw: The revised Magistrates Courts Sentencing Guidelines are the responsibility of the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council, operating within the sentencing framework laid down by Parliament. The Court of Appeal, which has a crucial role in interpreting the law—has recently made clear—Sir Igor Judge's judgment in the case of R *v.* Povey and others—that possession of a knife is "a serious offence and it should be treated with the seriousness it deserves". The guidelines give ample scope for the courts to do this.

The Government's concerns about knife crime are reflected in the fact that last year we doubled the maximum sentence for possession of a knife to four years. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 5 June an end to cautions for knife possession—replacing it with a presumption to prosecute. Anyone over the age of 16 caught in possession of a knife can expect to be prosecuted on the first offence rather than cautioned.

Recovery of Costs

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to the judiciary on the amount of costs that can be recovered by a litigant from an opponent ordered to pay costs in litigation. [217292]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor does not issue guidance to the judiciary on the amount of costs that can be recovered by a litigant from an opponent ordered to pay costs in litigation.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Sequestration

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of developments in carbon capture and storage technology. [218477]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department keeps developments in carbon capture and storage (CCS) under close review, taking account of research and development in the UK and globally (including through links with the International Energy Agency). In addition, the Government support research and development, and demonstration, of CCS technologies through my Department, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Technology Strategy Board. The Energy Technologies Institute has also identified CCS as a priority area for research.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which would be created by development and implementation of carbon capture and storage technology in the UK; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on coalfield areas of such developments. [218478]

Malcolm Wicks: The development of the carbon capture and storage industry is still in its very early stages and therefore it is difficult to estimate the number of jobs that would be created. However, if carbon capture and storage technologies achieve their potential, there will be a global market worth billions of pounds where UK-based firms will be well placed given the UK's leading position on CCS.

As the EU emissions trading scheme cap on CO_2 emissions tightens, power generators will increasingly need to find ways of producing electricity with lower emissions. The successful development of CCS technologies could enable coal-fired power stations to play a greater part in our future energy mix than might otherwise have been the case. UK coalfields could benefit from this ongoing demand for coal; the majority of their output today supplies power stations.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212912]

Mr. Thomas: The current value of property held by the Department is £1.33 million and by associated public bodies is £1,564.4 million.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215170]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not hold this information centrally and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Substantive answer from Gareth Thomas to Mark Hoban:

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/3224) asking what the (a) scheduled date and (b) title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each.

The Insolvency Service has cancelled one conference proposed in the last 10 years, on 17 January 2007 entitled "Presentation of Research Findings by Professors Katz and Mumford".

As this conference was being held in-house, there were no costs involved.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 14 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not cancelled any proposed conferences in the last ten years.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204402]

Malcolm Wicks: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Scotland eight times; Wales once, and no visits have been made to Northern Ireland. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, which former special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused permission by his Department or its predecessor to take up an outside appointment on leaving their post since May 2005. [210920]

Mr. Thomas: Personal information about the applications submitted by special advisers, and other Crown servants, is made public only in accordance with the principles

and practices followed in the operation of the business appointment rules. This information, which includes details of the appointments of the most senior staff and statistical data about cases at the more junior levels, is published on the website of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (www.acoba.gov.uk) and in its reports.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209245]

Mr. Thomas: BERR has committed in its 2008-09 Sustainable Development Action Plan, to be published shortly, to produce a carbon reduction strategy.

The action plan will include initiatives aimed at reducing the environmental impact of business travel, and will be published on the Department's website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service[1] and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

[1] Copies of the Insolvency Service's Environmental Policy and Transport Policy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Services in respect of your question (2007/2865) asking when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan.

The Insolvency Service introduced a green transport plan within its Environmental Policy and Action Plan, in 2001.This was supplemented by a Transport Policy in 2004, and is currently being reviewed as part of a wider review of our environmental strategy.

Copies of the above documents are attached.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 14 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House does not have a formal green transport plan. We do, however, have a car share scheme open to all staff, and we have a diesel mini bus that is used between our two South Wales sites minimising the amount of car usage. Last year we also initiated a salary sacrifice scheme which allowed staff to purchase bicycles and pay for them monthly through their salaries.

Staff are also encouraged to use video-conferencing and telephone-conferencing facilities rather than travel to meetings.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213144]

Mr. Thomas: For all successful applicants for jobs in BERR that require unescorted access to BERR London offices, there is a check of both spent and unspent criminal records. Successful applicants for posts in BERR that do not require unescorted access to London buildings are required to provide a self-declaration of unspent criminal records. On a random basis, 20 per cent. of these self-declarations are checked.

Information on the number of successful applicants, number of criminal checks and how many successful applicants had a criminal record in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Energy Supply: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of energy price differentials for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* industrial consumers in different regions of the UK. [218987]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

(a) Regional price differentials in domestic electricity and gas prices are published quarterly in tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 respectively of Quarterly Energy Prices, available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html.

A copy of this is also available from the House of Commons Library.

(b) Regional energy price differentials for industrial consumers are not collected. Industrial prices tend to be driven by tariff negotiations between energy suppliers and individual companies rather than by regional differences.

UK prices for industrial consumers are published in table 3.1.1 of Quarterly Energy Prices.

Energy: Disconnections

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W, on energy disconnections, if he will provide a breakdown of the disconnections data given by constituency. [217286]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) does not collect data about gas and electricity disconnections by constituency. The disconnection data are collected into a separate region for England, Scotland and Wales, or, by individual energy supplier. Data by supplier were included in the answer of 2 July. In the eight quarters to quarter 3 2007, the last period for which data have been published, the number of disconnections by region were:

Electricity

	Q4 2005	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007
England	141	193	199	293	358	428	435	609
Scotland	3	3	21	51	74	79	115	47
Wales	24	17	6	18	25	37	32	16
GB	168	213	226	362	457	544	582	672

Gas

	Q4 2005	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007
England	632	659	768	976	952	1210	1311	1318
Scotland	27	20	58	97	151	122	171	101
Wales	39	44	39	39	56	58	59	43
GB	698	723	865	1,112	1,159	1,390	1,541	1,462

Energy: Housing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding he has allocated for provision of information to domestic consumers on purchasing their energy supply in 2008-09. [217077]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not provide funding for the provision of information to domestic customers on purchasing energy supply. Domestic customers can obtain details of price and level of service offered by energy suppliers from Energywatch, the statutory gas and electricity consumer body, from its website at:

www.energywatch.org.uk

EU Energy Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what matters were *(a)* discussed and *(b)* decided at the EU Energy Council meeting on 4 and 5 July; and if he will publish on his Departmental website copies of the documents submitted to the meeting. [218244]

Malcolm Wicks: I represented the UK at the informal EU Energy Council on 4-5 July organised by the French presidency. The main discussion was on the renewable energy directive, with the debate focused on the sustainability of biofuels and flexibilities required for the EU to achieve the 20 per cent. renewable energy target in a cost-effective way. There was also an exchange of national best practice on energy efficiency and a presentation on energy security in advance of the 2nd Strategic Energy Review, expected to be published later this year. This was an informal meeting, so no formal decisions were made nor conclusions reached and the Government submitted no documents to the meeting. A post-council written ministerial statement was published in *Hansard* on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 79WS.

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of *(a)* heating oil and *(b)* other fuel users living in fuel poverty. [217596]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest available data are for 2005:

2005

	Millions of households fuel poor	Percentage of group fuel poor
Heating oil	0.13	15.2
Other fuel	1.40	6.9
All households	1.53	7.2

Further details of fuel poverty my main heating fuel are contained in the Fuel Poverty Detailed Tables published as an annex to the Fuel Poverty Strategy Report online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/strategy/index.html

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of *(a)* heating oil and *(b)* other fuel users lived in fuel poverty in each of the last 10 years. [217597]

Malcolm Wicks: Splits of fuel poverty in England by use of heating oil and other fuels are only available for the years listed as follows. The data are derived from the English House Conditions Survey in each year.

	Heating oil	Other fuel	All households
2001			
Millions of households fuel poor	0.12	1.60	1.72
Percentage of group fuel poor	19.1	8.1	8.4
2003			
Millions of households fuel poor	0.04	1.18	1.22
Percentage of group fuel poor	5.7	5.9	5.9
2004			
Millions of households fuel poor	0.06	1.18	1.24
Percentage of group fuel poor	7.0	5.9	5.9
2005			
Millions of households fuel poor	0.13	1.4	1.53
Percentage of group fuel poor	15.2	6.9	7.2

Variation in heating oil fuel poverty levels can be attributable to real changes but will also be effected by the small sample size in the EHCS and the volatility of heating oil prices.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what targets his Department has set on assisting heating oil users in fuel poverty. [217660]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has joint responsibility with DEFRA to eradicate as far as reasonably practicable fuel poverty in vulnerable households by 2010 in England and in all households by 2016, whatever form of heating they use.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grant funding is available to businesses in Leeds under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [213307]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Building programme, with a budget of £86 million, has allocated £30 million to 6,300 projects, including £6.5 million to 154 projects in the private sector. However, funding streams for business are now closed to new applicants. As a result of projects supported under previous funding rounds, we are working closely with the Carbon Trust on a number of private sector projects to raise awareness of the potential for combining microgeneration with energy efficiency to develop low carbon buildings.

By opting to generate their own renewable and low carbon energy businesses can help tackle climate change by moving from being passive users of energy to active production. This can increase self-sufficiency and security of supply in the face of great uncertainty over energy prices. We are looking again at what incentives we can offer to businesses who wish to generate their own renewable energy in the Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation document published in June details of which can be found at:

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/

Wider Government activities to support businesses with an interest in low carbon technologies, include for example, the renewables obligation and the Carbon Trust provides site surveys to organisations looking to reduce their energy demand. Further details are available at:

www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/sme_toolkit.htm

Microgeneration

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has allocated to fund the microgeneration element of *(a)* the green homes project and *(b)* the Act on CO_2 advice line for 2008-09. [217243]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy White Paper and recent Renewable Energy Strategy consultation stress the importance of providing advice on distributed energy including microgeneration. I look forward to the responses to the consultation on this issue.

We work closely with Energy Saving Trust, who run the green homes project and Act on CO_2 advice line, and manage the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase One on our behalf. We are supportive of the green homes project and Act on CO_2 advice lines but have not allocated funding specifically for it.

Mines Rescue Service: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given in the last year to the proposal that the Government serve as a guarantor of the financial bonds the European Commission requires from the Mines Rescue Service Limited for its participation in the research programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel; and if he will make a statement. [207880]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* Over the past year the Coal Forum, which we established in 2006, has considered various aspects of the statutory mines rescue scheme and the company which provides that service (Mines Rescue Service Ltd.), including issues of funding. I am conscious of the position as regards bonds and will continue to explore options which might assist in managing the cash flow implications of the current requirement.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on its submission to the consultation on the future of nuclear power, with particular reference to *(a)* radioactive waste disposal and *(b)* security issues. [218240]

Malcolm Wicks: Ministers have regular contacts with Welsh Assembly colleagues on a range of issues and officials have discussed with Welsh Assembly colleagues actions arising from the Government's decision to allow companies to build new nuclear power stations.

Nuclear Power: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the availability of *(a)* electrical engineers and *(b)* systems engineers for the future nuclear power and decommissioning programmes. [218231]

Malcolm Wicks: Our White Paper on Nuclear Power sets out our view in sections 2.190 to 2.216. This is that the energy sector, nuclear and otherwise, faces challenges in meeting its need for skilled workers, but that the situation is manageable and that building new nuclear power stations does not present a significantly greater challenge than the alternatives. Indeed, a nuclear renaissance presents opportunities for companies to grow and for individuals to have rewarding careers.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said at our Nuclear Investors' Conference on 12 June, we want the new Office of Nuclear Development we are establishing to work with skills bodies, employers, universities and colleges to help identify skills shortages and gaps so we can deliver learning, research and training at every level of our education system. As part of this, the Sector

Skills Network is completing a report on energy sector skills, which we expect to publish this summer. This will outline the demand, what is being done and make recommendations where Government can help develop the future skills base. Government will respond to this report.

Oil: Production

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with Ministerial colleagues on the production of contingency plans for each Department to cover *(a)* the eventuality of global oil production peaking and *(b)* continued high oil prices. [216969]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government constantly monitor risks to the UK economy, including from energy-related developments, as detailed in the Energy White Paper (May 2007) and the Long-term Opportunities and Challenges for the UK (November 2006). In addition, the UK's policies, as outlined in the Energy White Paper, in promoting open and competitive markets, increasing energy efficiency, investing in low carbon technologies and the use of alternative energy sources such as renewables will reduce the risks to the UK of any potential future declines in global oil and gas production. Given these initiatives and policies, the government does not feel the need to hold contingency plans specifically for peak oil

The Government test the robustness of their policies against a number of oil price scenarios. These oil price assumptions are published for the period till 2030 and are disseminated throughout Whitehall and where relevant are used by Government Departments in their analytical work. In order to capture some of the uncertainty around future oil prices there are four illustrative scenarios used: low, central, high and high-high. Further details are available at the following links:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46071.pdf

Renewable Energy: Incentives

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the operation of feed-in tariff policies in other EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [212586]

Malcolm Wicks: In the context of the Renewable Energy Strategy we have considered a variety of approaches taken by other EU countries to encourage renewable generation, including different feed-in tariff mechanisms. We believe we should retain the renewables obligation as the prime means of support for renewable centralised electricity but are consulting on a number of possible measures to overcome the constraints to small-scale energy generation through the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation, including feed-in tariffs.

The consultation can be accessed at:

http://renewablesconsultation.berr.gov.uk/

Renewable Energy: National Grid

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average connection charges to the National Grid are for *(a)* renewable generation in Scotland and *(b)* renewable generation in the UK excluding Scotland. [212642]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* It is not possible to compare the connection charges to national grid in Scotland with those in England and Wales, on a like-for-like basis.

In England and Wales, most generators connect directly to national grid. As the generator owns most of the actual connection assets, there are no annual connection charges.

In Scotland, the transmission network owners (SHETL and SPTL) own most of the connection assets. SHETL and SPTL define the connection charges payable by generators for such "connection" assets and pass those charges through to national grid as GB system operator.

Selecting 10 recently signed agreements for renewable generators in Scotland, national grid advise that the average annual connection charge payable as advanced capital contributions in instalments up to completion of the works is £2.3 million.

Sellafield

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent communications or discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other departmental Ministers and *(c)* officials, have had with (i) the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and (ii) consortium applicants for the Sellafield decommissioning contract on the indemnification of the contract holder against claims arising from property damage, the cost to human health, or the cost of measures of reinstatement of any significantly impaired environment in the event of an on-site accident or other incident resulting in the dispersal of radioactive materials off-site. [217786]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has been informed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) that it expects to have to grant an indemnity against uninsurable claims arising from a nuclear incident that fall outside the protections offered by the Nuclear Installations Act and the Paris/Brussels Convention to whichever of the four bidders for the Sellafield contract is successful. The NDA is conducting the Sellafield parent body organisation competition under the EU Competitive Dialogue procedure, evaluating the four bids received against agreed evaluation criteria. Within that process bidders were invited to make proposals for a nuclear indemnity under competitive tension against an established framework. It would not be viable for any of the bidders to proceed without an indemnity because any fee earning benefits of the contract would be overwhelmed by the potential liabilities. The NDA has assessed that the benefits of engaging a new contractor far outweigh the remote risk that an indemnity might be called upon. The final form of the indemnity will reflect the specific terms proposed by the preferred bidder.

Social Fuel Tariff

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many consumers there are on a social fuel tariff from each of the six top energy suppliers, broken down by constituency. [217285]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Data on social fuel tariffs broken down by constituency do not exist. Ofgem published an aggregated review of suppliers' voluntary initiatives in August 2007 and updated the figures in October 2007.

Wind Power: Planning

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to increase the number of wind farms in the United Kingdom in the next 10 years. [219027]

Malcolm Wicks: On 26 June 2008 the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform launched a public consultation on a UK Renewable Energy Strategy. The consultation seeks views on how to drive up the use of renewable energy in the UK—including on and offshore wind—as part of our overall strategy for tackling climate change, and to meet our share of the EU target to source 20 per cent. of the EU's energy from renewable sources by 2020. The strategy will be published in spring 2009.

The consultation, which runs until 26 September 2008, can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page46797.html.

A copy of the consultation document is also available in the Libraries of both Houses.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the UK's progress towards achieving the EU benchmark on adult participation in lifelong learning. [217999]

Mr. Lammy: The UK has surpassed the EU benchmark on adult participation in lifelong learning. The EU benchmark is for 12.5 per cent. of the working age population of the EU to be participating in education and training by 2010. In the UK, 26.8 per cent. of the working age population were participating in education and training in 2006 when the most recent data were collected for this benchmark, which is an increase from 20.5 per cent. in 2000.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department since its creation and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215553]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. Travel by Ministers and civil servants are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The Department does not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212870]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. To provide a response to this question would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct since the Department was established. [217412]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created in the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007 with staff from the ex-Department for Education and Skills (DFES), and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) being incorporated into the new Department. No officials have been dismissed or disciplined for their conduct since the establishment of the Department.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement since the Department was established. [217378]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was formed as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Department's people information is maintained on the HR management systems of the two Departments from which staff were transferred, namely BERR and DCSF. To obtain the information would be deemed a disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216421]

Mr. Lammy: All DIUS staff are issued with laptops which they can take home and work from; therefore all staff have access to the IT infrastructure.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the change in the number of employees of his Department and its agencies has been since the Department was established. [217068]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was established as part of the machinery of government changes of 28 June 2007. At the point of establishment, there were 779 employees in the Department; at 31 May 2008 there were 802 employees. The overall increase of 23 staff includes 32 additional Government Skills staff who transferred into the Department from the Cabinet Office on 1 April 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the period since the Department was established. [217370]

Mr. Lammy: My Department was created on 28 June 2007. In accordance to the Cabinet Office guidance, broadly 75 per cent. of senior civil servants have not received the maximum annual bonus available in their grade. The pay settlement for grade 6s and below has yet to be finalised.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted since its establishment. [215534]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not submitted any planning or licensing applications since its establishment in June 2007.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215208]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. To provide an accurate response would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies since its creation. [215606]

Mr. Lammy: Nine departmental access passes have been reported lost or stolen since its creation. There is nothing on the pass which indicates which buildings or organisations it gives access to.

Answers in respect of our agencies could be given only at disproportionate cost.

Security and pass issuance services in respect of London staff are provided on behalf of this Department by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and answers given by that Department may include DIUS staff as well.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many working days have been lost due to sickness among employees for which his Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218031]

Mr. Lammy: Cabinet Office has recently introduced a revised format for reporting sickness absence statistics across the Civil Service. The new format was introduced at the end of March 2008 and the reports now cover the period up to 31 March 2008. The figure for annual average working days lost due to sickness in the Department up to that date is 7.9 per staff member. The annual number of days lost is 10,464.18.

The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. Sickness absence data for the Department's predecessors, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Trade and Industry, for 2006-07, 2005 and 2004, including the average number of days taken as sick leave are published on the Civil Service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

along with data for other departments and agencies.

Earlier sickness data are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215647]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Department does not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Education: Hyndburn

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of the population of Hyndburn constituency which has been educated to NVQ level 4 or above. [218292]

Bill Rammell: DIUS uses the Annual Population Survey (APS) to provide local estimates of educational attainment. DIUS estimates that in 2006, 22.5 per cent.

of women aged 19 to 59 and men aged 19 to 64 in Hyndburn were qualified to NVQ level 4 or above. The comparable figures for the North West and England were 26.6 per cent. and 28.9 per cent. respectively.

The economic and social benefits of increasing high level skills are felt at a local as well as national level, unlocking the potential of towns and people by attracting, nurturing and retaining talent in a local area. In "Higher Education at Work-High Skills: High Value" we have consulted on our strategy to increase the numbers of people with qualifications at level 4 and above.

EU Education and Training 2010 Work Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of the EU Education and Training 2010 Work Programme. [218011]

Mr. Lammy: The EU Education and Training 2010 Work Programme, developed to give direction to the role of education and training within the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, has added value across the European Union to a policy area which is the responsibility of individual member states.

Performance of the work programme is assessed through a series of EU benchmarks and indicators which identify priority areas for improvement in the field of education and training. A biennial joint report of the European Council and Commission highlights progress towards these benchmarks across the EU and gives further strategic direction to the work programme.

Within these priority areas, the open method of coordination, on which the activities of the work programme are based, provides a platform for exchange of best practice and peer learning across member states, through cluster group work and ministerial exchanges of views at EU Education Council.

European Pact for Youth

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's role is in activities being carried out in England under the European Pact for Youth. [216648]

Mr. Lammy: The European Youth Pact calls on member states to equip young people with the necessary knowledge, opportunities, skills and competencies to ensure that they can contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon goals of boosting jobs and growth. The Department's role is to share our experience with other EU member states and the Commission as part of encouraging good practice. The pact is implemented in England through our domestic policies, for example the Department's work on skills and joint work with DCSF on apprenticeships.

European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the UK's role is in the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. [217996]

Bill Rammell: The UK supports the European Qualifications Framework as we believe it has the potential to improve the recognition of skills throughout Europe, allowing national qualifications to be translated more effectively between different countries. This will play an important role in helping our labour markets work better.

European Space Agency: Small Businesses

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effects of European Space Agency projects on levels of employment in small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(c)* Leeds Metropolitan District. [218013]

Ian Pearson: There are no estimates available relating solely to small and medium-sized business employment on European Space Agency projects. However, in the "Size and Health of the UK Space Industry" survey published by BNSC in 2006, analysis indicated that 16,200 people were employed in the space sector in the UK in 2004-05. Of these, 15,830 were employed in England with 620 in Yorkshire and Humberside. There are no data available relating specifically to the Leeds metropolitan district.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 17 and 18 year olds who took A-levels in 2007 *(a)* applied to and *(b)* have enrolled in a higher education institution. [216894]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The proportion of A-level students who applied to university is not available.

(b) Detailed information on higher education enrolments is not yet available for 2007/08. The proportion of maintained school pupils who took A-levels in 2003/04, who entered a UK higher education institution in 2004/05 or 2005/06, was 70.7 per cent.

If we consider only those pupils who "gained 2 or more" GCE A-levels in 2003/04, 79.5 per cent. entered a UK higher education institution in 2004/05 or 2005/06.

These figures are obtained using linked National Pupil Database and Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record datasets. Additional students may have applied for higher education courses in 2006/07 or 2007/08 but linked data are not yet available which allow us to track the above students into higher education later than 2005/06.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research has been undertaken by his Department on the reasons why 18-year-olds with an academic or vocational Level 3 qualification decide not to enter higher education by the age of 19 years. [216926]

Bill Rammell: The Youth Cohort Study asked those with five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, who were studying level 3 academic or vocational qualifications in 2002/03 and were not intending to apply to university in the near future, to give reasons as to why they were not

applying. The following table summarises the reasons that were given by the 299 respondents.

The respondent to this survey would be considering entering HE in 2003/04 (at age 18) or in 2004/05 (at age 19) and as such would have entered under an old student support system. So reasons regarding finance are unlikely to be relevant to young people now or in more recent history.

	Reason[1]	*Percentage of respondents citing reason*
1.	It is expensive/you can get into debt	21
2.	I wanted to become financially independent	9
3.	I wanted to start earning money	20
4.	There is no guarantee of a good job at the end	2
5.	The application process is difficult/off-putting	1
6.	I wasn't sure what would be like/I didn't have enough information	1
7.	I was worried about fitting in/settling in	–
8.	Didn't think I would get in/didn't get high enough grades	10
9.	The work load can be hard/doubts about ability to finish course	7
10.	Teachers/careers staff advised me to get a job	–
11.	Family encouraged me to start working	–
12.	All/most of my friends were looking for jobs	–
13.	Never thought of applying/no particular reason	6
14.	Other	44
15.	Not yet decided	6

[1] Respondents could give more than one reason.

Note:
YCS cohort 11, based on 299 respondents.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18 year olds from the 20 *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authority areas entered higher education in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [218606]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Funding Council for England analyse the geography of young participation in higher education. The exact specification requested is not currently available but they have provided some provisional figures (from a report on trends in young participation that is currently in preparation) that relate to the young (18 and 19 year old) HE participation rates of deprived areas.

The 20 per cent. of English small areas recorded as most deprived by the 2004 version of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) had a young HE participation rate of 13.8 per cent. for 1998-99 and 18.3 per cent. for 2006-07 (projected). The corresponding figures for the least deprived 20 per cent. are 48.7 per cent. (1998-99) and 50.5 per cent. (2006-07, projected). Figures are not available for the 1997/98 and 2007/08 academic years.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of the population of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency which has been educated to NVQ level 4 or above. [218614]

Bill Rammell: DIUS uses the Annual Population Survey (APS) to provide local estimates of educational attainment. DIUS estimates that in 2006, 26.1 per cent. of women aged 19-59 and men aged 19-64 in Bexleyheath and Crayford were qualified to NVQ level 4 or above. The comparable figures for Greater London and England were 36.5 per cent. and 28.9 per cent. respectively. DIUS local estimates of attainment down to local authority level are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000747/index.shtml.

However, it should be noted that all these APS estimates are currently undergoing revision following the reweighting of all underlying datasets to reflect more up to date population estimates from ONS. The DIUS published series will be revised and updated to include 2007 estimates in August.

Higher Education: Teachers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the average age of a lecturer was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; [217997]

(2) what the average length of time was that a lecturer had spent in the profession *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [218001]

Bill Rammell: According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Staff Record, the average age of Academic Lecturers and Senior Lecturers and Researchers who are teaching only or teaching and research was 44 in the 1997/98 academic year and 45 in the 2006/07 academic year. The age of academic staff is as at 31 August and the average age is calculated on known ages only. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Information showing the average length of time that a lecturer had spent in the profession is not available. Lecturers are likely to change institutions throughout their career and the HESA Staff Record is unable to follow the path of a lecturer throughout their career.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215663]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Department does not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Students

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* others on the contribution that those from overseas studying at universities in England and Wales make to the national economy; and if he will make a statement; [216204]

(2) what estimate he has made of the income which accrued to each university from the teaching and supervision of overseas students in each of the last three years, broken down by country of origin. [216348]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chancellor and others on the benefits of international students to the United Kingdom economy. "Global Value", a study published by the British Council in September 2007, estimated that the total value of international higher education students to the UK economy as being over £5.6 billion a year. In 2006/07, the latest year for which data are available, there were 351,470 non-UK domiciled students studying in the UK, of which 308,990 were at higher education institutions in England and Wales.

Tables showing the requested information about *(a)* country of domicile for students at each higher education institution in England and Wales and *(b)* the income received by each higher education institution in respect of tuition fees are being sent to the hon. Member separately. A copy of each table has been placed in the Libraries.

Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 7187-8W, how much debt incurred by students from EU member states receiving tuition fee *(a)* loans and *(b)* grants was (i) written off and (ii) behind schedule in each year for which figures are available. [213469]

Bill Rammell: Since students from EU member states became eligible for tuition fee loans in September 2006, fewer than five student loan borrowers from EU member states have had their loan balances written off. The two main reasons for these loans being cancelled were death and permanent disability. These write-offs took place in the financial year 2007-08. To ensure that no individual can be identified and to maintain their confidentiality the exact number of borrowers has been rounded and the amount of money excluded.

On 31 March 2008, no EU students were behind schedule in making repayments.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* maintenance grants, *(b)* student loans, and *(c)* teaching costs for students at English universities who did not complete their studies in the most recent 12 months, broken down by (i) UK-domiciled undergraduates, (ii) EU-domiciled undergraduates, (iii) international undergraduates, (iv) UK-domiciled postgraduates, (v) EU-domiciled postgraduates and (vi) international postgraduates. [214005]

Bill Rammell: Student retention rates at higher education institutions in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks 5th in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. The Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent. We have significantly increased the financial support for students, and working with Higher Education Institutions and other partners, improved guidance and other support to students. A university education is now open to more students than ever before.

Grants and allowances and student loans made in academic year 2006/07 to students who Students Loans Company were subsequently notified had withdrawn from their course

	Domicile	*Students*	*Amount paid (£)*
Grants and allowances[1]	English	17,100	26,171,000
Student loans			
Fees and Maintenance	English	28,100	80,394,000
Tuition fees only	EU	300	371,000

[1] Includes maintenance grants and other grants and allowances but excludes tuition fee grants. This information is not available for maintenance grants separately. Grants and allowances paid to students who withdrew from their courses represent 4 per cent. of all grants and allowances paid. Loans made to students who withdrew represent 3 per cent. of loans paid.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Postgraduate students are not eligible for student loans and grants, except for those on courses of Initial Teacher Training who are eligible for the undergraduate package. Information is not available separately for postgraduate Initial Teacher Training students. EU students are not eligible for maintenance grants or maintenance loans, but can apply for tuition fee loans. Students from outside the EU are not eligible for student maintenance grants or loans. Fee loans are paid direct to the Institution if a student is in attendance three months from the start of the course. Students who withdraw from higher education are liable to begin repaying their tuition and maintenance loans in the April after they withdraw, if their income is above £15,000 per year. Where a student who withdraws has been in receipt of grants, the local authority has the discretion to make a reassessment and reclaim any overpayment based on the number of days the student was undertaking the course from the first day of the academic year to the date of withdrawal.

Teaching costs are around £4,000 per full-time student per year. This information is not available by domicile of student or level separately. Higher Education Institutions do not receive HEFCE funding for international students. They are able to charge these students the full cost of delivery.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much is owed to the Student Loans Company by *(a)* people resident in each county of the UK, *(b)* people resident in other EU member states and *(c)* people resident outside the EU; and how much is owed to it in total; [208854]

(2) how many people owe money to the Student Loans Company, broken down by their *(a)* county of residence, *(b)* sex and *(c)* region of residence. [208855]

Bill Rammell: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213502]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. To date the Department has not spent any funds on the commissioning or funding the production of television programmes.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on creating systems for the validation of non-formal and informal learning and the incorporation of such into the formal national qualification system, as referred to in section 2.1 of EU document 2008/C 86/01. [217995]

Bill Rammell: The Government are developing the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to enable new unit and credit-based qualifications to be recognised. The distinction between informal, non-formal and formal learning in respect of this EU document is defined by the context (e.g. formal learning takes place in an institution), or by the process of learning (e.g. e-learning is non-formal learning) or by the content (e.g. basic literacy is informal learning). The QCF is concerned with the outcomes of learning, rather than context, process or delivery institution. It can recognise achievements through any of these definitions. Provided the outcomes of learning are organised into a unit format, they can be given a level and a credit value and count towards a qualification irrespective of the process of learning that leads to these outcomes.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from regional newspapers on the local video news services which the BBC proposes to develop. [216987]

Andy Burnham: I have received a number of direct representations from regional newspapers on BBC's plans for online local news provision. However, this is a matter for the BBC. There is no provision for the Government to intervene in the BBC's day-to-day operational or editorial matters.

BBC: Olympic Games

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the BBC coverage of any human rights protests during the Beijing Olympics. [217510]

Andy Burnham: Responsibility for what is broadcast on television and radio rests with the broadcasters and the organisations that regulate broadcasting—the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the BBC Trust and the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority (S4C). They are independent of Government and it would, therefore, be inappropriate for the Government to have this discussion with the BBC.

Bookmakers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on bookmakers, if he will make it his objective for the negotiations to lead to a UK-wide agreement for how long racecourses will recognise on-course bookmakers' list positions. [217704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We wish to see racecourses negotiating contracts with the bookmakers who maintain pitches on them, including holders of existing pitch list positions. Inevitably these contracts will vary from course to course, taking account of local circumstances. In order for racecourses and bookmakers to agree contracts it will clearly be necessary for these to contain provisions on duration and renewability which are acceptable to both sides. The Government are keen to see examples of satisfactory agreements disseminated across the industry.

Clore Leadership Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments Arts Council England made to the Clore Leadership Programme in each of the last five years; and for what purpose. [214008]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 June 2008]:* According to Arts Council England, it has made payments to the Clore Leadership programme as set out in the following table. These payments were for a mixture of course participation and grant funding. Course participation refers to money spent on training courses, and grant funding refers to the funding of the Clore Fellows.

	£
2003-04	0
2004-05	190,000
2005-06	212,500
2006-07	675,343
2007-08	628,656

The cost in 2006-07 increased because of the introduction of the Clore Short Courses programme. 14 courses were run over a period of two years.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to answer Question 214008, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Surrey on 23 June, on the Clore Leadership Programme. [218764]

Margaret Hodge: I answered the question from the hon. Member for South-West Surrey today.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1802W, on departmental accountancy, on what date he expects to *(a)* lay before Parliament and *(b)* publish his Department's annual resource accounts for 2007-08. [219084]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The annual resource accounts for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for 2007-08 will be laid before Parliament by 17 July 2008 with a publication target of 18 August 2008 subject to the completion of printing by the Stationery Office.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for the latest year for which information is available is provided in the following table. The 2007-08 data are currently being compiled and will be available in the near future.

2006-07

£000

	Total	*DCMS (including consolidated agency)*	*Other associated public bodies*
NBV of dwellings	9,132	4,006	5,126
NBV of other land and buildings	2,819,546	75,552	2,743,994
Total NBV	2,828,678	79,558	2,749,120

This information relates to the net book value (NBV) as shown in the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) returns from NDPBs sponsored by DCMS, and also as prepared for WGA by DCMS and its agency body. Public corporations that DCMS sponsors have not been included.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217866]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All staff are instructed to turn off computer devices overnight. No estimate of the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight has been made.

My Department is in the process of deploying a system to ensure that computer devices are turned off overnight.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department and its agency have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217410]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

(a) There has been one member of staff dismissed in DCMS in the last two years and none from Royal Parks Agency.

(b) There have been no staff formally disciplined for their conduct in either DCMS of the Royal Parks Agency in the past two years.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217398]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 10 staff have taken early retirement in the last two years.

Departmental Local Area Agreements

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what local area agreements his Department has entered into in the last 12 months. [218387]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 150 local area agreements were approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 30 June 2008 on behalf of the whole of Government. Individual Departments, including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, have been involved in negotiations with local areas.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217070]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency the Royal Parks the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees at 31 July 2006 was 519 and 96.7 respectively. The FTE figures as at 31 May 2008 were 466 and 101.5 respectively.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214671]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has a zero spend on public information campaigns between 1997 and 2002. Expenditure in subsequent years is set out as follows by specified area:

(a) Internet and website design and hosting

	Campaign	Design (£)	Hosting (£)
2003-04	BBC Charter	[1]0	[2]20,000
2005-06	Breakout	17,500	[2]20,000
2005-06	Licensing	[1]0	[2]20,000

[1] Design done in-house using existing resources
[2] £20,000 includes the cost for the server which is also used to host five departmental websites. Individual costs cannot be separated out.

(b) Print media design

	Campaign	Spend (£)
2003-04	BBC Charter	20,987
2005-06	Licensing	51,028
2006-07	Tourism consultation	4,903

(c) Broadcast media

	Campaign	Spend (£)
2004-05	BBC Charter	37,085

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of staff of his Department and its agency did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217368]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

Royal Parks Agency (DCMS's Executive agency)

Appraisal year	Percentage of staff that did not receive the maximum performance bonus
2005-06	99
2006-07	99

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Appraisal year	Percentage of staff that did not receive the maximum performance bonus
2005-06	78
2006-07	85

Notes:
1. DCMS has not yet finalised its end of year performance bonuses for 2007-08 appraisal year.
2. The figures stated in the tables relate to all grades, including the end of year performance bonuses awarded to senior civil servants.
3. The bonuses relate to staff who were entitled to a DCMS end of year performance bonus and do not include staff who joined the Department during the year and received a bonus from another organisation.
4. Special in-year bonus payments are not included in the tables.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on publishing in each of the last three years, broken down by publication. [209405]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The amount spent on publishing for each of the last three years was:

	Amount spent on publishing (£)
2005-06	191,854.56
2006-07	143,283.50
2007-08	303,218.50

The breakdown for each publication is as follows:

Publication title	Cost (£ ex. VAT)
April 2005 to March 2006	
Gambling Act 2005: What it means for Licensing Authorities	769.31
Listing Criteria—Public Consultation	2,346.44
Ecclesiastical Exemption	581.62
Hague Convention Consultation	5,549.34
Marine Consultation—Analysis of responses	581.62
Treasure Annual Report	28,581.71
Museums Acquisitions	2,976.80
Human Remains Code of Practice	3,984.31
Open House Leaflet	368.00
Total Reward Leaflet	2,209.00
Sustainable Development Plan	2,955.50
DCMS Annual Report	46,229.30
Abolition of Slavery leaflet	1,861.47
Lottery Good Causes Consultation	1,143.25
Digital Housing Project (reprint)	1,350
Communicating with the over 65 years: Desk Research document	1,010.50

Publication title	Cost (£ ex. VAT)
Digital Expert Group report document	503
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries full document	4,180
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries A4 summary	1,138
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries flyer	920
Market for Art: Government reply to 6th report CMS Committee—type setting and printing	1,580.00
Report on Theatre: Government response to CMS committee typesetting and printing	1,690.00
Public Libraries: Government response to CMS Select Committee, typesetting and printing	1,910.00
DCMS Resource Accounts	4,619.49
Export of objects of cultural interest	12,243
National Lottery Dist fund typesetting/printing	2,326.00
Government response to committee report on charter Review—type setting and printing	1,544.00
Spoliation Advisory Panel report	3,164.00
BBC White Paper	15,311.90
Broadcasting Cricket document	3,164.00
Spoliation Advisory Panel/4 drawings	1,740.00
Government response to Lords Select Committee on charter Review	1,544.00
DCMS Business Plan reprint	1,350.00
Dynamic Action Plan	1,540.00
Dance Link brochure: Design, Artwork and print	11,912.00
BBC Charter White Paper	17,765
Sustainable Development Action Plan	2,812
Total	191,854.56
April 2006 to March 2007	
About Us (Amendments and reprint)	1,375.88
Gambling Act: Transitional Arrangements Consultation	1,233.70
Laying the Foundations	12,992.00
Nurturing Creativity in Young People	14,310
Digital Expert Group report (July 2006) document	457.50
Gambling Act: Fees document	1,545
Spoliation Advisory Panel—Ashmolean Report	3,164.00
Tourism Consultation document	8,500
Working Together: local authorities and DCMS	8,500
BBC Further Revised Draft Royal Charter	330
BBC Revised Draft Royal Charter and BBC Revised Draft Framework Agreement	2,227
BBC Draft Royal Charter and Framework Agreement	2,760
DCMS Business Plan 2006-07	3,503
DCMS annual report	19,083.85
Creativity Review	440
Museums Strategy	2,923
Broadcasting: Copy of Royal Charter for the Continuance of the British Broadcasting Corporation (Cm 6925)	1,587
The Community Radio Sector: Looking to the Future	2,796
Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2005-06	11,950
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (Cm 7057)	9,550
Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on 'London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: Funding and Legacy' (Cm 7071)	960
Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Call TV quiz shows (Cm 7072)	552
Treasure report	25,260
Heritage Protection Review	7,283.50
Total	143,283.50
April 2007 to March 2008	
Cm 7057: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century	9,520
Cm 7071: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on "London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: Funding and Legacy" (HC69)	960
Cm 7072: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Call TV quiz shows	552
Cm 7088: Government Response to the Science And Technology Select Committee Report on Human Enhancement Technologies	948
Cm 7118: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme: A Scheme Agreement Between Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the British Broadcasting Corporation	2,299
Cm 7184: Government Response to the NAO Review of the Experiences of UK Nationals Affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami	1,652
Cm 7309: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on Public Service Content (HC36-I)	1,269
Public Appointments and Public Bodies	2,935
Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond	27,321
Winning: A tourism Strategy for 2012 and beyond—Executive summary	6,625

Publication title	Cost (£ ex VAT)
London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report January 2008	22,805
Staying Ahead: the economic performance of	62,466
2/7 flyer	275
HC63 Report of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in respect of three Rubens Paintings	1,571
London Open House leaflet	675
Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2005-06	12,627
CM7236 Government Response to House of Lords Select Committee on Communications	460
CM7186 Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport select committee report into New Media and the Creative Industries	712
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	19,469
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Welsh version)	2,847
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet	10,570
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet (Welsh version)	982
Sustainable development action plan	1,487.50
Culture on Demand: Ways to engage a Broader audience	16,220
Culture and Creativity in 2007	8,949
Community Amateur Sports Club(CASC) scheme leaflet	2,357
Helping keep your child safe in sport: Child protection leaflet for parents	7,000
Findings and Recommendation of the Live Music Forum	39,793
Final Report of the Casino Advisory Panel	12,600
Treasure Annual Report 2004	24,114
Cenotaph Memorial Order of service	1,098
Total	303,218.50

English Sports Council: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects have received funding from Sport England's Community Projects Revenue Fund since 1999; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who participated in those projects. [217167]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the Community Projects Revenue Fund is a generic term for a series of funding streams including Sports Action Zones and other community initiatives, and not a single funding stream for which such information is centrally held.

Sport England has advised that 384 projects were supported through the Active Communities Development Fund, Sports Action Zones and Active Sports. Sport England advise that no estimate has been made of the number of people who have benefited from these projects.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many awards Sport England made to projects encouraging *(a)* school, *(b)* after-school and *(c)* community club links in each year since 1999. [217168]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it does not hold the information in the format required. However, awards have been made to a number of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport to support the school club links workstrand of the Government's PE and School Sport for Young People programme.

These awards enable the NGBs to create and develop links between schools and community sports clubs, with the aim of increasing the number of children aged 5-16 years participating in community sport. In total, £14,646,859 million is being invested.

The number of NGBs receiving awards has been as follows:

Financial year	Number
2003-04	7
2004-05	22
2005-06	22
2006-07	22
2007-08	22
2008-09	23

Sport England has advised that it also funded a total of 1,656 projects as part of the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) in the period 2003 to 2008. Projects funded as part of the programme must demonstrate links to school and after-school activity. Sport England has committed a total of £100,221,827 investment into Community Club Development Programme between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2008.

Fast Track

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what services Fast Track supplies to his Department; and at what cost. [218383]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is at an advanced stage of negotiations with Fast Track regarding their role in raising £100 million from the private sector to support elite athletes.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of Fast Track since February. [218385]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since February, the Secretary of State has met Fast Track on three occasions: on 3 April,

2 July and 9 July. I also met Fast Track on 3 April and 2 July. There have been frequent meetings between officials and Fast Track.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on promoting *(a)* St Patrick's Day, *(b)* St David's Day, *(c)* Eid, *(d)* Diwali and *(e)* Hanukkah in the last year. [218391]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There has been no cost to the Department on promoting St. Patrick's Day, St. David's Day, Eid, Diwali or Hanukkah in the last year. The Department has a calendar of religious festivals on its intranet site which is accessible to all staff.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217901]

Margaret Hodge: The Department holds the information set out relating to fish purchased in financial year 2007-08. Information is not available for previous years.

Product	*Approximate weight (kg) 2007-08*	*Total cost 2007-08 (£)*	*Marine Stewardship Council Standard*
Haddock/ cod fillet tail	312	2,392.56	Yes
Tuna in brine	593	2,349.36	Yes
Sandwich prawns	65	328.90	Yes
Smoked salmon	26	786.24	Yes
Salmon fillet	14	52.50	No

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library the minutes of all meetings of the Government Art Collection Committee where the decoration and art work in No. 10 Downing Street were discussed since January 2007. [215049]

Margaret Hodge: There is no Government Art Collection Committee to discuss the decoration and works of art in No. 10 Downing street. The Government Art Collection (GAC) advise on the pictures to be hung in 10 Downing street. The pictures are changed periodically as those loaned to the house are returned to the collection from which they have been drawn.

Licensing: Circuses

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Licensing Act 2003 on travelling circuses; what steps he plans to take to mitigate any negative effects; and if he will make a statement. [217526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are committed to action on many of the irritations about the application process which were highlighted by circuses in their helpful responses to our survey last year. For example, we intend to bring forward shortly a new minor variations process that will, among other things, allow a quicker and lower cost mechanism for altering plans. We are also looking at how we can make aspects of the application process more flexible and less costly, including the greater use of electronic applications.

While our priority is to progress the commitments in our simplification plan, we will also start to look at possible alternative arrangements which better reflect the nature of travelling entertainment performed at multiple sites. Any such changes would, of course, require full public consultation and would have to be supported by a full impact assessment.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was available for the upkeep of *(a)* Grade I, *(b)* Grade II and *(c)* Grade III listed buildings in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in the last three years. [212816]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* There are three types of funding available for the upkeep of listed buildings, through English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Total spend cannot always easily be broken down by geographical area, but where possible this has been provided.

1. English Heritage have provided the following information on the funding they have made available for the upkeep of historic buildings in each of the last three years:

£

	England	*North West region*
2005-06	18,770,000	3,610,000
2006-07	20,050,000	2,813,685
2007-08	18,625,000	2,379,725

These funds were the total available across all the relevant English Heritage grant schemes from which buildings at all grades might benefit. However, English Heritage's resources are largely focused on Grade I and Grade 2* buildings. Grade 3 is no longer in use as an official classification although some local authorities use it to denote local interest.

English Heritage's budget is allocated regionally and so more detailed information is not available for Lancashire or Ribble Valley. English Heritage's north-west region comprises Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester/Lancashire and Merseyside.

2. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects which conserve, and enable more people to take part in, take decisions about and learn about the UK's heritage.

HLF administers a number of competitive open grants programmes under which listed buildings can be funded—either as separate projects in their own right, or as part of broader projects through HLF's thematic grants programmes such as Parks for People, the Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Landscape Partnerships scheme. HLF may fund the conservation and restoration of a listed building provided the application meets all the criteria of the relevant programme.

HLF ring-fences an element of its funding for decision in each English region and Scotland/Wales and Northern Ireland, and also has nationwide programmes funded from separate UK-wide pots. Funding is not ring-fenced on a constituency or county level. Details of available funding, as provided by HLF, are as follows:

£

Funding available under programmes which can fund listed buildings

FY	*Ring-fenced to north-west*	*Nine English regions ring-fenced budgets*[1]	*Additional UK-wide budget*	*Funding available for listed buildings in north-west*[2]	*Funding available for listed buildings in England*[3]
2005-06	15,415,230	112,700,000	207,300,000	222,715,230	320,000,000
2006-07	14,189,138	103,300,000	180,700,000	194,889,138	284,000,000
2007-08	13,089,138	95,800,000	153,200,000	166,289,138	249,000,000

[1] Includes north-west ring-fenced budget.
[2] Ring-fenced north-west budget plus additional UK-wide budget.
[3] Nine ring-fenced English regional budgets plus UK-wide budget.

3. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship. It is not possible to identify the scheme's expenditure in the Ribble Valley constituency, or identify the spend by listing grade.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Lancashire	77,724	308,336	321,753
England	12,485,548	11,651,298	12,062,290

Oceanic House

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the disposal of Oceanic House. [218388]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Negotiations are currently taking place with the landlord of Oceanic House about an early surrender of the lease. If these are unsuccessful the property will be placed on the open market.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216675]

Margaret Hodge: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport there have been no personal injury claims brought during the last 12 months.

Public Houses

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has conducted or evaluated research on the contribution of public houses to British culture. [218523]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not conducted formal research into the contribution of public houses to British culture, but it maintains extensive contacts with representatives of the on-trade and recognises the importance of public houses within many communities.

The Department ensures that other Government Departments are aware of the social and economic importance of the pub industry so that decisions taken by them which impact on the on-trade are properly informed. We look forward to considering the findings of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group Inquiry into Community Pubs.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards the Government's target of securing £20 million per year of funding for elite sport from private sponsorship. [218384]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department continues to work with UK Sport and others in the development of proposals to secure funding from the private sector.

Video Games

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made on establishing a centre for excellence for computer games production, as proposed in the Government's 2008 Creative Britain report. [218337]

Margaret Hodge: The Northwest Regional Development Agency is commissioning a feasibility study into establishing a centre of excellence for computer games, which is due to report on 31 January 2009.

Video Games: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what EU grant aid may be provided for development of computer games in the UK with an EU cultural element; and what the qualifying criteria are for such grant aid. [216653]

Margaret Hodge: There is no specific European grant aid for games companies but UK games companies can access investment through European regional development funds.

Article 87(3)(d) of the EC treaty authorises member states to give aid to promote culture provided it does not adversely affect trading conditions and competition, but at the moment this does not apply to video games in the UK.

Within the UK, Government currently offer research and development (R and D) tax credits for businesses. As one of the commitments in our recently published Creative Britain document, we have outlined the aim to work with small businesses, with a particular focus on the video games industry, to make the current system of R and D tax credits more user friendly.

The Technology Strategy Board are currently assessing bids to a new £10 million fund to inspire new collaborative research and development ideas for the creative industries, including the video games industry.

First awards have already been made for feasibility study bids (awards up to £15,000); these are done on a monthly basis on a cycle running from March-August.

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Border Agency

6. **Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the performance of the UK Border Agency. [218092]

Mr. Byrne: Since the start of the year, the new United Kingdom Border Agency has stopped 6,000 illegal immigrants and removed over 2,400 FNPs.

Since April the new agency has seized £83 million of drugs, 200 million cigarettes and 800 dangerous weapons; searched 287,000 freight vehicles; and triggered 280 arrests through screening passenger information.

The agency has also recorded over 2 million fingerprints and detected nearly 3,000 cases of ID swaps. It has also issued 352 fines to firms employing illegal immigrants with a value of £3.4 million.

National DNA Database

13. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of detections of crimes made possible by the retention of DNA samples on the National DNA Database. [218100]

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of detections of crimes made possible by the use of DNA samples retained on the National DNA Database. [218089]

23. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of detections of crimes made possible by the use of DNA samples retained on the National DNA Database. [218110]

Meg Hillier: It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to March 2007, there have been approximately 240,000 detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part in solving the crime. Figures for the 2007-08 financial year will be available shortly.

Asylum Seekers: Iraqi Minorities

15. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on those from Christian and other minorities in Iraq seeking asylum in the UK. [218102]

Mr. Byrne: The United Kingdom considers all asylum claims, including those from Iraqi nationals, on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. All claims are considered against the background of the latest country information and country guidance case law as decided by the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Asylum Seekers: Zimbabwe

16. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the detention in the UK of Zimbabwean asylum seekers. [218103]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency has recently received representations from a small number of individuals, including Members of the House, the chair of the Independent Monitoring Board for Haslar and detainees themselves, on the detention in the UK of Zimbabwean asylum seekers.

Newport Passport Office

17. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to close Newport passport office. [218104]

Meg Hillier: No.

Knife Crime

18. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department What recent assessment she has made of trends in levels of knife crime. [218105]

Mr. Coaker: We recognise that more and younger people are carrying knives. We acknowledge that the use of knives and other weapons indicates an ongoing trend for young people to carry knives either to protect themselves or for credibility from their peers. Any incident involving a knife is completely unacceptable. That is

why we are investing £2 million on a targeted programme to tackle knife crime in eight police force areas.

20. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce knife crime. [218107]

Mr. Coaker: We recognise that knife crime is a problem. That is why we are investing £2 million on a targeted programme working with police forces and local authority partners to tackle knife crime in the most affected areas. In addition, we have increased our powers and penalties and are investing in prevention and education to tackle this problem.

Police Service: Public Accountability

19. **Mr. Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on improving the public accountability of the police service. [218106]

Mr. McNulty: Following the reviews of policing and community safety by Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Louise Casey, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has received representations from ACPO and the APA among others on many issues, including police accountability. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary intends to publish a Green Paper later this week with proposals to improve the police accountability.

Trafficking: Sexual Exploitation

21. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. [218108]

Jacqui Smith: Operation Pentameter 2, the UK's largest anti-trafficking operation, recently recovered 167 victims of sexual exploitation. We will ratify later this year the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking, as part of our comprehensive strategy against trafficking which is set out in our Action Plan, updated on 2 July.

Prostitution: Decriminalisation

22. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has evaluated on the effects of decriminalisation of prostitution in other countries. [218109]

Mr. Coaker: As part of the Government's review of measures to tackle the demand for prostitution we have commissioned research comparing policy approaches adopted in other jurisdictions, including New Zealand, which has decriminalised prostitution. Our findings will be published as part of the outcome of this review, in the autumn.

Crime: Rural Areas

24. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce crime in rural areas. [218111]

Mr. Coaker: Both the British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics show that crime is lower in rural areas.

The Home Office has undertaken actions which directly benefit rural communities such as establishing farm, horse, country and poacher watch schemes. In my hon. Friend's constituency in Sedgefield a "farmwatch" scheme is now in place.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Zanu-PF members in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* the UK. [217655]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Statistics on membership of Zanu-PF are not collected by the Home Office.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which buildings occupied by her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214712]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's agencies, shadow agency and non-departmental public bodies occupy the buildings listed as follows where the lease (or inter-departmental agreement where applicable) is due for renewal in the next four years.

Building addresses

India Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L2 OXG

Unit 31, Orton Southgate, Tresham Road, Peterborough, PE2 6SG

Milburngate House, Framwellgate, Durham, County Durham DH99 1NS

Dock Police Station, Dock Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 3SE

Templepatrick Police Station, 900 Antrim Road, Belfast BT39 OAH

Hampton House, 47-53 High Street, Belfast BT1 2QS

21-47 High Street, Feltham Green, Middlesex TW13 4AG

Poplar House, Tawe Business Village, Phoenix Way, Swansea SA7 9LA

Oaklands House, Washway Road, Sale, Manchester, M33 6IS

Martins Building, Water Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L2 3SP

Greystoke Business Centre, High Street, Portishead, Bristol BS20 9PY

Leon House, 233 High Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9XT

Vancouver House, County Court Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5EJ

Medvale House, Mote Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6AE

161 Brooms Road, Dumfries, Dumfrieshire, DG1 3EX

Mercury Court, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool L2 2PQ

Whitgift Centre, Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 3LY

Boston Police Station, Lincoln Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QX

2308 Coventry Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B26 3JS

Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, Devon PL1 3BL

Reliance House, 20 Water Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L2 8XU

Cunard Building, Pier Head, Liverpool, Merseyside L3 1DS

Olympia House, Upper Dock Street, Newport, Monmouthshire NP20 1XA

Windsor Place, 24 Windsor Place, Cardiff, Glamorgan CF10 3BY

The Plaza, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L3 9QJ

Unit 15 Kinning Park, Glasgow, Strathclyde G4 1RR

Brunswick House, 8-13 Brunswick Place, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 2AP

Bennett House, Town Road, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire ST1 2QB

Norman House, Kettering Terrace, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 7AE

Ground Floor, The Observatory, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent ME4 4NT

New Kings Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 (NPIA—lease to 23 June 2012))

10 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN

Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ

Bennett House, Town Road, Stoke, ST1 2QB

The Triad, Stanley Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3BE

Allington Towers, Allington Street, London SW1E 5EB

Regent Centre, Regent Road, Aberdeen AB11 5NS

Northgate House, Northgate Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2JS

Aldwych House, Winchester Street, Andover SP10 2EA

17-21 Market Street, Armagh BT61 7BW

Norwood House, 102-106 Great Victoria Street Belfast, BT2 7BE

Units 3&4 The Chandlery, The Quayside, Berwick Upon Tweed TD15 1HE

Kensington House, Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1LN

St. John's Court, Ainsworth Street, Blackburn BB1 6AR

Dean Park House, 8-10 Dean Park Crescent, Bournemouth BH1 1HL

42 Frederick Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4EA

Monarch House, Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS1 4EX

Units 1 & 2 Hillside Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St. Edmunds IP32 7EA

Ground Floor, Regents Court, Kingmoor, Carlisle CA6 4SJ

Rosebery House, 41 Springfield Road, Chelmsford CM2 6JJ

Montpellier House, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham GL50 1TA

River House, Castle Lane, Waterside, Coleraine BT51 3DP

Belgrave House, Station Way, Crawley RH10 1HU

Stuart House, Green Lane, Derby DE1 1RS

Maybrook House, 25 New Street, Dover CT17 9AJ

161 Brooms Road, Dumfries DG1 3EX

Units 123 the Nethergate Centre, 78 Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4ER

Apex 3, 95 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD

Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter EX4 3AY

Blythswood House, 200 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 4DQ

Lyle House, Fairways Business Park, Inverness IV2 6AA

Crown House, Crown Street, Ipswich IP1 3HS

Bridge Mills, Stramongate, Kendal LA9 4UB

Vancouver House, County Court Road, Kings Lynn PE30 5EW

Aldgate House, 1-4 Market Place, Kingston upon Hull HU1 1RA

33 Park Place, Leeds LS1 2RY

Wellington House, Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HL

City Office Park, Tritton Road, Lincoln LN6 7AS

Nations House, Edmund Street, Liverpool L3 9NY

Hannibal House, Elephant & Castle, Southwark, London SE1 6TE

A W House, Stuart Street, Luton LU1 2SW

Medvale House, Mote Road, Maidstone ME15 6AH

Westminster House, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3HU

Training and Enterprise House, 2 Queens Square, Middlesbrough TS2 1AA

No. 2 Cathedral Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1EE

Chartist Tower, Upper Dock Street, Newport NP20 1DW

Cross Business Park, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5WN

Aquila House, St. Giles Terrace, Northampton NN1 2BN

St. Crispens House, Duke St., Norwich NR3 1PD

Suite 2, 2 Glengallon Road, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4HH

41a Dublin Road, Omagh BT78 1H

Wallbrook Court, North Hinksey Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 0QS

West Midgate House, Midgate, Peterborough PE1 1TN.

Mayflower House, Armada Way, Plymouth PL1 1LD

Enterprise House, Isambard Brunel Road, Portsmouth PO1 2RX

Kings Reach, 38-50 Kings Road, Reading RG1 3AA

Council Chambers, Penryn Street, Redruth TR15 2SP

Canalside House, Charter Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1AJ

Unit 4, Plaxton Park, Cayton Low Road, Scarborough YO11 3BQ

Unit 8, Tweed Business Park, Dunsdale Road, Selkirk TD7 5DU

Milton House, Charter Row, Sheffield S1 3FZ

Mercury House, 2 Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury SY2 6LG

Units 1 & 2 The Point, Lions Way, Sleaford NG34 8GG

Crown Yealm House, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton EX36 3LH

Unit 3 Great Western House, The Sidings, Carlyon Road, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 4DB

Ground floor Scotia House, The Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TZ

Ground floor, Riverside II Office Park, Campbell Road, Stoke on Trent ST4 4RJ

Unit 3 Axis Court, Riverside Business Park, Swansea SA7 0AJ

Wiltshire Court, Farnsbury Street, Swindon SN1 5AH

Westgate House, Market Street, Warwick CV34 4DH

Unit 2 Wick Business Park, Wick KW1 4QR

Kingsway House, Ellice Way, Wrexham LL13 7YT

Brunel House, Mead Avenue Houdstone Business Park, Yeovil BA22 8RT

Rougier House, 5 Rougier Street, York YO1 6HZ

The aforementioned excludes leases that go beyond but with tenants breaks inside four years, leases for immigration use at ports of entry, leases outside the UK and leases where national security precludes their inclusion. 68 of the leases are held under a PPP agreement for the Authentication by Interview passport programme.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for her Department and

its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196440]

Mr. Byrne: Table 1 attached details the range of hourly salary rates and the number of employees on each rate for staff classified as casual, fixed term, fee paid, sandwich course student or contractor. The figures cover the core Department, UK Borders Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau and are for the period May 2007 to April 2008.

The data were taken from the Department's payroll system. It has not been possible to provide information relating to agency staff as they are employed directly by individual business units. Full information on hourly rates is therefore not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to provide these data.

Number of employees

	2007								2008				
Hourly rate	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Number of times hourly rate paid in 2007-08*
4.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
5.00	84	89	79	90	111	105	109	94	87	82	70	64	1,064
6.00	68	82	102	102	118	107	114	136	127	112	90	83	1,241
7.00	12	22	67	63	30	31	31	28	27	26	28	26	391
8.00	9	8	26	34	26	29	29	32	25	32	21	20	291
9.00	3	8	8	8	8	5	6	5	12	4	3	4	74
10.00	3	5	36	30	29	20	22	20	18	19	20	21	243
11.00	3	3	7	7	11	10	8	8	6	5	6	6	80
12.00	2	1	2	2	4	3	5	4	5	6	6	6	46
13.00	2	4	4	2	5	7	8	6	3	3	3	4	51
14.00	3	3	5	3	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	27
15.00	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
16.00	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	28
17.00	0	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	10
18.00	2	2	7	7	6	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	51
19.00	2	1	3	3	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	40
20.00	1	1	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	12
21.00	1	1	2	7	5	6	6	6	8	7	7	6	62
22.00	1	1	5	5	3	3	5	3	3	2	2	2	35
23.00	0	0	4	4	5	6	4	5	5	5	6	6	50
24.00	2	2	4	5	6	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	33
25.00	0	0	3	3	2	8	7	8	8	8	6	6	59
26.00	0	0	1	2	6	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	33
27.00	0	0	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
28.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
29.00	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
30.00	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	20
31.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
32.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
33.00	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	17
35.00	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
36.00	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
37.00	3	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
38.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
41.00	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	10
42.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
44.00	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
45.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
46.00	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7
48.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
51.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	4
53.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
54.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
78.00	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9
79.00	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9
80.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
81.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
108.00	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9

Number of employees

	2007								2008			
Hourly rate	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Number of times hourly rate paid in 2007-08*
109.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	213	248	393	400	404	381	394	391	367	343	301	289	4,124

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of sickness pay to staff within her Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187519]

Mr. Byrne: Table 1 as follows details the estimated direct salary cost to the Department of sickness absences in the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, where periods of absence began in that financial year. The figures relate to staff in the core Department, United Kingdom Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. The figures encapsulate employee salary costs, employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions.

Table 1: Calculated direct salary costs of sick absence in Home Office and agencies for 2007-08

	Extrapolated from total annual gross salary costs	
	Number	*Total estimated gross salary cost (£)*
Days Absence for 2007-08	338,713	25,142,084.23

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197064]

Mr. Byrne: Figures for course attendance and cost in the courses specified are provided in the following table.

Number of staff attending each course in 2007-08 and the amount charged by the National School of Government

	Course code											
	AAW		*AWLB*		*CONF*		*COUN*		*IIS*		*PEP3*	
Main Departments and agencies	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*
Cabinet Office	2	1,452.00	—	—	2	2,129.00	—	—	9	6,534.00	1	1,495.00
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2,904.00	1	1,495.00
Department for Children, Schools and Families	2	1,452.00	—	—	—	—	1	1,115.00	—	—	—	—
Department for Communities and Local Government	5	3,630.00	2	2,160.00	1	1,149.00	—	—	8	5,808.00	—	—
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	3	2,178.00	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	5	3,630.00	—	—
Animal Health	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—

Number of staff attending each course in 2007-08 and the amount charged by the National School of Government

	Course code											
	AAW		*AWLB*		*CONF*		*COUN*		*IIS*		*PEP3*	
Main Departments and agencies	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	2	1,452.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
UK Intellectual Property Office	—	—	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Department for International Development	1	726.00	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	9	6,534.00	1	1,495.00
Department for Transport	1	726.00	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	3	2,178.00	—	—
Driving Standards Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Highways Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,495.00
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,495.00
Department for Work and Pensions	5	3,630.00	—	—	2	2,298.00	—	—	10	7,260.00	1	1,495.00
Department of Health	5	3,630.00	1	1,080.00	2	2,298.00	—	—	3	2,178.00	—	—
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UK Visas United (Joint FCO/Home Office Directorate)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
HM Revenue and Customs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2,904.00	2	2,990.00
HM Treasury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2,178.00	—	—
Office for National Statistics	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,452.00	—	—
Home Office	3	2,178.00	2	2,160.00	4	4,427.00	2	2,230.00	7	5,082.00	1	1,495.00
Ministry of Defence	1	726.00	—	—	6	6,725.00	1	1,115.00	7	5,082.00	3	4,485.00
Ministry of Justice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HM Courts Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
HM Prison Service	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Land Registry	2	1,452.00	—	—	2	2,129.00	1	1,115.00	8	5,808.00	—	—
Tribunals Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,495.00
Northern Ireland Office	—	—	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Other Government Departments/ bodies												
Food Standards Agency	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Forestry Commission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2,990.00
Government Communications Headquarters	—	—	—	—	2	2,298.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government Office for the North West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Her Majesty's Government Communication Centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2,230.00	—	—	—	—

Number of staff attending each course in 2007-08 and the amount charged by the National School of Government

	Course code											
	AAW		*AWLB*		*CONF*		*COUN*		*IIS*		*PEP3*	
Main Departments and agencies	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*	*No.*	*Charged (£)*
National School of Government	1	0.00	1	0.00	1	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	1	726.00	—	—	1	980.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of Climate Change	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Office of Rail Regulation	3	2,178.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2,178.00	—	—
Postal Services Commission (Postcomm)	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UK Trade and Investment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Devolved Administrations												
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Fisheries Research Services Marine Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Northern Ireland Court Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,452.00	—	—
Registers of Scotland	—	—	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,452.00	—	—
Scottish Executive	1	726.00	—	—	2	1,960.00	—	—	17	4,356.00	—	—
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	—	—	—	—	1	980.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Scottish Parliament	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	726.00	—	—
Welsh Assembly Government	—	—	—	—	3	3,278.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-departmental public bodies												
Health and Safety Executive	—	—	2	2,160.00	1	1,149.00	—	—	2	1,452.00	—	—
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner	—	—	—	—	1	1,149.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Serious Organised Crime Agency	1	726.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,452.00	—	—
Grand total	45	31,944.00	8	7,560.00	37	39,843.00	7	7,805.00	124	82,038.00	15	22,425.00

Key:
(f) Working Assertively—AAW
(e) Balancing Work/Life Realities—AWLB
(d) Managing your Confidence—CONF
(c) Counselling Skills for the Workplace—COUN
(a) Influencing with Integrity—IIS
(b) Emotional Intelligence—PEP3

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of cases resulting in conviction secured to date in which evidence based on DNA profiles from the national DNA database was used *(a)* of those without a previous conviction and *(b)* not found at the scene of a crime. [191144]

Jacqui Smith: In relation to part *(a)*, information on the number of crimes resulting in convictions in which DNA subject sample profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken from persons with no previous convictions were a contributory factor is not collected centrally.

In relation to part *(b)*, all detected crimes, in which a DNA match played a part in solving the crime, would involve a match between a subject sample profile (taken from an arrested person) and a crime scene sample profile believed to have been left by the offender at the scene of a crime.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, what further checks UK Border Agency staff undertook to ascertain whether those individuals who left the domestic arrivals area prior to the error being identified presented a security risk. [213187]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* On each of the five occasions where international passengers were misdirected, the UK Border Agency was immediately notified and took appropriate remedial action. All of the incidents were a result of errors made by either British Airways or the British Airports Authority staff. UKBA staff worked closely with the airport operator to redirect passengers to the appropriate area in order to complete all of the necessary immigration checks. This was successful on two occasions, although on the other three, a number of passengers had already left the domestic area.

In these instances, further checks were made which satisfied UKBA staff that the individuals who had entered did not present a known risk to UK security. These checks included cross checking the details of all those who had been on board the aircraft against Home Office databases. In addition, passengers' details were also passed on to the Metropolitan Police Service who carried out additional security checks.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers found to have employed illegal workers have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* charged and *(c)* prosecuted in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to date; and, of those in each category, how many were proceeded against for (A) employing illegal workers and (B) facilitating illegal immigrants to remain in the UK by providing employment, food or accommodation. [198525]

Mr. Byrne: The following action has been taken against employers found to have employed illegal workers under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

Action	*January to December 2007*	*January to 6 June 2008*
Cautioned	1	1
Charged	41	46
Criminal prosecutions	35	42

New measures were introduced by the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and came into effect for those employed on, or after 29 February 2008. There is now a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrant workers. This is combined with the introduction of a new criminal offence of knowingly employing an illegal migrant worker.

221 notices of liability have been issued to employers under the civil penalty system in the period 29 February 2008 to 6 June 2008.

All cases are considered on the individual evidence available. A decision to proceed with prosecution is predicated on evidence that indicates that an employer 'knowingly' employed a migrant worker who had no permission to work or to do the work in question.

No employers were proceeded against for facilitating illegal immigrants to remain in the United Kingdom by providing employment, food or accommodation.

This information is derived from provisional local management information which may be subject to change.

Immigration: Latin America

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of Latin American countries were in detention under immigration law in each month since April 2007. [217787]

Mr. Byrne: Quarterly data are published showing the number of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter. The accompanying table shows the number of Latin American nationals detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the last Saturday of each quarter since April 2007 up to March 2008, the latest published information.

Further National Statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Latin American nationals[1] detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the specified dates[2,3,4,5]

Detained as at:	*Number of detainees*
30 June 2007	40
29 September 2007	35
29 December 2007	25
29 March 2008	25

[1] Includes nationals of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.
[2] Excluding persons detained in police cells and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
[3] Due to changes in working practices, these statistics now exclude all persons detained in Prison Service establishments. Figures are not directly comparable with those prior to June 2006.
[4] Figures include dependants.
[5] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed under immigration laws to *(a)* Colombia, *(b)* Ecuador, *(c)* Bolivia and *(d)* Peru in (i) each month since April 2007 and (ii) (A) 2006-07, (B) 2005-06 and (C) 2004-05. [217788]

Mr. Byrne: The accompanying tables show the number of persons removed or departing voluntarily to Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru during the periods specified and up to March 2008, the latest published information.

Further National Statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Persons removed or departing voluntarily[1,2] from the UK, to Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07[3]

Number of removals

Destination[4]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[5]	*2006-07*[5]
Colombia	350	380	370
Ecuador	265	240	215
Bolivia	455	360	305
Peru	45	40	45

[1] Includes persons departing voluntarily following enforcement action initiated against them and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration.
[2] Since January 2005, includes persons who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[4] Destination as recorded on source database.
[5] Provisional figures.

Persons removed or departing voluntarily[1] from the UK, to Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru by month during 2007-08[2]

Number of removals

	Destination[3]			
	Colombia	*Ecuador*	*Bolivia*	*Peru*
April 2007	25	15	15	*
May 2007	25	20	25	*
June 2007	30	10	25	*
July 2007	20	25	35	-
August 2007	30	15	50	5
September 2007	25	20	30	*
October 2007	20	10	35	5
November 2007	35	10	40	*
December 2007	15	10	50	5
January 2008	20	10	35	*
February 2008	10	15	35	5
March 2008	20	5	35	*
2007-08	270	170	415	25

[1] Includes persons departing voluntarily following enforcement action initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five ('-' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[3] Destination as recorded on source database.

Internet

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisation is responsible for regulating *(a)* Bebo, *(b)* YouTube and *(c)* other internet sites; and if she will make a statement. [216594]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* While the internet is a worldwide medium, it is subject to UK law and the UK Government policy is that what is illegal offline is illegal online. As such the internet is subject to the same laws as other media.

The Government's policy in relation to the development of the internet is not to place general monitoring obligations or regulation on those who provide internet services, host websites etc., but rather to allow self-regulation.

In practice, there are excellent working relationships with the internet industry, and they have developed strong working practices and guidelines relating to services they offer and content they host. Where a UK ISP is advised—usually by law enforcement—that they are hosting material which is illegal, they have an excellent record in removing it.

Most recently the Home Secretary's Taskforce on Online Child Protection published the Good Practice Guidance for the Providers of Social Networking and Other Interactive Services 2008. This was produced by

members of the Taskforce including representatives from social networking sites. This Guidance asks companies to consider a risk assessment approach to their services and considering putting in place a range of potential safeguards where risks to children do occur. It also identifies to both the providers of interactive services and parents, teachers and carers how these sites can be used to exploit children and gives advice on how to keep children safe while using social networking tools.

In September 2007, the Prime Minister announced a review into the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content in video games and online. The review also assessed the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate content.

Dr. Tanya Byron conducted this review and reported to Ministers in March 2008. The Government have accepted all of the recommendations arising from the review and are currently planning for their implementation. The Government are actively involved in developing the UK Council on Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), which will replace the Home Secretary's Taskforce.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 16th May 2008, about the UK residency requirement on foreign domiciliary aid workers (Reference: M8887/8). [217783]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 9 July 2008.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in the last year for which figures are available. [217422]

Meg Hillier: In 2007, the Identity and Passport Service processed 303,572 reports of lost and stolen passports. There were 251,751 reports of lost passports, 41,393 stolen with the balance of 10,428 in the 'other' category. 'Other' includes passports reported as damaged or destroyed.

Schengen Agreement: Borders

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what obligations there are on the UK under the Schengen Borders Code. [217982]

Mr. Byrne: We do not participate in the immigration aspects of the Schengen Acquis. The Schengen Border Code does not therefore apply to the UK. We believe that maintaining our national frontier controls is the most effective way to maintain border security.

Terrorism: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to refuse entry to any foreign or Commonwealth citizen seeking to enter the UK who is known to have publicly praised one of the 7th July bombers for their actions in those attacks. [218010]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Existing policy provides that those who engage in the glorification or justification of terrorist violence will normally be excluded from the UK on the basis that their presence here would not be conducive to the public good. Such activities fall within the scope of the list of "unacceptable behaviours" announced by the then Home Secretary in the wake of the July 2005 bombings. The unacceptable behaviours list made clear the sort of activities that are likely to lead to a person's exclusion or deportation from the UK.

Travel Restrictions: al Qaeda

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the EU flight ban on individuals associated with al-Qaeda has been invoked. [217985]

Mr. Byrne: We do not collect this information centrally. The details of those subject to the EU travel ban are placed on the relevant UK watch lists to prevent a named individual from travelling to, entering or transiting the UK.

Waterside Court

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment was made of the likely impact of the flood plain of the River Aire on Waterside Court short-term holding facility before it was built; and if she will make a statement. [218017]

Mr. Byrne: Waterside Court was originally a water mill built over the River Aire in the 17th century and is a grade II listed building. The Home Office only took up leased occupation of a refurbished Waterside Court on 19 May 2000 and our knowledge of any flood assessment(s) undertaken prior to our occupation is limited.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to prevent the re-flooding of Waterside Court short-term holding facility on Kirkstall Road by the River Aire; and if she will make a statement. [218018]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office acquired a demountable flood protection barrier system in 2001, and the building also has permanent waterproofing to cover areas not protected by the barrier. The Home Office has invested in the ongoing maintenance of these defences. The Home Office monitors the Environmental Agency website for flood warnings and operates the manual barrier on the basis of these. The barrier has been put in place once during the last 12 months.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of the Attorney-General's Office in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215565]

The Solicitor-General: In the last year, there have been 53 flights at a cost of £21,296.50 (excluding VAT).

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General what IT contracts the Law Officers' Department and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215138]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office, Serious Fraud Office and Revenue Customs and Prosecutions office have entered into contracts with Sungard Public Services.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department have entered into 86 IT contracts:

22 contracts for the support and maintenance of hardware;

43 contracts for the support and maintenance of software; and

21 contracts for the support and maintenance of communication services.

The Crown Prosecution Service has entered into five IT contracts (HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are also included under these contracts):

1 contract for the support of an HR and Payroll system;

1 contract for a web-based recruitment system; and

3 contracts under the Office for Government Commerce Framework Agreement for the provision of and electronic ordering system, an online tendering system and an intranet application.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor General how many permanent staff within the Attorney-General's Office are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215578]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within her Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214542]

The Solicitor-General: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles.

Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor General how much was spent by the Law Officers' Departments on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215219]

The Solicitor-General: The figures are broken down by Department and year in the following table:

	2006-07			*2007-08*		
	Magazines	*Newspapers*	*Other publications*	*Magazines*	*Newspapers*	*Other publications*
Attorney-General's Office	[1]59,108.09	6,304.22	—	[1]65,216.80	5,911.24	—
Crown Prosecution Service		[2]269,301.69			[2]182,865.20	
Treasury Solicitor's Department	[1]240,873.12	4,579.55	—	[1]578,001.78	6,374.09	—
Serious Fraud Office	7,508	2,085.25	51,055	5,944	2,022.05	116,933
Revenue Customs and Prosecutions Office		[2]11,945.53			[2]9,280.95	
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate		[2]14,885.23			[2]12,539.39	

[1] Figure includes other publications and could be broken down only at a disproportionate cost.
[2] Figure could not be broken down into separate categories without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many reviews of regulation the Attorney-General's Office has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215618]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in the Attorney-General's Office in the last 24 months. [215615]

The Solicitor-General: None have been reported stolen, a small number have been lost but records are not kept.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels the Attorney-General's Office subscribes; and

at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215654]

The Solicitor-General: The office subscribes to parliamentary television which does not incur any costs.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Solicitor-General how much fish was procured by her Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217893]

The Solicitor-General: Detailed records are not kept on the procurement of fish and the information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Harassment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* racial harassment have been brought against her Department in each year since 1997; and what sum of payments resulted from such cases in each year. [214216]

The Solicitor-General: There have been less than five sexual and racial harassment cases brought against the Law Officer's departments, therefore this information cannot be provided on grounds of confidentiality.

Lotfi Raissi

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps are being taken by the Law Officers in response to the findings of misconduct by the Crown Prosecution Service in the Court of Appeal judgment in Raissi v Secretary of State for the Home Department; and if she will make a statement. [195634]

The Solicitor-General: The judgment of the Court of Appeal in the case of R (ex parte Lotfi Raissi) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department concerned three issues:

whether, as a matter of interpretation, the ex gratia scheme for the payment of compensation to persons who have lost their liberty as the result of a miscarriage of justice is capable of applying to detention in the context of extradition proceedings;

if it is, whether there is evidence of serious default on the part of the Metropolitan Police and/or the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) which the Secretary of State ought to consider; and

whether, if an application by Mr. Raissi for compensation failed under the serious default provision, the circumstances of the case are so exceptional that the Secretary of State ought to reconsider the application under the second paragraph of the scheme.

The Court of Appeal held that the scheme does apply to detention in the context of extradition proceedings. Further, it held that there was evidence to suggest that the Metropolitan Police and the CPS were responsible for serious defaults. The court made no findings of misconduct. Its judgment, on this point, was limited to considering whether there was evidence that the Secretary of State ought to consider; and it emphasised that it reached no firm conclusions on the issue of serious default, as neither the Metropolitan Police nor the CPS was represented before the court and in any event, findings of fact in relation to any alleged serious default are for the Secretary of State.

The Attorney-General and I have discussed the Court of Appeal's judgment with the Director of Public Prosecutions. We must await the outcome of any further litigation; but pending that, the Director has asked his Principal Legal Advisor to conduct an internal review of the matters raised by the Court of Appeal's judgment, and to advise him accordingly, with any such recommendations as he considers to be appropriate.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication the Law Officer's Department subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215671]

The Solicitor-General: None of the Law Officer's departments subscribe to this publication.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Burmese government on the assassination of Padoh Mahn Sha, Secretary General of the Karen National Union. [217723]

Meg Munn: We have not formally discussed the assassination of Padoh Mahn Sha on 14 February 2008 with the Burmese regime. The case is still under investigation by the Thai police.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the government of Cuba on detention of political prisoners. [217557]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and Officials raise the continuing detention of political prisoners in Cuba with representatives of the Cuban government, including the Cuban ambassador, on a regular basis. I raised the issue with Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Eumelio Caballero on 3 April and with the Cuban ambassador on 11 June.

Last month the EU lifted the suspended diplomatic measures that were imposed on Cuba following the arrest of 75 dissidents in 2003. This decision was taken as a means of facilitating a political dialogue between the EU and Cuba, including on human rights.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214704]

Meg Munn: Of the buildings occupied by Foreign and Commonwealth Office agencies and non-departmental public bodies, only the lease on the property occupied by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in London is due for renewal in the next four years.

Central records are not held by the British Council and it would incur disproportionate cost to provide the information requested.

Departmental Coordination: Dept for International Development

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in delivering the FCO-DfID Shared Service Delivery plan objectives of increasing the proportion of *(a)* co-located offices by over 10 per cent. and *(b)* Department for International Development staff in co-located offices by over 25 per cent. by the end of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period. [216305]

David Miliband: There has been a small increase (4 per cent.) in the number of staff from the Department for International Development (DFID) in co-located offices since the shared service delivery plan was developed in October 2006.

The overall number of co-located offices has reduced, primarily as a result of restructuring which has involved the closure of DFID offices in several countries. However, additional co-locations have taken place at our missions in Harare, Lilongwe, Georgetown and Kampala. We also plan to co-locate at Abuja, Bridgetown, Delhi, Dhaka, Kabul and Jerusalem over the course of the current comprehensive spending review period. We are currently co-located in a total of 33 sites.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which countries his Department shares offices with the Department for International Development; and how many staff from each department work at each office. [216307]

David Miliband: The following table shows in which countries the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) shares offices with the Department for International Development (DFID) and how many UK based and local staff currently work at each office:

Country	*FCO staff*	*DFID staff*
Afghanistan	112	37
Albania	27	2
Angola	34	3
Armenia	19	3
Bosnia	28	6
Belgium (Brussels UKREP)	150	2
Burma	44	8
Burundi	3	6
Cambodia	27	17
Democratic Republic of Congo	37	38
Ethiopia	174	53
Georgia	29	3
Guyana	22	8
Indonesia	61	12
Iraq	60	6
Jamaica	77	5
Kenya (and Somalia)	172	47
Malawi	44	58
Moldova	21	3
Nigeria	121	2
Pakistan	269	53
Russia	140	1
Rwanda	25	28
Serbia and Montenegro	60	5
Sri Lanka	88	2
Tanzania	33	28
Thailand	109	1
Tajikistan	24	7
Uganda	74	44
Vietnam	19	28
Zambia	39	29
Zimbabwe	89	30
Yemen	144	8
Total	2,375	583

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217060]

Meg Munn: The following proportion of staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) did not receive the maximum bonus possible under the bonus scheme applying to them in each of the last two years:

	Percentage	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Grades below the senior management structure (SMS)	94	95
SMS	88	76

The FCO uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable, performance-related bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the grades below senior managers based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest rating and bonus award is applicable where performance significantly exceeds a challenging performance agreement to a greater extent than considered possible at the start of the appraisal period, and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and/or services.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the SMS/senior civil service (SCS) follow a framework set for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office. We use variable pay for SMS/SCS staff to reward excellent individual performance and achievement during the year. Variable pay decisions are based on a judgment by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. Whitehall Departments were authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 7.6 per cent. of

their SMS pay budget on non-consolidated variable pay for senior staff in 2007 and 8.6 per cent. in 2008. 25 per cent. of senior staff will not receive a bonus in 2008.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214705]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is an equal opportunities employer. Staff are recruited in accordance with the Civil Service Commission Recruitment Code and the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991. Interchange opportunities with other Government Departments are advertised on a Whitehall-wide basis. Secondments from outside the civil service into the FCO promote the exchange of wider ideas and experience.

For the duration of the loan period, staff on secondment or interchange to the FCO are subject to FCO terms and conditions of service as set out in the Home Service Regulations. As such, the FCO's Dignity at Work policy is applicable to secondees and those on interchange. We listen to their concerns through the Secondees Group, a support network that was set up by and consists of FCO employees who are on loan or seconded from other Government Departments or other organisations.

EU Defence Policy

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the French government has proposed a military ERASMUS programme for the exchange of members of EU member states' armed forces. [215430]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The French Government have made a proposal for officer exchanges between EU member states. They have made clear that any scheme would be voluntary and impose no obligations on any member state. We welcome this proposal as a means to increase interoperability amongst EU member states.

Kurds: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to convene a peace conference to bring together representatives of Kurdistan, Turkey, Armenia and Iraq. [218126]

Dr. Howells: We are in frequent contact with the Governments of Iraq, Armenia and Turkey and the Kurdistan regional government in Iraq and encourage them to strengthen their bilateral relationships and resolve any disputes they have through dialogue. We have no plans to convene or support a conference specifically for these countries.

Laos: Religious Freedom

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Laos on the treatment of Christians in that country. [217498]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports of the detention and mistreatment of Christians in Laos. Our ambassador in Bangkok, who is accredited to Laos, raised the issue of human rights with the authorities when he visited that country from 8-10 April.

The Like-Minded Group (a group of resident embassies and international organisations) have regular meetings in Vientiane that discuss human rights issues in Laos and the EU Commission held a Human Rights working group with the Lao government from 2-3 March.

We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

We will continue to raise our concerns with the Lao authorities as and when the opportunity arises.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of relations between Hezbollah and *(a)* Hamas, *(b)* Islamic Jihad and *(c)* the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade; what recent discussions he has had with the government of the State of Israel on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [217915]

Dr. Howells: Hezbollah's military wing provides support to rejectionist groups in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. On 2 July my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary laid an order in Parliament which, if approved, will proscribe the entirety of Hezbollah's military wing. Proscription will not affect the political, social and humanitarian role Hezbollah plays in Lebanon, but it sends out a clear message that we condemn Hezbollah's violence and support for terrorism carried out by its military wing.

We have regular discussions with the Israeli authorities, which address this issue among many others.

Pakistan: BBC

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements have been made by the BBC World Service with the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority for control of content of re-broadcast BBC material in Pakistan; what level of Ministerial consent was required for this arrangement; and if he will make a statement. [217389]

Mr. Jim Murphy: BBC World Service content, including what is re-broadcast by partners on FM frequencies, conforms only to BBC editorial values and guidelines. The BBC World Service has total editorial control over its programming whether that programming is broadcast directly by it on short wave or medium wave or via third party distribution arrangements. This is at the core to any agreement with any partner station.

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority does not regulate the BBC World Service. It regulates the stations which are licence holders in Pakistan. The BBC World Service does not hold a licence. The BBC

World Service is a content supplier in Pakistan in the same way as it supplies content to its partners throughout the world.

No ministerial agreement was required for this arrangement as none is required in the Broadcasting Agreement, between the BBC World Service and the Foreign Commonwealth Office.

Russia: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the government of Russia on *(a)* anti-semitism and *(b)* anti-semitic (i) organisations and (ii) publications in Russia; what response was received; and if he will make a statement; [217920]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of levels of anti-semitism in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [217921]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have concerns about human rights and political freedoms in Russia, including the reported rise in violent attacks on ethnic and religious minorities. An outline of our assessment can be found in the 2007 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights Annual Report.

We hold annual bilateral human rights discussions with Russia. These were last held in January 2007 and they included discussion on the rights of ethnic and religious minorities. The next meeting is planned for later this year. We also raise our concerns through the EU/Russia human rights consultations, which were last held in April 2008. At the consultations, the EU raised a number of concerns related to specific human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Russian Federation including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and combating racism and xenophobia. We welcome President Medvedev's condemnation of "any ethnic or religious enmity" in his speech on 9 May.

The FCO supports projects in Russia which promote human rights, including strengthening state and civil society capacity to combat religious and ethnic discrimination. Last year, we spent £15,000 on such projects (out of a total spend of £700,000 to support human rights, good governance and reform in Russia).

The UK is committed to combating anti-Semitism and all forms of racism. At the 2007 Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, held in Warsaw from 24 September to 5 October 2007, we were the first country to report in detail on how we have implemented the Berlin Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism. We urged other participating states of the OSCE to do likewise. We will continue to work with our OSCE partners, including Russia, on intensifying efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

Russia: Politics and Government

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in South Ossetia. [217425]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Recently, there has been a serious escalation of tension in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone. Three incidents have contributed to this: an explosion which killed the head of the de facto South Ossetian Militia; an attack on the convoy carrying the head of the Georgian-backed South Ossetian provisional administration; and a mortar attack on Tskhinvali, the main town of South Ossetia. There have been reports of casualties on both the Georgian and Ossetian sides.

The EU presidency has issued a statement, which we support, expressing concern over the incidents and has appealed to both sides for resumption of dialogue and restraint. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Transparency International: Finance

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department provided to Transparency International in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how much of such funding was to fund projects in Venezuela. [218602]

Dr. Howells: Globally, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided the following amounts to Transparency International and their local partner organisations for specific anti-corruption projects in 2005-07:

Financial year	£
2005-06	167,149
2006-07	312,487
2007-08	466,530

Our embassies around the global network will also have provided limited funds to local Transparency International partners for micro-projects on anti-corruption, not captured in these amounts.

In Venezuela, the FCO has supported a successful project on institutional capacity building against corruption, money laundering and organised crime for administrators of justice. While Transparencia Venezuela generated the idea, the training is run by the Caracas Metropolitan University. The course offers a diploma for professionals on key principles of how to work against money laundering and other financial crime, which has been endorsed by the national council of universities. Participants in the diploma course have come from both the private and public sector, including private banks, the Venezuelan Ombudsman's office, the office of the prosecutor general, the Venezuelan Supreme Court and other courts. FCO support for this project is as follows:

Financial year	£
2005-06	Nil
2006-07	16,075
2007-08	19,310
2008-09	8,243

USA: Bank Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral statement of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 510, on the Office of Foreign Assets Control List, when the Government will approve the set of principles that will guide the

Government's intervention in extraterritoriality cases referred to by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his Department. [216884]

Meg Munn: Discussions in Government on this issue are still ongoing.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings he has held in South Africa with refugees from Zimbabwe; what assessment he has made of the safety of Zimbabwe as a country to which asylum seekers may be returned; and if he will make a statement. [218349]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary took the opportunity of his visit to South Africa to meet some of the 2,000 refugees who had taken refuge at the Central Methodist church in Johannesburg on 6 July. He listened to a number of traumatic tales from victims of the violence, including from those whose relatives had been killed and orphans as young as 12 years of age who had fled hundreds of miles to seek refuge in Johannesburg.

The situation in Zimbabwe is kept under constant review. Asylum claims are considered on a case by case basis. We have no current plans to enforce returns of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are any circumstances in which 100 per cent. benefit payments can be appropriated by Jobcentre Plus for repayment of *(a)* a crisis loan and *(b)* a budget loan when the recipient has defaulted on repayments; and if he will make a statement. [215813]

Mr. Plaskitt: No; there are no circumstances in which 100 per cent. of an applicant's benefit payments can be taken by Jobcentre Plus for repayment of a Social Fund loan.

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in implementing the 0800 crisis loan number; and if he will make a statement. [215753]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work has asked me to respond to your question on what progress has been made in implementing the 0800 crisis loan number. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Centralisation of Crisis Loans into Benefit Delivery Centres using 0800 numbers began in September 2006 and, with the exception of some parts of London, is now complete. Those parts of London not yet on the new system will switch over when we have sufficient numbers of Decision Makers in place to meet the increased demand.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215526]

Mr. Plaskitt: The euro changeover plan for the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies received its last full update in September 2004. We are currently updating this plan, and expect it to be completed later this year.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for housing benefit were received in each London local authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [217101]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Number of new housing benefit claims received by London local authorities in 2007-08

	Thousand
Barking	4,976
Barnet	8,635
Bexley	3,474
Brent	8,008
Bromley	3,422
Camden	4,944
City of London	406
Croydon	4,612
Ealing	8,877
Enfield	7,487
Greenwich	5,720
Hackney	10,048
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,437
Haringey	12,875
Harrow	2,055
Havering	2,968
Hillingdon	6,599
Hounslow	5,951
Islington	8,287
Kensington and Chelsea	2,151
Kingston upon Thames	2,822
Lambeth	11,435
Lewisham	10,458
Merton	4,430
Newham	7,624
Redbridge	5,831
Richmond upon Thames	2,653
Southwark	6,941
Sutton	3,390
Tower Hamlets	7,138
Waltham Forest	6,934
Wandsworth	5,174

Number of new housing benefit claims received by London local authorities in 2007-08

	Thousand
Westminster	4,254

Notes:
1. The total number of new housing benefit claims includes successful, unsuccesful, defective and withdrawn claims.
2. The information is reported performance from local authorities.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will reconsider his decision to apply local housing allowance to claimants who are required to change address; and if he will make a statement; [217924]

(2) if he will amend the arrangements for local housing allowance to make a distinction between those persons who are required by unforeseen circumstances to change address and those who choose to change address; and if he will make a statement. [217925]

Mr. Plaskitt: No; it was always our intention to apply the local housing allowance to all customers who move address. As from 7 April 2008, all customers who make a new claim for housing benefit, or move address in the deregulated private rented sector have their claims assessed according to local housing allowance rules. This applies regardless of the reason for the change of address.

Incapacity Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people receiving incapacity benefit (IB) in each parliamentary constituency; how many people made successful applications for IB in each constituency in 2007; and how many children are living in households dependent on IB in each London constituency. [215587]

Mr. Timms: The available information for incapacity benefits claimants and on-flows has been placed in the Library.

For the available information about children, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1562W.

Jobcentres: Closures

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many closures of Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus offices are planned; and in which locations; [211141]

(2) which Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each year since 1997. [211143]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions seeking details of planned closures of Jobcentre Plus offices by location, and how many Jobcentre Plus offices were closed in each year since 1997. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I attach a list of Jobcentre Plus offices which are currently open to the public and which we plan to close. In each case the planned closure has been approved by the Minister of State following consultation. Our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre takes into account a range of issues, for example, the impact closure may have on customer service and whether the work and staff can be relocated. When we are looking to withdraw our services from a location we are committed to full consultation with our customers, partner organisations, Trade Unions, staff, and local Members of Parliament.

I am only able to provide information on the number of Jobcentre Plus offices closed since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency. A list of the Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each year since April 2002 is attached and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Customer facing Jobcentre Plus offices planned for closure

Government office region	District	Site name	Site address
East of England	Norfolk	Downham Market	6 High Street, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9JX
East of England	Norfolk	Hunstanton	2-4 Northgate Precinct, Hunstanton, PE36 6BG
East of England	Norfolk	Wymondham	27 Fairland Street, Wymondham, NR18 OAW
London	South London	Wimbledon	153-157 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1NE
North West	Cumbria	Cockermouth	43 Station Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9QF
North West	Cumbria	Keswick	Unit 1, Packhorse Court, Keswick, CA12 5JB
North West	Cumbria	Millom	Government Buildings, St. Georges Road, Millom, LA18 5DN
North West	Cumbria	Ulverston	Glynis House, 25-27 Brogden Street, Ulverston, LA12 7AS
South East	Hampshire and IoW	Portsmouth	27 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth
South East	Hampshire and IoW	Portsmouth	Grd 1st and 2nd Floors, Lake Road, Portsmouth
South East	Hampshire and IoW	Portsmouth North	Kingston House, 227-229 Kingston Road, Portsmouth, P02 7ER

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were receiving jobseekers allowance in each month since 2005, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [215895]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

Medical Certificates

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of sick notes issued by doctors in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [216577]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Pathways to Work: Contracts

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he considered a departmental in-house bid following the entry into administration of the Pathways to Work contractor Instant Muscle. [214589]

Mr. Timms: No. We have always been clear that in order to benefit from the experience of the private and voluntary sectors in providing help to incapacity benefit claimants, delivery of Pathways to Work in phases two and three of the national roll out was to be provider led. Operational arrangements had been made on this basis both by providers and by Jobcentre Plus. The entry into administration of the chosen contractor did not affect these decisions or our ability to deliver Pathways to Work to customers in the relevant geographical areas.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioner couples one or both of whom are aged 85 years or over entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214956]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of single pensioners of each sex aged 85 years or over entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214959]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioner couples, where one or both were aged 85 years or over and living in poverty who were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215757]

(4) how many and what proportion of single pensioners aged 60 to 75 years or over were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance, *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215885]

(5) what estimates his Department has made of the number and proportion of single pensioners aged 60 to 75 years or over were living on incomes below 60 per cent. of the median income level and who were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215891]

(6) how many and what proportion of pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 60 to 75 years old, who are entitled to, but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215986]

(7) what estimates the Department has made of the number and proportion of single pensioners aged 75 to 85 years old, who are living in poverty and who are entitled to, but are not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215987]

(8) how many and what proportion of single pensioners aged 75 to 85 years old who are entitled to, but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215989]

(9) what estimate the Department has made of the number and proportion of pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 75 to 85 years old, who are living in poverty and who are entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215991]

(10) how many and what proportion of pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 75 to 85 years old, who are entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215994]

(11) what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 60 to 75 years old, who are living in poverty and who are entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215995]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of the numbers of entitled non-recipients of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07".

The published estimates consider each benefit in isolation. I regret that no estimates are available for the numbers of people who are entitled to but not receiving combinations of income-related benefits.

Social Fund: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative costs of paying *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [216050]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on what the administrative costs of paying (a) crisis loans, (b) budgeting loans and (c) community care grants were in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Specific information regarding the administrative costs of paying Community Care Grants is not available prior to 2006/07. The available information for the administrative costs for paying Crisis Loans, Budgeting Loans and Community Care Grants is in the following table. The increase in the administrative costs for paying Crisis loans in 2007/08, was due to a rise in applications for Crisis Loans that year.

Administrative costs of paying Crisis Loans, Budgeting Loans and Community Care Grants

£ million

	Crisis Loans	Budgeting Loans	Community Care Grants
2003/04	21.5	26.2	n/a
2004/05	21.3	23	n/a
2005/06	24	24.5	n/a
2006/07	24	21.9	16.8
2007/08	38.9	15.3	16.1

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the value of *(a)* income support and *(b)* jobseekers allowance as a percentage of forecast (i) mean and (ii) median earnings in each year until 2012; [200640]

(2) what *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and (c) child benefit was as a percentage of (i) mean and (ii) median earnings in each year since 1997. [200648]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables. The percentage levels of benefits for future years will depend upon future movements in earning levels, uprating of benefits, changes in the composition of claimants' characteristics, and policy changes.

Average weekly amount of income support (IS), jobseeker's allowance (JSA) child benefit (CHB) as a percentage of mean earnings

Percentage

Quarter ending May each year	IS (excluding minimum income guarantee (MIG))	JSA	CHB per child (including premiums)	CHB per family (including premiums)
1998	18.1	13.2	—	—
1999	17.9	12.9	3.0	5.5
2000	18.3	12.9	3.0	5.5

Average weekly amount of income support (IS), jobseeker's allowance (JSA) child benefit (CHB) as a percentage of mean earnings

Percentage

Quarter ending May each year	IS (excluding minimum income guarantee (MIG))	JSA	CHB per child (including premiums)	CHB per family (including premiums)
2001	18.7	12.4	3.0	5.3
2002	17.9	11.8	2.9	5.1
2003	18.6	11.7	—	—
2004	18.2	11.1	—	—
2005	16.6	10.2	—	—
2006	15.5	9.8	—	—
2007	14.9	9.9	—	—

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 7-8W, on social security benefits, what assumptions about *(a)* employment levels and *(b)* levels of jobseeker's allowance claims underpinned the estimates for 2009-10 of on-flows on to (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) employment support allowance and (iii) income support on grounds of incapacity. [216628]

Mr. Plaskitt: Forecasts of on-flows to incapacity benefit, employment support allowance and income support on the grounds of incapacity incorporate, at the time of production, the latest available evidence on past trends, announced future policies and operational changes. There is no explicit link made to assumptions about the employment level and the level of jobseeker's allowance claims although the level of inflows (on to incapacity benefit, employment support allowance and income support on grounds of incapacity) are broadly consistent with Treasury planning assumptions about the level of jobseeker's allowance claims.

Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the annual cost of allowing benefit payments to polygamous families for each additional wife in line with current guidelines on income support. [218687]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available from which to make such an estimate.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to benefit delivery centres in each year since their inception, broken down by category of call; and if he will make a statement. [216965]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on how many calls were made to benefit delivery centres in each year since their inception, broken down by category of call; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The roll out of Benefit Delivery Centres was completed in March 2008 and comparable information is only available from November 2007. The following table provides the requested information broken down by type of benefit.

Calls to Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centres broken down by benefit

Benefit	*November 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to June 2008*
Bereavement Benefit	61,269	42,562
Crisis Loans	1,558,982	1,050,291
Incapacity? Benefit	2,409,933	1,448,271
Industrial Injuries Disablement? Benefit	5,416	3,494
Income Support	4,723,233	2,794,548
Jobseekers Allowance	2,691,122	1,854,377
Maternity Allowance	24,876	19,713
Social Fund	2,845,410	1,783,806
Total	14,320,241	8,997,062

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Operational Management Information System (OPMIS)

TREASURY

Cambridge Online Learning: KMI Offshore Trust

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct HM Revenue and Customs to investigate the *(a)* VAT treatment and *(b)* taxation treatment of the acquisition of the assets of Cambridge Online Learning Ltd by KMI Offshore Trust. [218272]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are committed to supporting those who seek to comply with their obligations and to deterring and challenging those who do not.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has responsibility for selecting individual cases for compliance check and it would not be appropriate for it to comment on specific cases.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made in the search for the discs containing data lost by HM Revenue and Customs last year; what the cost to his Department of its investigation has been to date; and if he will make a statement. [205232]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to Kieran Poynter's final report, published on 25 June, which can be accessed online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/0/1/poynter_review250608.pdf

The cost of the investigation was £473,544.

Consumer Goods: Prices

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of forecasts prepared by his Department for the prices of basic household goods for the next 12 months. [215381]

Angela Eagle: The Government publish forecasts for overall consumer prices index (CPI) inflation in the Budget and pre-Budget report. The latest projection was published in Financial Statement and Budget Report 2008 (HC388) on 12 March 2008, and updated forecasts will be published in the pre-Budget report, based on all relevant factors, as normal.

Cost of Living

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he has taken to assist vulnerable adults with rising household bills; [215683]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to assist low income families with financial burdens. [215684]

Angela Eagle: Since 1997 the Government have introduced a series of reforms to make work pay and to guarantee minimum weekly incomes for families with and without children. By October 2008, in real terms, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £4,100 a year better off.

The working tax credit and the national minimum wage work together to provide a guaranteed income in work. The minimum income guarantee for single people aged 25 or over, and in full-time work, has increased by 30 per cent. in real terms since 1999.

Tax credits also play a key role in reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

On 13 May 2008, the Chancellor announced further support for low and middle-income families for 2008-09. For the current tax year, income tax personal allowances will be increased by £600 for all tax payers under 65. Around 22 million basic-rate taxpayers will benefit from this change. This not only helps those that lost out from the tax changes, but also middle income families at a time of rising food and oil prices throughout the world.

This year, adults aged 60 and over will benefit from an additional payment of £50, and those aged over 80 from an additional payment of £100to be paid alongside the winter fuel payment.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on council tax: valuation, what the official name is of the mapping software provided by TENET. [218310]

Jane Kennedy: The names given to the software provided to the Valuation Office Agency by TENET are "Digital Mapping" and the "Locality Delineation Tool".

Credit Unions: Post Offices

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to examine the feasibility of offering the public access to credit union services through post offices. [217166]

Kitty Ussher: This is a commercial and operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL), the Association of British Credit Unions (ABCUL), and individual credit unions. I understand that the Post Office and ABCUL maintain a regular dialogue to explore the opportunities for working together. I also understand that customers of credit union current accounts, which are offered through a commercial arrangement with the Cooperative bank, can already pay in or withdraw cash and make balance inquiries at post offices.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217862]

Angela Eagle: The Department does not have information available, but all staff are asked to switch off computer devices and monitors when they leave each day, and there is a screensaver to remind them to do this. While no precise measures are available, this is likely to have contributed to the year on year falls in electricity consumption which have been recorded at 1 Horse Guards road, the main Treasury building, every year for the last five years.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217383]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

	Number of early retirements in the last two years
HMT	20
OGC	56
OGC Buying Solutions	2
DMO	1

Departmental ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what objectives his Department's Property Benchmarking Service IT project was designed to meet. [218248]

Angela Eagle: The Property Benchmarking Service measures the performance of all Government buildings over 500 square metres against efficiency and effectiveness key performance indicators, and benchmarks these against equivalent buildings in both the public and private sectors. The objective is to identify buildings that are not performing well against the benchmark so decisions can be taken about their improvement or disposal.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special advisers have been employed in his Department in each month since January 2007. [215380]

Angela Eagle: Four special advisers were employed in the Treasury between January 2007 and June 2007. From July 2007 to August 2007, two special advisers were employed, at which point an additional special adviser was appointed. The number has since remained at three.

As the Chancellor also appoints members of the Council of Economic Advisers, I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1118W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban), and to the Treasury's press notice of 2 April 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217058]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

	HM Treasury	*OGCBS*	*OGC*	*DMO*
2005-06				
SCS	100	100	100	100
Grades below SCS	76	71	89	92
2006-07				
SCS	100	100	100	100
Grades below SCS	76	70	88	96

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many reviews of regulation his Department and its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210844]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's Better Regulation Simplification Plan was published in December 2007. It followed recommendations from the 2005 report "Less is More" to develop a rolling programme of simplification to identify regulations that can be simplified, repealed, reformed and/or consolidated. The 2007 Simplification Plan followed a detailed review of the administrative burdens imposed by all the regulations for which HM Treasury and its agencies are responsible and outlines the progress made so far against the administrative burdens target:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/4/4/simplificationplan111207.pdf

HM Treasury's approach is to review regulation in line with the March 2008 White Paper "Post-legislative scrutiny: the Government's Approach" by the Office of the Leader of the House.

In addition, the revised impact assessment process has increased the focus on post implementation reviews.

Equity Release

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on equity release to enable older people to remain in their homes; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what response he gave in each case; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such response; [216262]

(2) what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation regulates equity release; what changes he plans to initiate to this regime in the next 12 months; what recent representations he has received on the regulatory regime affecting equity release; what response he has made to such representations; if he will place in the Library copies of the representations received and responses given; and if he will make a statement; [216263]

(3) how many residents of *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales participated in equity release schemes in each year since 1997; [216264]

(4) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on consumers' perceptions of government regulation of (i) equity release schemes and (ii) other financial services; and if he will make a statement; [216265]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of residents of *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales who were mis-sold a home equity release product in each year since 1997; [216329]

(6) if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a statutory obligation on mortgage companies to advise borrowers about the risks of using property and equity release as a vehicle for pension investment when they take on a new mortgage; and if he will make a statement; [216330]

(7) what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to provide information to the public on equity release products; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement; [216331]

(8) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure retired people have consumer protection in respect of equity release schemes; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [216352]

Kitty Ussher: Since 2004 the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has regulated mortgages, including lifetime mortgages, one type of equity release product. In 2007 the Government extended the scope of FSA regulation to cover home reversion plans (the other main type of equity release product), to help ensure a level regulatory playing field for the equity release market.

The FSA's regime provides consumers of equity release products with appropriate protections. These include rules on the suitability of equity release products where a firm is giving advice. The FSA's regime also offers means of redress for those consumers who experience problems.

Equity release products are complex financial products, and consumers considering equity release should seek independent financial advice.

The Government do not hold data on the number of equity release products sold each year or data on potential mis-selling.

The FSA conducts regular reviews of its regulation of financial services markets, including the equity release market. Results of these reviews and other research is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/library/index.shtml

The OFT is currently conducting a market study of "sale and rent back" arrangements, which share some features with but are distinct from equity release.

The Chancellor receives representations from a wide range of stakeholders on issues relating to equity release products and other financial services. Locating this material and evaluating whether it might be released would present a disproportionate cost.

There are no plans to change the regulatory regime for equity release products at this time. The Government keep all legislation under review.

Financial Services: Disclosure of Information

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* financial service providers and *(b)* banking institutions have been served with section 20 notices by HM Revenue and Customs since September 2007; and how many individual returns have been received from those institutions to date. [217778]

Jane Kennedy: Between 1 September 2007 and 30 April 2008, 151 notices under section 20 of the Taxes Management Act were issued to banking institutions. Information is not available as to how many individual returns have been received and as to how many notices were issued to financial service providers.

Government Departments: Assets

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance *(a)* the Office of Government Commerce and *(b)* his Department has provided on the use of eBay to sell surplus government stock or assets. [217359]

Angela Eagle: OGC has not issued guidance on the use of eBay to dispose of surplus stock or assets. In disposing of assets, Departments are required to seek value for money. The OGC website has a link to the Disposal Services Agency's website; Departments can set up an arrangement for DSA to dispose of assets on their behalf. In addition, OGC has produced guidance on the disposal of surplus property which is also available on its website.

HM Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 905W, how many reported breaches of security have been recorded by HM Revenue and Customs in its offices since 1 October 2007. [196714]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC employs 90,000 staff at 600 sites. From 1 October 2007 to 24 June 2008, 1,993 breaches of security were reported, covering a wide range of different circumstances. Such security breaches reflect potential weaknesses reported by staff and not actual thefts or losses.

This high level of reporting reflects the increased awareness of staff to all forms of security following the child benefit data in loss in October 2007. HMRC takes any security incident report seriously and deals with each one appropriately in accordance with its departmental guidance and procedures.

Identity Cards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on legal costs in relation to the Office of Government Commerce and the Identity Cards Gateway Review. [217360]

Angela Eagle: The legal costs incurred relating to the disclosure of Gateway information in the Identity Cards programme are £81,000 excluding VAT.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 28 May 2008, PO Ref: 3/05867/2008, on the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate. [218174]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the hon. Member on 12 July 2008.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Exchequer Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 22 April 2008, on taxation of 4x4 vehicles. [218175]

Angela Eagle: There is no record of a letter from the hon. Member dated 22 April. However, I have replied to his letter of 3 June.

Motor Vehicles: Taxation

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the approved mileage allowance payment in respect of volunteer drivers to reflect trends in the price of fuel. [218351]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 28 April 2008. HMRC allows volunteers to use the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate for convenience, but it is not mandatory and volunteer drivers can claim tax relief for the full cost of motoring by completing a return, if they wish to do so.

Northern Rock

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the rate at which Northern Rock has repaid loans of public money made to it; and if he will make a statement. [217785]

Kitty Ussher: Northern Rock has been paying down the Bank of England loan facilities to date and is expected to continue to do so, as set out in its business plan published in March 2008.

The outstanding loan facilities as at 31 March 2008 were £24.1 billion as reported in Northern Rock's trading statement published in May 2008. This compares to the outstanding loan facilities as at 31 December 2007 being £26.9 billion as reported in Northern Rock's 2007 annual report and accounts published in March 2008.

Office of Government Commerce

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* companies and *(b)* other organisations have a framework agreement with the Office of Government Commerce. [217361]

Angela Eagle: The following link provides an A-Z list of all suppliers with an agreement with OGCbuying.solutions:

http://online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/suppliers/index.html

In addition, the following suppliers have a framework agreement with core OGC.

Equifax
The Nichols Group
Methods Consulting Ltd.
Mentis Management Consultants Ltd.
The Tribal Group
Actica Consulting Ltd.
Hitachi Consulting
AMTEC Consulting plc.
Inventures
Oakleigh Consulting Ltd.
VEGA Group plc.
Millar Hutchison
Quo Imus Ltd.
Malcolm Reading Consultants Ltd.
Malcolm Hutchinson Associates Ltd.
Concerto Consulting Ltd.
Evolve Business Consultancy Ltd.
Atkins Ltd.
Quality Business Management Ltd.
Moorhouse Consulting Ltd.
Mott MacDonald Ltd.
Drivers Jonas
Gardiner and Theobald LLP
Novos Ltd.
Procurement Excellence Ltd.
MAANA Ltd.
Chimerion Ltd.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he takes of trends in the consumer price index in determining the timing of reviews of public pay policy; and if he will make a statement. [214394]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles:

That public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans and consistent with the achievement by the Bank of England of its CPI inflation target of 2 per cent.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the take-up of research and development tax credits in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the percentage of potential recipients who have received the tax credits; and what the value of such tax credits was in each year. [217831]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the number of claims made for research and development (R and D) tax credits and the cost of support claimed are published as National Statistics on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdicmenu.htm

The research survey conducted in 2005 as part of the evaluation of R and D tax credits collected information on the awareness and take-up of R and D tax credits among R and D companies at that time. The findings are published as Research Report 12 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/index.htm

Information on the number of claims for R and D tax credits made by companies in their tax return and the estimated cost of support claimed are published on the HMRC website as National Statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdicmenu.htm

Revenue and Customs: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding HMRC in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214512]

(2) on how many occasions staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) defrauded HMRC in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214517]

(3) what estimate he has made of losses to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) from fraud committed by staff of HMRC in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214514]

(4) how many staff in HM Revenue and Customs were responsible for each instance of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* attempted fraud against the tax credit system in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214515]

(5) on how many occasions staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* attempted to defraud and *(b)* defrauded the tax credit system in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [214516]

(6) what estimate he has made of the losses to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) from fraud committed by staff of HMRC against the tax credit system in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [214513]

Jane Kennedy: Since April 2005, there have been 30 members of staff, out of around 85,000 employed by HMRC, who have been prosecuted for activity relating to fraud against the Department, 10 of which were prosecutions for fraud committed against the tax credit system. The figures can be broken down as follows:

	Number of staff prosecuted for fraud against HMRC	*Number of staff prosecuted specifically for fraud against the tax credit system*
2005-06	6	None
2006-07	12	6
2007-08	10	4
2008 to date	2	None

The total estimated loss to HMRC from fraud committed by staff against HMRC is £6 million, of which £1.9 million related specifically to fraud committed against the tax credit system. The figures can be broken down as follows:

	Estimated loss from fraud committed by staff against HMRC	*£ million* *Estimated loss from fraud committed by staff against the tax credit system*
2005-06	2	0
2006-07	1.7	1.6
2007-08	2.3	0.3

HMRC is committed to the highest levels of integrity and will not tolerate any threats to its perceived trust and level of service in the eyes of the public by its own staff. Robust procedures are in place to identify and combat all types of fraud by staff against HMRC.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonus payments were made to HM Revenue and Customs staff in each of the last three

financial years, broken down by *(a)* grade and *(b)* department. [208817]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

Senior civil service

			VOA	
SCS Grade	*Number receiving a bonus*	*Bonus paid (£)*	*Number receiving a bonus*	*Bonus paid (£)*
2005-06				
SCS1	217	972,000	4	13,000
SCS1A	53	295,700	3	16,500
SCS2	25	172,400	1	5,400
SCS3	9	72,000		
2006-07				
SCS1	153	1,054,800	4	21,800
SCS1A	36	341,688	1	6,600
SCS2	24	241,100	1	8,900
SCS3	5	6,400		
2007-08				
SCS1	177	1,358,900	4	23,000
SCS1A	50	455,700	2	22,600
SCS2	22	248,600	1	3,000
SCS3	9	149,700		

Delegated staff

It has not been possible to break down the data for delegated staff for years 2005-06 and 2006-07 so aggregate figures only are shown for those years.

	Performance related bonuses	
Delegated grade	*Number receiving a bonus*	*Bonus paid (£)*
2005-06		
All staff	35,605	9,500,000
2006-07		
All staff	37,959	17,200,203
2007-08		
Admin assistant	8,456	1,423,233
Assistant officer	21,401	4,590,011
Officer	14,656	4,764,152
Higher officer	6,893	3,012,582
Senior officer	2,754	1,603,293
Band T	186	77,419
Grade 7	914	829,740
Grade 6	561	614,643
Other	2	17,621
Total	55,693	16,842,694

The data for delegated staff refers to HMRC staff only as VOA have their own pay structure.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases have been passed from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) call centres to HMRC offices in Scotland which are currently earmarked for closure in each of the last five years. [216801]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available. HMRC have announced plans to vacate some buildings in the Edinburgh and Glasgow areas but no decisions have been made regarding the future of other buildings it occupies in Scotland.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings he expects to arise from the closure of HM Revenue and Customs' Brecon office, broken down by budget heading. [217145]

Jane Kennedy: Proposals for the HMRC office at Government Buildings, Brecon, along with other individual locations in Wales, were published on 11 June 2008. Those proposals included vacation of the office in Brecon but final decisions are not expected until later this year. Detailed feasibility work as to how much HMRC might expect to save by the proposals is still at an early stage.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many redundancies he expects will take place if HM Revenue and Customs' Brecon (Powys) tax office closes. [217841]

Jane Kennedy: No decisions have yet been made in relation to the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Brecon. The future of the Brecon office is currently subject to a programme of consultation and feasibility work. HMRC is committed to avoiding redundancies wherever possible and to helping staff find alternative posts either within the Department or elsewhere.

Taxation: Rebates

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average annual amount was paid out in tax refunds in each of the last five years. [209034]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates are available for income tax repayments made to individuals through payable orders and the Bankers Automated Clearing System (BACS) only and are as follows.

	Average amount per repayment (£)	
	PAYE or savings income	*Self assessment*
2003-04	320	1,330
2004-05	320	1,270
2005-06	350	1,430
2006-07	380	1,530
2007-08	430	1,480

Valuation Office: Cameras

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 440W, on Valuation Office: cameras, what makes and models of digital camera were purchased. [218262]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows:

April to March	Quantity
2006-07	[1]101
2007-08	[2]690

[1] These were all Olympus MJU740 models.
[2] Of these, 25 were Olympus MJU760 models, 65 were MJU820 models and 600 were Olympus MJU840 models.

Valuation Office: Eurostar

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Weybridge of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 715-6W, on Departmental travel, how many journeys on Eurostar were undertaken by Valuation Office Agency staff in 2006-07; at what cost; and what the purpose was of each such journey. [218249]

Jane Kennedy: Six journeys were undertaken by Valuation Office Agency staff on Eurostar in the 2006-07 financial year. The cost of these journeys was £1047. All of the journeys were in connection with formal investigation procedure Article 88(2) of the EEC treaty.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's videos entitled *(a)* Breaking the Code—an aid to understanding Dwellinghouse Coding, referred to on page 29 of the Agency's Council Tax Referencing Manual and *(b)* Breaking the Code referred to in Appendix A of the Agency document CTR(E) IA 270303. [199111]

Jane Kennedy: This internal training video, which was produced in 1995, is now rarely used and there is limited availability. Additionally it requires redactions to protect the identity of an individual member of staff, which would mean it has to be converted to a modern format. The cost of sourcing the video and undertaking the editing would be disproportionate.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayment notices his Department issued in each of the last 12 months. [215133]

Jane Kennedy: The numbers of requests to pay back overpaid tax credits (forms TC610) issued by HM Revenue and Customs in each month from June 2007 to May 2008 are given in the following table:

Month	Thousand
2007	
June	71
July	91
August	272
September	684
October	151
November	51
December	29
2008	
January	22
February	39
March	26
April	21
May	72

The improvements made to the administration of the tax credits system have significantly reduced overpayments, increased the flexibility of the system and provided certainty to families. Overpayments of tax credits have fallen by £700 million since 2005-06 and are now less than half the level they were in 2003-04.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credits enquiries his Department received through its 0800 and 0845 numbers in each of the last three years. [214296]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC operates two 0845 helplines to deal with tax credits inquiries: the tax credits helpline for the general public and an intermediaries helpline. Advisers working on other HMRC helplines may also receive a small number of tax credits inquiries, but these are incidental to their main work, and the number is not recorded.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given by the then Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) on 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2137W, on 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1857W and on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 418W, in which the number of calls received by the tax credits helpline in each month in the last three years to April 2007 has been provided. The following table brings this information up to date for 2007-08.

Tax credits helpline

	Number of calls received[1] to the nearest thousand
May 2007	2,510
June 2007	2,664
July 2007	3,149
August 2907	2,129
September 2007	2,025
October 2007	1,703
November 2007	1,563
December 2007	1,039
January 2008	1,830
February 2008	1,600
March 2008	1,445

[1] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser

In addition the following table gives details of the number of calls received by the intermediaries helpline in each of the last three years.

Tax credits intermediaries service

	Number of calls received to the nearest thousand
2005-06	80
2006-07	99
2007-08	56

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Central Office of Information who are entitled to travel on a business class or first class airfare on official business are permitted to travel in a cheaper class; and what (i) financial and (ii) other benefits staff are permitted to accrue from any saving. [211160]

Phil Hope: As part of recent policy changes designed to reduce its expenditure on official travel, the Cabinet Office requires all air travel by officials to be undertaken by economy class. The only exceptions when premier economy or business class may be used are if the journey time exceeds four hours, or the journey involves an overnight flight, or if no economy seats are available and there are no alternative practical travel options. First class air travel is not permitted. The Central Office of Information's policy on travel for staff is in line with that of the Cabinet Office and civil service guidelines are observed. Travel by Ministers and accompanying staff is governed by the requirements of the ministerial code.

No financial or other benefits are received by staff.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how frequently the Cabinet Office makes a payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund; and whether the calculation of the cost of the offsetting is made by the Cabinet Office or the Offsetting Fund. [217351]

Phil Hope: Cabinet Office has made two payments to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund covering the periods 2005-06 and 2006-07. Data is currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year and will be available later in the year. The calculation of the cost of the offsetting is made by Cabinet Office using methodology provided by DEFRA.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within the Cabinet Office's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214543]

Mr. Watson: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years; [215228]

(2) how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 10 years. [215242]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many reviews of regulation the Cabinet Office has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [211007]

Phil Hope: There has been one review of regulation in the Cabinet Office since July 2007. The Office of the Third Sector (OTS), located in the Cabinet Office, conducted a review of financial thresholds in charities legislation jointly with the Charity Commission, and published de-regulatory proposals for public consultation in December 2007. This fulfilled a commitment made in Parliament during debate on the Charities Bill.

A summary of consultation responses will be published shortly, together with a plan for implementation.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214677]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office is committed to ensuring equal opportunities in all of its processes. We conduct equality monitoring of secondees to the Department as part of our monitoring of the overall work force.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer from the Prime Minister of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W, on departmental security, whether records are kept of *(a)* the number of lost passes in the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the reasons for losses. [217548]

Edward Miliband: I have nothing further to add to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W.

Departmental Telephones

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contracts the Cabinet Office has with mobile telephone operators for the provision of mobile telephones for *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial use. [217350]

Phil Hope: Within the Cabinet Office, mobile phones for official use by staff and Ministers are procured through two contracts with Vodafone, both of which

were facilitated through the provisions of an Office of Government Commerce buying solutions (OGCbs) negotiated agreement.

Ecovert FM

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the schedule of charges levied for minor works under the Cabinet Office facilities management contract with Ecovert FM. [217937]

Phil Hope: The contract with Ecovert FM currently incorporates a threshold with all works completed under this threshold being paid as part of the fixed fee element of the contract. To obtain details of all such minor works would incur disproportionate cost.

Futurebuilders England Fund

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of expenditure made from the Futurebuilders England Fund. [217433]

Phil Hope: Futurebuilders is an active research programme which tests the theory that if unbankable third sector organisations can access investment finance at reasonable cost, they can then compete for and win public service delivery contracts, and that public service delivery will improve as a result. The programme is being independently evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University. Their interim report, published in April 2008, is available on the Sheffield Hallam website at:

www.shu.ac.uk/cresr.

Office of the Third Sector

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff worked in the Office of the Third Sector in April 2008; and what plans there are for the number of staff which will be in place in April 2009. [217347]

Phil Hope: There were 55 staff in post in the Office of the Third Sector as at 30 April 2008. The number of staff in OTS will be 59.5 in April 2009.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated cost to the public purse, including office costs, is of employing the five policy officers for the Office of the Third Sector in 2008-09. [217401]

Phil Hope: The OTS is in the process of recruiting five additional policy officers. The salary band published in the job advert was from £26,712 to £32,283 (with the potential to rise to £34,612 through performance-related pay).

All office costs are included in the overall OTS administration budget as published in the Central Government Supply Estimates 2008-09—Main Supply Estimates (HC 479), available online at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./documents/public_spending_reporting/estimates/estimates_index.cfm

Any change to the budget will be included in future supplementary estimates.

Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average mean full-time *(a)* male earnings and *(b)* female earnings were in each local authority area in Great Britain in the most recent period for which figures are available. [217939]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average mean full-time (a) male earnings and (b) female earnings were in each local authority area in Great Britain in the most recent period for which figures are available. (217939)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

Results for Local Authorities can be obtained from Table 7 in the ASHE publications available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

Public Participation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions since 1 June 2007 *(a)* focus groups have been consulted and *(b)* polling surveys have been undertaken; and what subject was in question in each case. [217149]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* For information regarding public participation events, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1142W.

Information on individual management units conducting polling surveys of the public can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Voluntary Work: Car Allowances

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in what ways the Cabinet Office monitors effects on volunteer car and minibus drivers of fluctuations in the price of fuel; and what estimate he has made of the effects of recent rises of the price of fuel on the number of such volunteers. [213584]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is committed to addressing barriers to volunteering. Officials from the Office of the Third Sector regularly meet with representatives from the sector to discuss a range of issues.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer from the Secretary of State for International Development to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 596-7W, on Afghanistan: asylum, on how many occasions security for humanitarian agencies delivering aid has been provided by *(a)* the International Security Assistance Force and *(b)* other forces since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [217625]

Des Browne: Since January 2008, there are no recorded instances in which UK military personnel have provided security for humanitarian agencies delivering aid in Afghanistan, nor are there any recorded instances in which such assistance has been requested.

We do not hold detailed records on the extent to which the other members of the International Security Assistance Force have been engaged in these activities.

Afghanistan: Pakistan

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the role of elements of the Pakistani *(a)* military and *(b)* intelligence services in assisting (i) the Taliban and (ii) other insurgents in Afghanistan since 2001. [218255]

Des Browne: We do not comment on the detail of intelligence assessments but the Ministry of Defence continually analyses how the Taliban and other extremists operate in support of the insurgency in Afghanistan. International cooperation is central to our efforts and we welcome the Government of Pakistan's commitment to countering terrorism as a top priority. We continue to press them to ensure that the Afghanistan insurgency cannot draw support from within their own borders.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition were discharged in Helmand province in each roulement since Operation Herrick 4, broken down by type. [216076]

Des Browne: The amount of ammunition used by UK forces in each Operation Herrick roulement since Herrick 4 is set out in the following table:

Type of nature	*Herrick 4 (August 2006 to October 2006)*	*Herrick 5 (October 2006 to April 2007)*	*Herrick 6 (April 2007 to October 2007)*	*Herrick 7 (October 2007 onwards)*	*Herrick 8 (April 2008 onwards)*
7.62mm all natures	210,000	520,000	1,100,000	1,036,000	493,000
5.56mm all natures	235,000	615,000	1,170,000	1,020,000	590,300
0.5 inch all natures	25,000	90,000	185,000	153,000	59,200
12.7mm all natures	2,400	350	0	1,005	840
9mm all natures	10,000	69,000	14,000	57,000	45,000
0.338	200	1,700	4,900	485	272
12 bore shotgun all natures	5	45	660	71	216
105mm all natures	8,600	4,300	12,100	12,430	1,645
30mm Armoured Fighting Vehicle rounds	1,200	5,000	3,600	2,800	0
30mm Attack Helicopter rounds	29,800	21,000	26,500	7,700	15,350

Note:
Where applicable, figures have been rounded either to the nearest 10,100 or 1,000.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on providing bottled water to British troops operating in Afghanistan in each of the last 12 months; and how much has been purchased in each month. [216242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table sets out the volume and cost of water supplied to UK troops in Afghanistan over the last year through our enabling contract:

	Volume/litre	*Value (£)*
July 2007	1,159,776	80,208
August 2007	1,228,899	72,922
September 2007	1,837,818	123,038
October 2007	593,240	44,938
November 2007	421,932	29,421
December 2007	613,102	38,295
January 2008	876,935	56,458
February 2008	749,903	49,566
March 2008	1,212,854	79,072
April 2008	598,706	61,725
May 2008	896,616	76,346
June 2008	751,127	63,707

We have invested around £7 million on the provision of a water bottling plant in Camp Bastion to provide bottled water from natural sources in theatre. This has been running since the end of February 2008, at maximum capacity can produce 50,000 litres of bottled water per day and has produced over 2 million bottles since production began.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means water is supplied to troops operating in Afghanistan. [216243]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Water is supplied to UK forces in Afghanistan by a number of methods. Bottled water is provided to troops where water is not available locally from other sources, and it is supplied either through a contract or using the water bottling plant at Camp Bastion. The water is distributed to troops by a

range of methods, depending on the location, including truck, helicopter or air dispatch.

In many forward bases, water is supplied locally from boreholes established by the UK military. Water from these is purified by reverse osmosis plants and tested for purity. Samples are regularly taken to ensure that the water is safe to drink.

Soldiers are also provided with purification tablets for use in extremis, although these are not relied upon as an enduring means to provide troops with drinkable water.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* British forces and *(b)* ISAF forces in Afghanistan against their objectives; and if he will make a statement. [217652]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The presence of UK and other ISAF troops has already contributed significantly in transforming Afghanistan from a pariah state that harboured international terrorists, into a functioning democracy with a legitimate Government and Parliament. Security conditions are broadly stable if fragile in places, particularly in the South and East of the country. Overall in 2007, 70 per cent. of security incidents were confined to 10 per cent. of Afghanistan's 398 districts, which together contain less than 6 per cent. of the Afghan population.

UK forces continue to expand the authority of the Government of Afghanistan in Helmand and, together with Afghan forces, are expanding areas of security around the major towns in the province, allowing civilian-led reconstruction and development work to take place.

Afghanistan: Prisons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security reviews *(a)* the British armed forces and *(b)* other NATO forces have carried out on Afghan prisons in the last five years. [214376]

Des Browne: The security of prisons in Afghanistan remains the responsibility of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Consequently, UK forces do not conduct formal security reviews of these facilities.

However, our deployed forces clearly have a strong interest in ensuring that security in the prisons in Afghanistan is adequate and therefore, we do work with the Afghan authorities in this area: for example, a team from the Helmand Task Force visited the prison in Lashkar Gar recently in part to assess the local security arrangements and provide advice on how these might be improved. The UK Prison Service is also working with the responsible local authorities to enhance security in Pol-e-Charki prison in Kabul.

We do not hold detailed records on the extent to which NATO allies undertake security reviews of Afghan prisons.

Armed Forces: Amphibious Vehicles

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels comprise the amphibious fleet; and how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* crew serve on each. [218347]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2707W.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to acknowledge the work of cadet forces as part of the Cadet 150 celebrations. [217509]

Derek Twigg: Work is currently under way between the MOD, the cadet forces and their supporting associations to develop a programme of events and activities to celebrate and promote the success and values of the Cadet Movement in its 150th year. A broad outline of events around the UK showcasing adventure, sports and cadet skills has been agreed, including at least one organised by each of the single-service cadet forces as well as a major national commemorative event to be taken forward under the stewardship of the MOD's ceremonial events and commemoration team in the summer of 2010.

In addition to demonstrating the wide range of developmental opportunities available to young people in cadet units across the entire UK, it is intended that the events will help stimulate interest from adults who will be willing to come forward and dedicate their free time to becoming adult volunteers for this most worthwhile cause.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to offer equal access to Ministry of Defence logistical support to cadet force units based in rural and urban areas. [217721]

Derek Twigg: All cadet forces have equal access to MOD logistical support and this is provided on a regional basis, irrespective of whether the unit is based in a rural or urban setting.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Government have legal representation at all inquests involving deceased military personnel. [218195]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For the majority of inquests, MOD does not have legal representation because they are non-adversarial, fact-finding proceedings. However, on some occasions the MOD, as an "interested person" may engage Counsel to assist the coroner in establishing the relevant facts surrounding the death, particularly in cases which are complex, often involving sensitive matters relating to national security.

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applicants to the armed forces have been rejected due to poor vision or visual impairments in the last 12 months. [218451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces do not record centrally the exact reason for a medical rejection of an application; only that an individual has been medically rejected. The only way to determine the exact answer would be to manually trawl through the individual files for all rejected applicants and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the annual defence medical budget is allocated to eye care. [218452]

Derek Twigg: The figure requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have been taken off front-line duty due to visual impairments sustained in service. [218454]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average *(a)* start up and *(b)* running cost of a Department of Community Mental Health is. [216248]

Derek Twigg: The MOD has 15 departments of community mental health (DCMHs) in the UK with additional satellite centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar. Responsibility for their individual management is shared between the single service commands.

DCMHs came into being in April 2004. Prior to 2004 community-based mental health services were provided by what were known as departments of community psychiatry (DCPs). The conversion of DCPs to DCMHs involved providing uplifts of funding to the single services for the creation of specific staff posts and improvements to IT resources. The amount of funding provided to each of the single services varied depending on their needs, however in financial year 2004-05 it totalled approximately £7.5 million.

Each service funds its respective DCMHs differently with funding provision coming from a number of areas. Estimated annual costs for an average Army DCMH are approximately £543,000, which covers staff pay and other associated costs, such as allowances, training, equipment and line rental.

Due to the number of budgets to which costs would be attributable any detailed study of DCMH finances would incur disproportionate costs.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of salary payments for personnel in all three services were paid on time in the last two years; [215422]

(2) how many RAF employees *(a)* received a salary payment late and *(b)* missed a salary payment as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; [215423]

(3) how many armed forces personnel *(a)* received a salary payment late and *(b)* did not receive one or more salary payments as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system in 2007. [215424]

Derek Twigg: During financial years 2006-07, 99.92 per cent. of personnel in all three Services were paid on time (773 RAF personnel were paid late) and in 2007-08 all armed forces personnel were paid on time. (See notes). No member of the armed forces failed to receive a salary payment as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration System in either year.

Notes:

1. The number of personnel paid on time and paid late reports the performance of the former Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency's (financial year 2006-07) and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's (financial year 2007-08) against key target 1 (timeliness of pay) as set out in the Annual Corporate Plan and Annual Report and Accounts.

2. Some individual delays in payments of some additional pay and allowances have occurred as a result of late or invalid inputs to the Joint Personnel Administration system being received from individuals, unit HR or career managers.

3. Local cash payments are always available to individuals should the need arise.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown of recruitment to the armed forces against targets by region for the last five years. [218449]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no recruitment targets currently set by region or nationality.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 718W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox), which details target and actual recruitment to the Army, Naval Service and RAF. Recruitment targets are shown from 2000-01 to 2007-08. Actual recruitment is shown from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Northern Ireland have been identified as awaiting (i) disposal and (ii) demolition in each year since 2002. [218437]

Derek Twigg: The following service family accommodation (SFA) properties in Scotland have been identified for disposal and demolition.

Financial year	Identified for disposal	Identified for demolition
2001-02	670	0
2002-03	41	84
2003-04	248	0
2004-05	260	0
2005-06	86	0
2006-07	183	0
2007-08	419	0
2008-09	95	0

In Northern Ireland, 553 properties await disposal and 142 properties are currently being demolished. Historic data for Northern Ireland is not available.

Armed Forces: Training

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact on Defence Training Review project financing of levels of demand from residential developers for his Department's land at *(a)* Aborfield and *(b)* Bordon. [217395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 Project plans to improve and rationalise phase 2 and phase 3 technical training. As a consequence of this rationalisation both Bordon and Arborfield Garrisons will be released for sale from 2012 onwards.

MOD has sought recent independent valuation advice for both sites as part of financial appraisals for DTR which uses prudent levels of values in its assessments.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress his Department has made on the proposed sale of sites at *(a)* Arborfield and *(b)* Bordon; and if he will make a statement. [218767]

Derek Twigg: As a result of defence training review project, which aims to improve and rationalise defence training, Bordon and Arborfield garrisons will be released for sale. The sites will be sold following the relocation of the occupying units to their new facilities from 2012 onwards.

In anticipation of this disposal Defence Estates is working with the respective local authorities to achieve master plans and prepare planning applications for both locations.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans have been agreed by his Department for managing affordability gaps identified in the Defence Training Review. [217725]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department continues to work constructively with the Metrix consortium on a range of issues on DTR Package 1 to achieve an affordable, value for money, acceptable and deliverable project. Cost growth and the implications of the credit crunch on borrowing have been a significant factor. The Department has been working jointly with Metrix to drive the price down to seek to eliminate the affordability gap without materially affecting the scope of the project.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to discuss with the Comptroller and Auditor General the treatment of the financing of the Defence Training Review programme in his Department's accounts. [217726]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has not yet entered into a contract for the delivery of Defence Training with the Metrix consortium. The treatment of the financing of the Defence Training Review (DTR) programme does not therefore appear in the Department's accounts and consequently there are no plans to discuss DTR with the Comptroller and Auditor General. One minor entry for a contingent liability of £9.5 million will, however, be included in this financial year's account. This undertaking was laid as a departmental minute before the House for 14 working days on 29 January this year.

Defence Training Review Executive Board

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the minutes of the last meeting of the Defence Training Review Executive Board. [217394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interest.

Defence: Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what defence expenditure *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding the cost of operations was in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available in (i) cash terms and (ii) as an estimated percentage of gross domestic product. [217005]

Des Browne: Defence expenditure figures for 2006-07 are as follows:

	Near cash outturn (£)	Percentage of GDP
Including the cost of operations	30,207,161,000	2.6
Excluding the cost of operations	28,475,793,000	2.4

Departmental Car Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mileage allowance is provided to each category of entitled worker by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [218482]

Derek Twigg: Civilian employees who use their private vehicle for official duty may claim one of two mileage rates, the Standard Rate of Motor Mileage

Allowance (SRMMA) or where there are more economic methods of travel, the Private Travel Rate of Motor Mileage Allowance (PTRMMA). Rates are:

SRMMA:

40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles

25p per mile for travel more than 10,000 miles

PTRMMA:

25p per mile

The SRMMA is based on HM Revenue and Customs Authorised Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs) and the PTRMMA on the AMAP for travel more than 10,000 miles.

There are several travel allowances which can be claimed by service personnel.

The UK Private Car Rate (PCR) is more usually claimed for duty journeys (i.e. journeys undertaken for reasons such as meetings or official visits). It is payable for journeys where there is no spare seat available in a service or private motor vehicle already scheduled to undertake a journey in the required direction and, although public transport could be used without undue detriment to the interests of the service, the use of a private motor vehicle is considered reasonable. The rate is 28.3p per mile.

The UK Official Duty Rate (ODR), which is authorised only very occasionally for duty journeys where the use of a private motor vehicle is essential and there is no cheaper alternative, is the same as the SRMMA for civilians and is also based on HM Revenue and Customs Authorised Mileage Allowance Payments AMAPs.

Service personnel who travel daily between the accommodation where they live and their place of duty may claim Home to Duty (HTD) (Public) if they live in public accommodation or HTD (Private) if they live in private accommodation. The allowance is based on the distance travelled up to a maximum of 50 miles per single journey, less a personal contribution of one mile per single journey for HTD (Public) and nine miles per single journey for HTD (Private). The rates are paid on a daily basis and vary according to the number of miles travelled. For example the daily HTD (Public) rate claimable for a distance of 30 miles each way from the place of duty is £9.94.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217382]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows details of the number of Ministry of Defence civilian employees that have taken early retirement in the last two financial years.

Financial year	*Number of MOD civilian staff who have taken early retirement*[1]
2006-07	1,370
2007-08	1,700

[1] Includes armed forces, industrial, industrial and trading fund MOD civilian personnel but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on exit reason is available.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer on 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1363-64W, on departmental equipment, how many of the computers which have been stolen since 1998 contained information with a classification of *(a)* none, *(b)* restricted, *(c)* confidential, *(d)* secret and *(e)* top secret; [182387]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 58W, on departmental computers, how many of the computers which were stolen in 2007 had a classification of *(a)* no classification, *(b)* restricted, *(c)* confidential, *(d)* secret and *(e)* top secret. [182390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of the theft of the Royal Navy laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen computers since 2003.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and arrange for a copy of my reply to be placed in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 25 January 2008, (Official Report, columns 2246-47W) about departmental computers.

As a result of the investigation into details of electronic media lost/stolen since 2003, which I announced on 31 March 2008, (Official Report, column 517W), data on the number of laptops and desktop computers centrally reported as stolen from the Department since 2003 have been revised. Figures prior to 2003 were not centrally recorded and were limited in nature and are therefore not presented in this reply. The information is set out in the following table which identifies the highest Protective Marking ("classification") of material which the systems were accredited to hold.

	Unclassified /None	*Restricted*	*Confidential*	*Secret*	*Top Secret*	*Not determined*	*Total*
2003							
Laptops	20	39	0	1	3	73	136
Desktops	7	2	0	0	0	36	45
2004							
Laptops	74	86	0	2	0	110	272
Desktops	12	5	0	0	0	20	37

	Unclassified /None	Restricted	Confidential	Secret	Top Secret	Not determined	Total
2005							
Laptops	12	34	0	1	0	83	130
Desktops	3	3	0	0	0	19	25
2006							
Laptops	32	58	0	2	0	63	155
Desktops	2	3	0	1	0	22	28
2007							
Laptops	13	35	0	0	0	53	101
Desktops	1	9	0	0	0	3	13
2008 (Up to 25 June 08)							
Laptops	15	19	0	0	0	0	34
Desktops	3	2	0	0	0	0	5

In some instances it has not been possible to determine the highest Protective Marking of material which the systems were accredited to hold as it was not established when the incident was reported and subsequent clarification has proved inconclusive (these are classified as 'Not Determined' in the table).

Our investigation may not have identified all instances where a higher Protective Marking of material was held on a lower classification of system. Attempting to confirm these would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. Processes have been amended to establish the highest Protective Marking of material held on systems as part of our data capture and investigation of such incidents.

Departmental Land

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much of the land owned by his Department has been deemed surplus to requirements; and what the estimated value of such land is; [218473]

(2) what the estimated value of his Department's land planned to be decommissioned is. [218475]

Derek Twigg: Information regarding sites both in disposal and also those potentially surplus to requirements in the future is available in the Library of the House and is periodically updated.

Details of the estimated sale value of land that is due to be disposed of are not published as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Departmental Legal Costs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on legal fees defending cases in the courts in each financial year since 1997. [218447]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance available on his Department's staff intranet on the drafting of answers to Parliamentary Questions. [217337]

Derek Twigg: Yes.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217059]

Derek Twigg: The proportion of staff who, under their respective pay arrangements did not receive the maximum bonus possible was 92 per cent. in 2006 and 94 per cent. in 2007.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what bonuses were paid to senior civil servants in his Department in 2007-08; [218510]

(2) what proportion of bonus payments to senior civil servants in 2007-08 was paid to officials in his Department; and if he will make a statement; [218511]

(3) how many senior civil servants in his Department were eligible for bonus payments in 2007-08; and how much his Department paid in bonus payments in that year. [218512]

Derek Twigg: We are not yet in a position to provide the information requested as this year's Senior Civil Service Pay Committee process for 2007-08 is not yet complete. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's main estimate in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms on the same basis as in his Answers to the hon. Member for Aldershot on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2346W and 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2284W. [218334]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answers to *(a)* the hon. Member for Aldershot of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1893W and *(b)* the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1359W on departments: public expenditure, if he will clarify his Department's budget in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [218335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence's planned expenditure over the next three years (including 2008-09) is detailed in section IV of the Defence Plan published in June 2008.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215624]

Derek Twigg: The majority of regulations made by the Ministry of Defence relate directly to the armed forces. Following the Armed Forces Act 2006 the Department has begun, and is continuing, a programme which will involve the replacement of all the single service subordinate legislation with tri-Service regulations under the new Act. However, this does not cover all regulations to which the question refers. That information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215651]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210558]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210575]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Academy, the MOD's internal training provider, runs 660 different courses that are open to civil servants, of which some run several times a year, making a total of 5,439 courses available.

The take-up by civil servants over the last 12 months was 54,602. This figure does not include any e-learning courses undertaken, and may include the same civil servant attending and completing more than one course.

Information about courses run by external training providers can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215916]

Derek Twigg: Over the past two years the Ministry of Defence has undertaken a series of actions to reduce the amount of waste it produces and sends to landfill. These include: conducting a series of site waste audits to determine the processes that generate waste; implementing site waste minimisation schemes; and commissioning a Waste Management Improvement Project. This examined waste management activities carried out throughout the defence estate and how these could be improved to reduce the amount of waste generated in the first instance and to increase the amount of waste that remained to recycling and recovery operations. The recommendations from this report are in the process of being actioned.

The Ministry of Defence is also working closely with not-for-profit organisations such as WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) to increase the amount of construction waste re-used on site and recycled off-site, and NISP (National Industrial Symbiosis Programme) which looks to create industrial synergies with local businesses and organisations so that the Department's waste is used as another's resource.

The MOD Specialist Training School at RAF Halton also runs an accredited three-day waste management course which teaches individual site environmental advisers the practical aspects of waste management with an emphasis on waste reduction and recovery.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215469]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested. However, during session 2006-07, 25 per cent. of both named day written questions and ordinary written questions were answered on time.

EU Defence Policy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK *(a)* military units and *(b)* vessels have taken part in EU military operations. [216656]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1894W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

The UK is also contributing a total of four military officers to the current ESDP mission to Chad/Central African Republic (CAR): two officers in the operational HQ at Mont Valerien in Paris and two officers in the force HQ in Chad/CAR. These staff officers are being provided under standing EU headquarters augmentation procedures.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian contractors employed by his Department serving on *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick have been (i) wounded and (ii) killed in each year since 2003. [207909]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We greatly value the work done by contractors in supporting operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and we take very seriously our responsibilities towards them in both theatres. However, collating comprehensive data on injuries or fatalities suffered by our contractors is very difficult. As a result, detailed and reliable information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Iraqi insurgents his Department estimates to be *(a)* Ba'athists, *(b)* Nationalists, *(c)* Kurdish Worker Party members, *(d)* the Salafi, *(e)* Badr Organisation members and *(f)* Mahdi Army members; and if he will make a statement. [218023]

Des Browne: It is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the proportion of Iraqi insurgents that belong to specific categories. Membership of individual groups fluctuates with their fortunes and divisions between them can be blurred, making assessments of their numbers difficult.

The Badr Organisation is not an insurgent group, but a legitimate political party. The Kurdish Workers' Party is a Turkish, not Iraqi, group which operates against Turkey.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often armoured vehicles have been penetrated by insurgent ordnance in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [218446]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contact lens infections have been reported in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan amongst armed forces personnel since 2003 in each country. [218455]

Derek Twigg: The following numbers are recorded as having been aeromedically transferred to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak with contact lens related ulcers:

Theatre	*Time period*	*Number of cases*
Iraq	1 January 2003 to 9 July 2008	24
Afghanistan	1 January 2003 to 9 July 2008	<5

There may also have been a small number of cases treated successfully in-theatre. Details will be recorded on the individuals' personal medical files, but are not recorded centrally.

Korean War

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British servicemen who went missing in action during the Korean War remain unaccounted for. [217504]

Derek Twigg: The cases of all Korean war servicemen who were not accounted for at the end of the war were extensively investigated in the early 1950s. In 1954, following these investigations, the War Office presumed death had occurred for all 118 cases of servicemen identified as missing. This was later changed to 113 to reflect the recovery of five bodies in the late 1950s.

Martyn Compton

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on Martyn Compton, when he expects to make a decision on the compensation payable to Lance Corporal Compton. [218366]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member when a decision has been made.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual flying hours for each helicopter type in the (i) Army Air Corps, (ii) Fleet Air Arm and (iii) Royal Air Force was in each year since 2001. [216251]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no requirement to hold data on average flying hours. The total planned and actual flying hours for each helicopter type in the three services for each year since 2001 are shown in the following tables. Information on planned flying hours prior to 2004-05 is not available for all aircraft types.

Army Air Corps

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Apache AH1							
Planned hours	—	—	—	8,096	9,793	13,720	13,987
Actual hours	818	2,137	3,248	5,460	7,295	11,334	12,040

Army Air Corps

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Agusta A109							
Planned hours	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Actual hours	989	1,053	1,001	925	1,067	987	1,080
Gazelle							
Planned hours	—	—	—	33,333	20,376	14,200	14,822
Actual hours	35,518	33,336	29,145	26,643	19,996	13,866	11,709
Lynx Mk 7 and 9							
Planned hours	—	—	—	21,988	23,520	24,270	14,400
Actual hours	23,982	23,196	21,029	22,724	23,338	21,228	17,914

Royal Navy

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lynx Mk 3							
Planned hours	6,337	7,165	5,853	5,853	6,500	6,500	5,600
Actual hours	7,657	7,857	7,627	6,558	6,764	6,305	6,377
Lynx Mk 8							
Planned hours	5,163	3,835	5,247	5,247	6,500	6,500	5,600
Actual hours	3,426	3,921	4,874	4,527	5,351	5,925	5,333
Merlin Mk1							
Planned hours	5,341	9,450	11,200	7,500	10,274	9,783	10,728
Actual hours	3,224	4,445	4,820	2,616	5,931	6,828	6,737
Sea King Mk 5							
Planned hours	2,863	3,124	2,682	3,632	4,849	4,849	4,849
Actual hours	3,627	3,633	3,941	4,278	4,067	4,138	4,205
Sea King Mk 6							
Planned hours	8,569	4,704	2,949	928	—	—	—
Actual hours	5,476	3,617	2,002	1,623	777	—	—
Sea King Mk 7							
Planned hours		1,360	4,068	3,840	4,236	4,236	4,236
Actual hours		1,925	3,098	3,280	3,154	3,039	3,274

Royal Air Force

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Chinook HCSl2a							
Planned hours	—	—	—	11,870	12,063	14,735	13,999
Actual hours	10,199	10,279	10,400	11,973	11,308	13,040	13,366
Merlin HC Mk3							
Planned hours	—	—	—	3,610	6,036	6,003	5,912
Actual hours	974	2,028	3,112	1,980	3,965	5,406	5,479
Puma HC Mk1							
Planned hours	—	—	—	13,250	12,670	13,000	12,041
Actual hours	14,453	13,168	12,924	11,750	10,521	11,179	9,367
Sea King HAR 3l3a							
Planned hours	13,404	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,800	10,800	10,800
Actual hours	9,630	9,448	10,499	10,899	12,644	11,843	11,028

National Security

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the National Security Strategy's objectives in areas within his Department's responsibility have been implemented; and if he will make a statement; [217345]

(2) what plans his Department and its agencies have to implement the National Security Strategy within areas of his Department's responsibility; and if he will make a statement; [217346]

(3) what targets have been set for his Department in implementing those parts of the National Security Strategy which are within its areas of responsibility; and how performance against such targets will be measured. [218152]

Des Browne: MOD is contributing to the delivery of a wide range of the cross-Government objectives set out in the National Security Strategy and these priorities are reflected in our plans. Implementation is co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office and overseen by the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development.

Nord Anglia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the Metrix Consortium and the Defence Training Review programme of the sale of Nord Anglia to Baring, an Asian private equity company. [217720]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD will need to be content with all relevant arrangements pertaining to the Metrix Consortium and its subcontractors as a precursor to entering into a contract for DTR Package 1. The DTR contract is not yet let but Nord Anglia are envisaged as a lower-tier sub-contractor to Metrix. MOD will therefore be assuring itself that this change in ownership does not in any way preclude the inclusion of Nord Anglia under the terms of the proposed DTR contract, which includes specific provisions to protect the national interest. If these subcontracting conditions cannot be met, the requirements of the contract to provide the DTR services nonetheless persist and it will be for Metrix, as the prime contractor, to deliver against those requirements.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* armed forces and *(b)* civilian personnel are stationed at RAF Halton. [217582]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables give the number of armed forces and civilian personnel stationed at RAF Halton at 1 July 2008.

Armed forces personnel

	Number
Service	790
Student	944

Civilian personnel

	Number
Staff	490
Contractors	375

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

Recruit training

	Number
2003-04 [1]	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
1. Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for *(a)* supply roles, *(b)* catering and *(c)* administration roles in each year since 1998. [217584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

Trade

	Catering	Administration	Supply
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much income was received by his Department from RAF Halton selling *(a)* spare capacity training and *(b)* spare capacity resources in each year since 1998. [217586]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The income received by the MOD from RAF Halton selling spare training capacity and spare resource capacity, is given in the following table. Spare training capacity figures are approximate and have been provided by HORIZON who have a contract with the RAF to market this training. Exact figures relating to spare training capacity are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information given in the table has been rounded to the nearest £1,000. Information is not available for the years prior to those included in the table.

£

	Income received from spare training capacity at RAF Halton	Income received from spare resource capacity at RAF Halton
2003-04	21,000	n/a
2004-05	20,000	145,000
2005-06	25,000	237,000
2006-07	44,000	212,000
2007-08	63,000	240,000

n/a = Not available.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which customers purchased *(a)* spare capacity training and *(b)* spare capacity resources from RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217587]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF has had a contract with HORIZON to market spare training capacity at RAF Halton since 2001. I am withholding the list of HORIZON'S customers as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. Details of customers for spare capacity at RAF Halton prior to 2001 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Since financial year 2004-05, approximately 1,500 customers have purchased spare resource capacity from RAF Halton. I will write to the hon. Member with the names of these customers.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian staff vacancies have been advertised at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217593]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of civilian staff vacancies advertised internally and externally at RAF Halton. Information is only available from calendar year 2003. Earlier information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Vacancies

	Number
2003	6
2004	11
2005	36
2006	82
2007	171

South Korea: Defence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has held with his South Korean counterpart on strengthening the defence procurement relationship between the UK and the government of South Korea. [217503]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary met his South Korean counterpart Minister, Lee Sang Hee in Singapore on 1 June in the margins of the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Asia Security Summit. Strengthening the defence procurement relationship between the UK and the government of South Korea was not discussed.

Trident Missiles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any Trident warheads have experienced specified abnormal or severely abnormal environments, as defined by JSP 538 in the last 30 years. [218408]

Des Browne: No Trident warhead has experienced either a specified or severe abnormal environment. The Trident nuclear warhead system was designed against robust environmental standards that are now captured in JSP 538. In achieving approval for in-service use for Trident, trials and assessments of components and special build warheads against those standards were undertaken and passed.

Unmanned Air Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to purchasing MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from overseas rather than UK-assembled UAVs. [216229]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In order to meet an Urgent Operational Requirement an assessment was made of all known developmental and off-the-shelf strategic level unmanned air vehicles, including those available from within the UK. This assessment concluded that the MQ-9 Reaper was the only UAV which provided the required capability in the necessary time scale. The MQ-9 Reaper has been procured complete from a US company, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc, which is the sole source for the system. Watchkeeper, which is expected to enter service in 2010 to meet the long-term requirement for a formation higher tactical level UAV, will be assembled in the UK and work is under way to decide how best to meet our future strategic level UAV requirements.

HEALTH

Abortion: Statistics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many times the 2007 Abortion Statistics have been downloaded from his Department's website. [216353]

(2) how many hard copies of the 2007 Abortion Statistics have been provided by his Department free of charge; to whom; at what cost to the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [216354]

Dawn Primarolo: Between 19 and 30 June there have been 783 downloads of the PDF of "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2007" and 764 downloads of the tables in Excel format.

Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 515W, paper copies of the statistical bulletin were made available in the Vote Office as he requested. Fifty copies were provided and no estimate has been made of the cost of doing so. No other hard copies of the bulletin have been distributed.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances have been decommissioned by the NHS in each of the last five years for which records are available. [215766]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. It is for trusts to ensure at local level that the ambulance vehicles they are using are fit for purpose.

Ambulance Services: Fuels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received from the East of England Ambulance Service on the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on ambulance services; [217234]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of recent increases in the cost of fuel on ambulance services in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [217235]

Mr. Bradshaw: No recent representations have been received from the East of England Ambulance Service on the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on ambulance services.

Arrangements for accessing fuel for ambulances are the responsibility of local ambulance trusts, and we have made no assessment of the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on ambulance services in either Hertfordshire or England. The health service in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Ambulance Services: Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to ambulance authorities on procurement of vehicles; and what makes of ambulance are recommended for purchase by ambulance authorities. [215317]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are two types of ambulance procured by ambulance trusts: patient transport service ambulances and accident and emergency (A and E) ambulances.

Both types of vehicles can be procured either by outright purchase or by leasing, depending on the individual trusts preference.

For the outright purchase of either type the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) has two national frameworks in place. These contracts provide ambulances which comply with the standard adopted by the British Standards Institute for those vehicles which carry a stretcher.

The specification for A and E ambulances for the new framework was decided by the National Strategic Ambulance Group. The new national specification for front line accident and emergency ambulances is box body only and because of the equipment it carries Mercedes, Iveco and Volkswagon are specified as suitable providers.

These frameworks are not mandatory and trusts can tender on their own behalf for both patient transport service and A and E ambulances. However, trusts may make use of NHS PASA advice and assistance.

Autism: Drugs

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of prescribed drugs to a person suffering from autism on reaching the age of 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [218605]

Dawn Primarolo: Transition planning is important for young people moving from child to adult services. This process should involve an integrated multidisciplinary team (including the general practitioner) to enable co-ordinated care, including medical management and medication. The Department would expect the continued prescribing of medicines to form part of this planning.

Cancer: Mortality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the average numbers of years of life lost for *(a)* all cancers, *(b)* brain tumours, *(c)* prostate cancer and *(d)* breast cancer in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [216616]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* The following table shows the numbers of years of life lost for all cancers, cancer of the brain, prostate cancer and breast cancer in England. The figures are for the period 2004-06.

Summary of years of life lost statistics for selected causes of death, England, 2004-06 (pooled)

		Number of deaths aged under 75 years		Number of years of life lost up to age 75 years	
Cause of death	*Gender*	*Three year total*	*Annual average*	*Three year total*	*Annual average*
Mortality from all cancers[1]	Persons	186,747	62,249	2,221,529.5	740,509.8
Mortality from cancer of the brain (brain tumours)[2]	Persons	6,594	2,198	121,828.0	40,609.3
Mortality from prostate cancer[2]	Males	7,298	2,433	49,250.0	16,416.7
Mortality from breast cancer[1]	Females	17,086	5,695	265,068.6	88,356.0

[1] Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base: The Information Centre for health and social care/National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, 2008.

[2] Source: Cancer of brain—a bespoke analysis by National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, July 2008.

Notes:

1. Data are based on the original underlying cause of death.
2. Data are based on the latest revisions of Office for National statistics population estimates for the respective years, current as at 23 October 2007.
3. Data exclude deaths under one year of age.
4. Figures have been taken from the Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators on the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development website—specifically from the spreadsheets showing the crude rate per 10,000 population and number of years of life lost for each of the conditions requested.

Breast Cancer: Genetics

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of women in England considered to have an increased risk of breast cancer as a result of a genetic defect. [218252]

Ann Keen: The Department does not have estimates of how many women are at risk of breast cancer due to a genetic defect. The 2004 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer estimates that three to 5 per cent. of women have inherited faults that can lead to a high risk of developing breast cancer. Up to 27 per cent. of women may have an inherited predisposition to breast cancer.

Recent research has identified other genes, which are associated with a small increased risk of developing breast cancer. Further work is needed but these discoveries offer the possibility that we will be able to identify more women at increased risk.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS healthcare trusts offer double screening of mammograms and MRI mammograms to women at increased risk of breast cancer as a result of family history and genetic defect. [218253]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to judge the performance of care homes; how many *(a)* care homes, *(b)* residential homes and *(c)* nursing homes in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England were ordered to close in each of the last five years; and for what reason in each case. [214039]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it assesses the performance of care homes against the Care Homes Regulations 2001, taking account of the relevant national minimum standards (NMS). Inspectors also assess how care homes comply with other regulations, such as those relating to health and safety.

CSCI uses key lines of regulatory assessment (KLORA) to help in making judgments about each NMS outcome group. These guidance documents provide inspectors with examples of evidence that may be found in an excellent, good, adequate or poor service. The KLORA are a description of what the standards might look like in practice, not an additional set of standards that have to be met. They help to translate evidence into a judgement of either excellent, good, adequate or poor, to assist in assessing how well a care service is performing.

The following tables show the information held centrally with regard to the cancellation of registration of providers of care homes and care homes with nursing in Southend, Essex and England during the operational years from 2003-04 to 2007-08. The data cover both cancellation of registration under section 17 'normal' cancellations following the set Notice of Proposal procedure and section 20 'urgent applications to a Justice of the Peace', of the Care Standards Act 2000.

It should be noted that all care homes are residential. CSCI distinguishes between those that provide personal care only, nursing homes and non-medical nursing homes.

In Southend, three care homes underwent cancellation of registration during the period. These cancellations were due to continuous failure on the part of the providers in question to meet regulations and an unacceptable degree of risk to people living in the services.

In Essex, one care home underwent cancellation of registration during the period. The home, which was deregistered in 2004-05, provided a poor physical environment and had issues regarding staffing. This provider subsequently applied for a voluntary cancellation.

We have been informed by CSCI that to provide the reasons for all cancellations in England since 2003-04 would involve disproportionate cost.

Number of compulsory cancellations of registration issued (care homes in Essex and Southend on Sea)

Type of home	*Area*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Care home—personal care only	Essex	0	1	0	0	0	1
Care home—personal care only	Southend on Sea	1	0	1	0	1	3
Total		1	1	1	0	1	4

Note:
Figures shown are non-urgent cancellations. There have been no urgent cancellation orders in either of these council areas during the period shown.
Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database. Data as at 27 June 2008.

Number of compulsory cancellations of registration issued (care homes in England)

Type of home	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Care home with nursing	10	6	8	6	7	39
Care home—personal care only	49	21	25	28	31	162
Total	59	27	33	34	38	201

Note:
The figures shown include both urgent and non-urgent cancellations. Urgent cancellations are shown separately in the following table.
Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database. Data as at 27 June 2008.

Number of urgent cancellations of registration issued (care homes in England)

Type of home	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Care home with nursing	0	0	1	0	0	1
Care home—personal care only	0	5	0	3	9	17
Totals	0	5	1	3	9	18

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database. Data as at 27 June 2008.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how often care homes are subject to inspection; and if he will make a statement; [218370]

(2) what the standard of care was in each care home inspected in each of the last three years for which details are available; and if he will make a statement. [218371]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that The Commission for Social Care Inspection (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 require CSCI to make arrangements to inspect care homes, domiciliary care agencies and adult placement schemes at least in every three-year period. The Regulations permit CSCI to take a proportionate approach to inspection, based on an assessment of the quality, risk and outcomes for the people who use services.

In order to make these assessments, CSCI carries out key inspections of all registered services. Key inspections, which are usually unannounced, are a thorough examination of how well a service is performing. Inspections take into account information provided by the owner or manager, the views and experiences of people living there, their relatives, staff and visiting professionals, as well as information CSCI finds when it visits the service. CSCI also considers any relevant information it has received about the service since the last inspection, for example, concerns that may have been raised.

CSCI uses all information collected to measure how far the experiences of people using a service meet their expectations in areas that are important to them. Inspecting in this way helps CSCI to put residents at the heart of how it judges the quality of services. From these judgments, CSCI awards quality ratings, which help it to plan how often the service should be inspected in future. The frequencies are:

a three star—excellent—service will receive at least one key inspection every three years;

a two star—good—service will receive at least one key inspection every two years;

a one star—adequate—service will receive at least one key inspection every year; and

a zero star—poor—service will receive two key inspections every year.

This does not mean that a service will not be inspected more often if necessary. CSCI also carries out shorter, targeted, random inspections. These are usually unannounced and can take place at any time of the day or night. CSCI may undertake a random inspection because it has received information that suggests people using the service might be at risk, or to check on improvements that should have been made.

During each year in which services rated excellent or good are not inspected, CSCI carries out an annual service review. During a review, CSCI analyses all the information received about the service during the last 12 months, including any complaints or notifications. It also surveys people using the service and other interested parties. If, as a result of the review, CSCI considers the quality of the service may have changed, it may decide to bring forward the next key inspection or to carry out a random inspection visit.

To provide information on the standard of care in every care home inspected in each of the last three years would incur disproportionate cost. CSCI inspects homes against the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Care Homes for Older People or the NMS for Care Homes for Adults. The decision as to which set of NMS should be used is made by the inspector at the time of the inspection and is based on the current age profile of the residents of the home. The following tables show the percentages of homes meeting or exceeding the individual NMS during the last three years for which information is available.

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual NMS for care homes for older people 2004-05 to 2006-07

National minimum standard

	Private			Council			Voluntary			Totals for all services		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Information	72	78	78	71	76	77	76	84	82	72	78	78
Contract	81	85	83	74	78	77	85	89	87	81	85	83
Needs assessment	82	85	84	84	85	84	88	87	86	83	84	84
Meeting needs	81	83	83	82	84	82	88	90	89	82	84	83
Trial visits	96	97	97	93	94	95	99	99	98	96	97	97
Intermediate care	80	86	87	81	82	87	90	92	95	82	86	88
Service user plan	56	57	56	58	55	58	57	58	56	56	57	56
Healthcare	77	77	79	80	83	80	83	84	83	78	78	79
Medication	56	59	60	60	60	60	58	58	60	56	59	60
Privacy and dignity	88	89	89	90	92	94	94	94	94	89	89	90

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual NMS for care homes for older people 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Private			Council			Voluntary			National minimum standard Totals for all services		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Dying and death	88	89	88	86	87	88	93	92	93	88	89	89
Social contact and activities	80	78	75	82	79	76	87	86	85	81	79	76
Community contact	97	98	97	97	98	98	98	98	99	97	98	97
Autonomy and choice	90	90	91	94	93	94	95	95	95	91	91	92
Meals and mealtimes	84	84	85	86	89	89	89	91	92	84	85	86
Complaints	85	86	87	86	88	89	91	90	90	85	87	88
Rights	96	96	96	97	97	96	98	98	98	96	96	96
Protection	73	73	76	82	85	86	82	83	84	75	75	78
Premises	68	66	67	57	63	69	76	73	75	68	67	68
Shared facilities	89	87	86	88	88	88	93	92	92	89	88	87
Lavatories and washing facilities	78	79	78	74	79	78	84	86	86	78	80	79
Adaptations and equipment	75	77	77	77	81	83	88	89	88	77	79	78
Space requirements	93	93	92	90	90	91	95	95	95	93	93	92
Furniture and fittings	70	77	77	70	76	78	84	88	89	72	78	79
Heating and lighting	67	72	73	70	75	77	78	82	83	68	73	74
Hygiene and infection control	72	75	77	74	82	83	83	85	85	73	77	78
Staff complement	79	80	81	73	79	78	84	84	84	79	81	81
Qualifications	61	70	76	72	84	90	77	80	84	64	72	78
Recruitment	59	64	68	60	71	78	67	71	75	60	65	69
Staff training	69	70	71	77	79	80	83	82	80	71	72	72
Day to day operations	67	72	76	74	81	87	82	84	87	69	74	78
Ethos	89	88	87	94	94	94	95	94	93	90	89	89
Quality assurance	60	66	68	66	71	76	71	78	81	61	67	70
Financial procedures	85	87	87	86	89	88	92	94	93	86	88	88
Service User Money	87	87	91	88	90	93	92	93	93	87	88	91
Staff Supervision	62	65	65	77	81	78	75	75	75	65	67	67
Record Keeping	67	67	66	65	68	69	73	73	72	67	68	67
Safe Working Practices	52	53	60	54	59	66	62	62	67	53	54	61

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual NMS for care homes for adults, 2004-05-2006-07

	Private			Council			Voluntary			National minimum standard Totals for all services		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Information	69	77	76	64	73	74	69	79	79	69	77	77
Needs assessment	87	88	88	82	83	85	89	90	91	88	88	89
Meeting needs	84	86	87	79	81	81	89	90	91	85	87	88
Introductory visits	94	95	95	91	94	95	96	96	97	94	95	96
Contract	73	78	78	65	75	74	74	80	80	73	78	78
Service user plan	68	71	70	63	66	67	71	71	72	69	70	71
Decision making	84	88	88	89	91	90	89	92	93	86	89	90
Participation	88	89	89	83	85	86	91	92	93	89	90	90
Risk taking	77	78	79	74	74	78	79	81	83	77	79	80
Confidentiality	89	91	91	90	92	92	92	92	92	90	91	91
Personal development	92	92	91	92	90	88	95	95	95	93	93	93

Percentages of services meeting or exceeding individual NMS for care homes for adults, 2004-05-2006-07

	Private			Council			Voluntary			National minimum standard Totals for all services		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Education and occupation	92	91	91	91	90	90	96	94	94	93	92	92
Community links and social inclusion	92	93	93	93	92	87	95	94	94	93	93	93
Leisure	86	88	88	84	86	82	88	91	91	87	89	88
Relationships	97	97	97	96	96	98	98	99	99	97	98	98
Daily routines	88	91	93	85	93	93	92	95	96	89	92	94
Meals and meal times	87	89	90	85	89	90	89	90	93	88	90	90
Personal support	91	92	92	91	90	90	93	92	94	92	92	93
Healthcare	89	89	88	86	86	88	90	88	89	89	88	88
Medication	62	66	67	56	67	68	63	68	69	62	67	68
Ageing and death	83	85	86	83	84	83	84	86	87	83	85	86
Concerns and complaints	85	86	87	81	88	89	84	87	89	83	86	88
Protection	71	72	75	74	79	78	76	77	80	73	74	77
Premises	67	68	69	50	56	60	61	63	65	63	65	66
Space requirements	94	93	93	84	85	86	94	93	94	93	92	92
Furniture and fittings	78	82	84	71	77	76	80	84	86	78	83	84
Toilets and bathrooms	80	83	82	66	74	75	77	80	80	78	81	81
Shared space	86	88	88	79	83	82	85	86	87	85	87	87
Adaptions and equipment	88	90	88	77	82	80	89	89	89	88	89	88
Hygiene and control of infection	79	84	86	74	83	88	81	83	86	80	83	86
Roles	89	90	90	91	92	92	93	93	94	90	91	91
Qualities and qualifications	74	74	78	74	76	80	81	80	84	77	77	80
Staff team	77	79	78	74	74	73	77	78	78	76	78	78
Recruitment	63	69	72	55	64	70	63	70	78	62	69	73
Training and development	67	70	71	70	70	71	78	78	79	71	73	74
Supervision and support	73	75	75	80	82	80	83	83	82	77	79	78
Day to day operations	62	71	78	65	73	79	64	74	80	63	72	78
Ethos	93	92	91	93	90	89	95	94	93	94	92	92
Quality assurance	59	63	68	53	59	65	63	68	74	60	65	70
Policies and procedures	75	78	77	69	74	75	78	80	81	76	79	78
Record keeping	71	72	71	65	67	68	70	73	72	70	72	71
Safe working practices	55	60	64	50	56	65	56	60	67	55	60	65
Conduct of the service	79	80	79	75	76	79	82	83	83	80	81	80

Children: Cannabis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into the psychotic effect of skunk cannabis on children in the last 10 years. [217027]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned research from its centrally managed research and development programmes specifically related to the effects on children of cannabis.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* title, *(b)* date of issue and *(c)* consultation period was of each document issued for consultation by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each year since its creation; if he will place copies of each in the Library; how members of

the public may obtain copies; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [214058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Copies of the published consultations have been placed in the Library.

Members of the public can also obtain copies of all consultations free of charge by ordering from CSCI Details for how to order can be obtained from the CSCI website at:

www.csci.org.uk/about_us/publications/how_to_order_free_printed_pub.aspx

In addition, copies of all consultations can be downloaded from the CSCI website as follows.

CSCI consultations

Date of issue	*Title*	*Consultation period*	*Location*
1 July 2004	Code of Practice in Relation to Confidential Information	1 July 2004 -15 October 2004	www.csci.gov.uk/system_pages/data_protection.aspx
1 September 2004	An Independent Voice (Social Services Complaints Procedure)	1 September 2004 - 20 December 2004	www.csci.org.uk/about_us/publications/an_independent_voice.aspx
1 November 2004	CSCI's draft corporate plan 2005-08	1 November 2004 -28 February 2005	www.csci.org.uk/about_us/publications/draft_corporate_plan.aspx
1 November 2004	Inspecting for Better Lives consultation	1 November 2004 -28 January 2005	www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/publications/consultation_ibl.aspx
1 February 2005	Consultation on getting rid of the terminal illness (71) category in care homes	1 February 2005 -31 March 2005	www.csci.org.uk/about_us/publications/terminal_illness_consultation.aspx
1 February 2005	Race Equality Scheme	1 February 2005 -30 April 2005	www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=892&key=
7 February 2006	Regulatory charges for council fostering and adoption services	7 February 2006 -14 March 2006	www.csci.org.uk/professional/about_csci/publications/view.aspx?csci=1257
10 May 2006	Equalities and Diversity Strategy	10 May 2006 -16 June 2006	www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=1427&key=
1 May 2006	Give us your views on the Key Lines of Regulatory Assessment (KLORA)	1 May 2006 -31 July 2006	www.csci.org.uk/about_us/publications/klora.aspx
28 July 2006	A new outcomes framework for performance assessment for adult social care 2006-07: consultation document	28 July 2006 -6 October 2006	www.csci.gov.uk/pdf/paf_consultation_ 10806.pdf
14 August 2006	Inspecting for Better Lives: A Quality Future	14 August 2006 -14 November 2006	www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news/new_quality_rating_for_care_se.aspx
20 September 2006	Disability Equality Scheme	20 September 2006 - 10 November 2006	www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=1841&key=
28 June 2007	How we describe outcomes for people using services	1 June 2007 -31July 2007	www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=2088
8 February 2007	Gender Equality Scheme	8 February 2007 - March 2007	www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=2041&key=
9 June 2008	A Consultation on changes for the performance assessment of adult social care in 2008-09	9 June 2008 - 8 August 2008	www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=8004

Source:
CSCI

Cord Blood

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to change the arrangements for supply of cord blood units to the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [216941]

(2) whether he plans to extend the capacity of the NHS Cord Blood Bank; and if he will make a statement. [216940]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to change the arrangements for the supply of cord blood units to the national health service. NHS Blood and Transplant business plans for the NHS Cord Blood Bank aim for

the number of banked units to rise from the present stock of over 11,000 to 20,000 by 2013.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215554]

Mr. Bradshaw: During April 2007 to March 2008 a total of 784 domestic air flights were undertaken by the Department and its agencies at a cost of £147,135.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212868]

Mr. Bradshaw: In each of the last 10 years the Department has had no expenditure on capital investment.

During the same period the Department's expenditure on refurbishment has been:

	£
1998-99	1,271,733
1999-2000	1,453,483
2000-01	652,456
2001-02	555,000
2002-03	788,000
2003-04	1,113,565
2004-05	963,974
2005-06	5,033,305
2006-07	3,520,407
2007-08	2,628,819

It is not possible to break this information down to individual projects over this period of time.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211766]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of furniture and fittings purchased by the Department in the last five years is:

	£
2003-04	46,743
2004-05	149,097
2005-06	514,155
2006-07	1,074,555
2007-08	751,712

Note:
The figure for 2007-08 includes expenditure of the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for whom no other records are available.

The Department does not currently keep a record of itemised purchases.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215158]

Mr. Bradshaw: Historically, information on information technology contracts let by the Department has not been held centrally. Due to the limitation of existing data, the information could be obtained only from direct contact with individual business units and would result in disproportionate costs.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214690]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of identifying the value of the components making up the Department's computer systems at the time of purchase and now, is not possible on the grounds of the disproportionate cost of collating the information.

The Department's accounts are compiled in line with the Financial Reporting Manual.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212323]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department commissioned an Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers in April 2007. The inquiry was asked to examine the framework and processes underlying Modernising Medical Careers and make recommendations to inform any improvements for 2008 and beyond. The inquiry published its final report in January 2008. The inquiry cost £560,000. The Department has accepted the majority of recommendations.

The Department commissioned an Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities in May 2007. The inquiry is expected to report its findings shortly. As well as focusing on the action needed to ensure adults and children with learning disabilities receive appropriate treatment in acute medical (hospital) care and general primary care, the inquiry is aiming to learn lessons from the six cases highlighted by the Mencap report "Death by Indifference" which are being investigated by the Health Service Ombudsman. As the inquiry is still ongoing, final costs are not yet known.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213401]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's overall target for relocating posts out of London and the south-east is 1,030 posts by March 2010. This covers the Department, its agencies and arm's length bodies. Against this target, 870 posts have already been relocated.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215571]

Mr. Bradshaw: In total 22 permanent staff in the Department, and less than five staff in each of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) are classed as staff without posts. Precise numbers are not provided for MHRA and NHS PASA on the grounds of confidentiality. In all cases active steps are being taken to find permanent posts for these staff, including such measures as providing regularly updated information on permanent vacancies, giving them priority for vacancies over staff who already have permanent posts, and providing trial periods in new posts to assess suitability.

The Department does not have 'people action teams'.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215234]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current special advisers arrived on 27 June 2007, and have claimed no expenses since their arrival.

We have no record of expenses for the previous special advisers.

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Department's staff handbook and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. Copies of the code are available in the Library and are also available on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214127]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's mandatory retirement age for all employees is 65.

The numbers of Civil Servants employed by the Department who were at least 65 in each of the last five years are given in the following table:

Civil Servants aged at least 65

	Number
31 March 2008	0
31 March 2007	0
31 March 2006	1
31 March 2005	0
31 March 2004	n/a

n/a = Not available.

The Department writes to all employees still working at the time of their 64th birthday, asking them to confirm their intended retirement date and informing them of their right to request to continue working beyond their 65th birthday.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214689]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department acknowledges and works to the principle that appointments to the civil service should be made on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition. However, the Civil Service Recruitment Code allows some specific exemptions to this principle, one of which is to encourage secondments into the civil service to promote the exchange of ideas and experience. This is particularly important for the Department, which makes use of secondments as a means of employing managers and practitioners from the national health service to inform its development of policy and strategy.

The Department makes use of an extensive network of contacts across the NHS to secure secondments, and in all cases makes an assessment to ensure that those taken on are capable of effectively undertaking the duties of the job for which they are recruited.

In 2007-08, exceptions under the code were permitted for 37 secondments and 19 extensions of secondments.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [215607]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of departmental passes lost or stolen during the last 24 months is:

	Number
Lost	183
Stolen	22

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days sick leave were taken by staff in his Department *(a)* on average per full-time post, *(b)* on average per head and *(c)* in total in the most recent year for which figures are available. [214942]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the financial year 2007-08, staff in the Department took 5.3 average working days sick leave per full-time post, 4.6 average working days sick leave per head and 12,102 total working days sick leave.

Average working days sick leave per head is calculated using the total number of people who worked in the Department during the year, irrespective of how long they were employed.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216694]

Mr. Bradshaw: Until 2006-07 the Cabinet Office published an annual Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service. Since then departments have been responsible for carrying out their own analysis. The annual average number of days of sick leave taken by the Department's employees in each year since 1997 are presented in the following table:

	Average number of days
2007-08	5.3
2006-07[1]	6.5
2005[1]	7.0
2004	3.8
2003	5.4
2002	4.7
200[1]	6.8
2000	5.8
1999	6.8
1998	n/a
1997	n/a

n/a = Not available
[1] Reporting periods changed from calendar years to financial years between 2005 and 2006.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215648]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's London administrative buildings are connected to the parliamentary 'annunciator' system provided by the Central Office of Information. All television feeds including the Parliamentary Channel are provided in this way.

The Department has no direct subscriptions with the television companies for these services apart from a Sky Plus subscription set up and paid for by the Department's Media Centre. This is at a cost of £2,171.40 per annum.

The Department's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency does not subscribe to any Sky, digital or cable channels.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209240]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies have not published green transport plans, but have implemented a number of greener travel initiatives. The Department is developing a green travel policy in line with national policies and targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate. The Department's green travel policy will be a key component of its Sustainable Development Strategy, which is due to be published in the autumn.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214913]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has expended the following sums on food in the last five years:

	Spent on food (£)
2003-04	546,926
2004-05	540,599
2005-06	559,924
2006-07	546,122
2007-08	581,353

It is not possible to provide information on how much of this spend was on food of British origin.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214914]

Mr. Bradshaw: The five countries of origin in order of highest procurement of food are:

Britain—for all seasonal produce;
France—fruit juice, soft and orchard fruits, legumes;
Holland—chipped potatoes;
Ireland—cheese; and
Spain—protected and other vegetables, soft fruits.

It has not been possible to obtain details of cost and quantity from the Department's catering contractor.

General Practitioners: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has held on the establishment of a polyclinic in Chorley. [214792]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not have a polyclinic policy. Primary care trusts (PCTs) have been asked to provide at least one general practitioner (GP)-led health centre in their areas that will be open from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year and that can be used by anyone either with an appointment or on a walk-in basis.

It is for PCTs to set out their proposals for these new GP-led health centres following consultation with patients, GPs and others, which focus on local needs and preferences.

The North West strategic health authority (SHA) reports that Central Lancashire PCT plans to introduce three primary care access centres, which will include GP access services, urgent primary care (minor injuries and ailments) and dentistry. One of these centres will be located in Chorley.

A procurement process, open to all providers including existing local GPs, is in its early stages for the primary care access centres. The providers will be chosen at the end of 2008 with the centres opening in 2009.

General Practitioners: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* GPs working in single-handed practices and *(c)* GPs working in practices of two there were in each London primary care trust in 2006-07. [216479]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of general practitioners (GPs), GPs working in single-handed practices and GPs working in practices of two practitioners in each London primary care trust (PCT) at 30 September 2006 and at 30 September 2007.

GPs (headcount, excluding retainers and registrars) by PCT within the London Strategic Health Authority, at 30 September

	2006			2007		
	All GPs	*Single-handed GPs*	*GPs working within a practice of two practitioners*	*All GPs*	*Single-handed GPs*	*GPs working within a practice of two practitioners*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	75	18	36	80	17	30
Barnet PCT	218	27	36	218	29	38
Bexley Care Trust	98	11	16	108	9	8
Brent Teaching PCT	194	21	48	196	19	46
Bromley PCT	198	13	12	203	10	14
Camden PCT	156	17	10	152	16	10
City and Hackney PCT	178	6	26	192	6	32
Croydon PCT	221	13	30	214	12	28
Ealing PCT	185	27	48	203	26	46
Enfield PCT	159	23	28	164	19	34
Greenwich PCT	118	17	26	140	14	24
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	102	9	14	109	7	16
Haringey Teaching PCT	150	26	26	152	22	34
Harrow PCT	140	10	18	142	7	22
Havering PCT	124	24	22	130	23	16
Hillingdon PCT	143	16	14	136	17	14
Hounslow PCT	122	28	30	129	23	26
Islington PCT	140	17	12	130	11	18
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	110	17	20	101	18	18
Kingston PCT	113	5	6	115	5	4
Lambeth PCT	228	7	24	247	10	18
Lewisham PCT	179	14	16	181	13	12
Newham PCT	181	24	32	192	26	26
Redbridge PCT	123	17	30	126	15	30
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	118	4	12	119	5	12
Southwark PCT	187	11	20	187	11	20
Sutton and Merton PCT	260	3	14	243	3	18
Tower Hamlets PCT	151	10	10	156	6	14
Waltham Forest PCT	149	19	26	148	20	14
Wandsworth PCT	198	10	20	201	9	22
Westminster PCT	150	15	32	139	14	26
NHS London	4,868	479	714	4,953	442	690

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on health centres, on what dates officials in his Department attended programme-based meetings within strategic health authorities' remit; and if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of such meetings. [209187]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental officials have not attended any such meetings.

Polyclinics: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of the polyclinics which are to be set up in London. [215676]

Mr. Bradshaw: The organisation of health services is a matter for the national health service at local level. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to direct his question to the relevant primary care trusts or London strategic health authority.

Health Centres: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect that GP-led health centres will have on levels of access to primary healthcare in rural areas. [215029]

Mr. Bradshaw: The new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres will provide the public with access to primary care services from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week. Patients can either book an appointment or use the centres on a walk-in basis, and can do so while remaining registered with their existing GP practice.

Analysis of NHS Choices data of practices currently delivering extended opening hours, shows that where a practice's closest neighbour is not currently open on evenings or weekends, there is only a one in five chance of a practice delivering extended opening. However, where the immediately neighbouring practice is delivering extended opening to their patients, a practice is twice as likely to also provide extended opening. Therefore, by securing a new GP-led health centre and new GP practices in poorly served areas, other patients will also directly benefit from extended opening and better access for patients from their own practice.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on access criteria for GP-led health centres in rural areas. [215030]

Mr. Bradshaw: PCTs have been asked to follow a small number of core criteria for the general practitioner (GP)-led health centres, including that the centres should be situated in an easily accessible location, that they can be used by any member of the public, whether registered with the health centres or not by either a bookable appointment or on a walk-in basis, and that they are open from 8 am-8 pm, 365 days a year. It is, ultimately, for PCTs to identify the best location for these new services following consultation with patients, GPs and others to reflect local needs and preferences.

Health Services: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were waiting for treatment in each London primary care trust in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2007. [216478]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is contained in the following table.

In-patient hospital waiting list statistics for London primary care trust (PCT) areas—commissioner based (all specialties)

	Total waiting list	
Name	*Period ending December 2003*	*Period ending December 2007*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	3,863	2,192
Barnet PCT	5,908	3,654
Bexley Care Trust	3,885	2,118
Brent Teaching PCT	4,325	3,156
Bromley PCT	5,677	3,500
Camden PCT	3,130	2,264
City and Hackney PCT	2,615	2,000
Croydon PCT	6,162	4,192
Ealing PCT	5,758	3,976
Enfield PCT	5,435	3,377
Greenwich PCT	4,169	2,862
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,785	1,418
Haringey Teaching PCT	3,478	2,925
Harrow PCT	3,470	2,032
Havering PCT	5,757	3,183
Hillingdon PCT	3,827	3,147
Hounslow PCT	3,939	2,361
Islington PCT	2,706	2,490
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,940	1,321
Kingston PCT	3,368	1,063
Lambeth PCT	3,929	2,937
Lewisham PCT	4,233	2,866
Newham PCT	3,815	2,660
Redbridge PCT	4,945	2,931
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2,694	1,800
Southwark PCT	3,532	2,643
Sutton and Merton PCT	5,064	4,361
Tower Hamlets PCT	3,534	2,732
Waltham Forest PCT	4,318	2,528
Wandsworth PCT	3,649	2,719
Westminster PCT	2,467	2,175
NHS London	124,377	83,583

Note:
Bexley PCT was renamed Bexley Care Trust in 2004.
Source:
Department of Health QFO1 and Monthly Monitoring

Health Services: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quality incentive payments have been made in respect of each practice in the *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne Primary Care Trust, *(b)* North Tyneside Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Northumberland Primary Care Trust areas. [216742]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Public Participation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* each response to the consultation on the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) No. 2 Order 2008 and *(b)* the Government's collated response to the consultation. [214867]

Mr. Bradshaw: The report on the consultation will be laid in Parliament at the same time as the Health Care

and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) No. 2 Order 2008. The report will include information on individual responses, including how copies can be obtained.

Health Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the Core Standards for Better Health were met by hospitals in the South Staffordshire NHS Primary Care Trust area in the most recent period for which information is available; and which of the standards the hospitals did not meet in that period. [215845]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each national health service trust and NHS foundation trust is required to publish a self-declaration of compliance against the twenty-four core standards set out in the Department of Health's "Standards for Better Health". This document, as amended on 3 April 2006, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4086665

These declarations are on each trust's website and the Healthcare Commission published the national position on 16 June 2008.

Health Services: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to reduce health inequalities between the two Wirral primary care trust populations. [216493]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

The Department has put in place a number of measures to tackle health inequalities. On 9 June 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State launched the document Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps (copies of which have already been placed in the Library). The document highlights successes in reducing inequalities and identifies how effort will be increased to meet the health inequalities 2010 National Public Service Agreement target for life expectancy and infant mortality. The document also sets the direction of travel for tackling health inequalities. It commits the Government to work together to develop the structures, systems and actions to sustain long-term delivery on health inequalities.

The document also publicised an improved health inequalities intervention tool, jointly owned by the Department and the Association of Public Health Observatories. The tool is an interactive website to help local health services and councils improve life expectancy in local areas.

The Department has also established national support teams for health inequalities and for tobacco control to disseminate best practice across all spearhead areas, including the Wirral area, and areas with high infant mortality rates, and to provide intensive support for those areas that need it.

HIV Infection: Children

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in England are receiving NHS treatment for HIV/AIDS. [215797]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of children (aged under 18 years) who were resident in England and who received HIV-related treatment or care in England in 2006 are shown in the following table.

Number of children (aged under 18 years) who were resident in England and who received HIV-related treatment or care in England in 2006[1]

Age	*HIV-infected*	*Indeterminate HIV status or subsequently shown not to be infected with HIV*
Under 12 months	25	1,002
1-15	933	0
16-17	137	0
Total	1,095	[2]1,002

[1] Numbers exclude 13 children cared for/treated in England whose country of residence was not known.

[2] In total 659 (66 per cent.) of these infants had been shown to be uninfected by the time that data were collected. Almost all of the remaining 343 infants would be expected to be shown to be uninfected by 18 months after being born.

Sources:

1. Health Protection Agency annual survey of HIV-infected persons accessing care
2. Institute of Child Health National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drugs, manufactured by which companies, his Department is considering for use in the programme to vaccinate girls against cervical cancer. [216563]

Dawn Primarolo: Cervarix will be the vaccine used for the human papilloma virus vaccination programme and is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with his counterparts in other EU member states on the effectiveness of a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme based on a quadrivalent vaccine before deciding which vaccine to procure for the Government's HPV vaccination programme. [218185]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with his counterparts in other European Union member states on the effectiveness of a human papilloma virus vaccination programme based on a quadrivalent vaccine.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of the effect of potential vaccines on the prevention of vulval and vaginal cancers in the decision to procure a two-type vaccine for the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme; what steps the Government plan to take to prevent vulval and vaginal cancers; and what contribution the HPV vaccination programme is intended to make to the Government's overall programme on sexual health. [218186]

Dawn Primarolo: Due account was taken of the potential preventative benefit of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine against vulval and vaginal cancers. The natural history of vaginal and vulval cancers is not completely understood. Although HPV infection is a risk factor for

the development of vaginal or vulval lesions, unlike cervical cancer, only approximately 50 per cent. are associated with HPV infection. The evidence for a causal association and the percentage attributable to HPV infection, is greater for HPV types 16 and 18 than for other HPV types. Further studies are being conducted on the extent to which the HPV vaccine may protect against vulval and vaginal cancers caused by HPV type 16 and 18.

The HPV vaccination programme has always been about cervical cancer protection and is not part of the Government's programme on sexual health.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons he decided to procure a two-type vaccine for the human papilloma virus vaccination programme in schools; [218187]

(2) for what reasons he decided not to procure a quadrivalent vaccine for the human papilloma virus vaccination programme in schools; [218188]

(3) what account was taken in procuring a vaccine for the human papilloma virus vaccination programme of the effectiveness of such vaccines in providing protection against genital warts; and what steps the Government plan to take to reduce the incidence of genital warts. [218189]

Dawn Primarolo: The aim of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine programme is to prevent cervical cancer in women and the best way to do this is to vaccinate girls/young women.

Routine HPV vaccine will be introduced for girls aged 12 to 13 years from September this year. A catch-up programme will start from September 2009 and will run for two years. Girls aged 16 to 18 years will be immunised in 2009-10 and girls aged 15 to 17 years in 2010-11.

I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) and my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure robust data collection systems are in place during an influenza pandemic to capture data on *(a)* attack rate, *(b)* disease pattern and severity and *(c)* mortality as referred to on page 8 of his Department's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee's Subgroup on Modelling's modelling summary, dated February 2008; and if he will make a statement; [216909]

(2) what steps he is taking to develop a flexible system to enable influenza antiviral treatment to be targeted dynamically, as referred to on page 8 of his Department's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee's Subgroup on Modelling's modelling summary, dated February 2008; what size of stockpile would make implementation of household prophylaxis practical; and if he will make a statement; [216910]

(3) when his Department plans to have stockpiled influenza antivirals sufficient for 50 to 60 per cent. of the population, as referred to in paragraph 2.4.2(d) of his Department's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee's Subgroup on Modelling's modelling summary, dated February 2008; [216911]

(4) what estimate he has made of the proportion of individuals infected with a pandemic strain of influenza who would go on to become clinical cases over the course of a pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [216912]

Dawn Primarolo: Wherever possible surveillance and information gathering during a pandemic will be based on existing data collection mechanisms. The attack rate will be estimated by modellers, principally those at the Health Protection Agency, through clinical data emerging from the United Kingdom and other affected countries. Disease pattern and severity will also be based on this information and that from national seasonal influenza surveillance systems, coordinated through the Health Protection Agency and mortality will be monitored through death registration data from the Office for National Statistics. There are data already monitored routinely as part of national seasonal influenza surveillance.

Work is under way to ensure that information obtained from all these sources will be robust during a pandemic and appropriate to the needs of modellers and others who will use them.

The proportion of individuals infected with a pandemic strain of influenza who would go on to become clinical cases over the course of a pandemic is estimated to be between 50 per cent. and 66 per cent. Evidence from seasonal influenza and the 1957 pandemic suggest that of these between 50 per cent. and 67 per cent. will show clinical symptoms. This is consistent with a worst case clinical attack rate of around 50 per cent.

The increase in the antiviral stockpile from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. will ensure treatment is available for all symptomatic patients under the maximum clinical attack rate assumption of 50 per cent. There is thus much less chance that the dynamic targeting referred to will be needed. Flexibility in antiviral distribution via the Flu Line will be achieved by adjusting the clinical algorithm based on the clinical information obtained as the pandemic unfolds, as well as stock management and policy decisions. Plans for separate distribution channels are being developed to assist the hard to reach groups and others for whom the Flu Line will not be suited.

As stated in the "National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic", it is possible to use antiviral medicines as a preventative measure (prophylaxis), copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. The adoption of a policy of household prophylaxis is still being considered by the Department.

The Department hopes that the antiviral stockpile will be procured during the latter part of 2008 and early 2009.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for *(a)* gunshot and *(b)* knife wounds at hospitals in each London borough in each of the last five years. [214197]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Information is available on patients admitted to hospital for gunshot wounds and knife wounds. These figures do not include patients who were treated in accident and emergency departments for gunshot wounds and knife wounds and not admitted.

Tables have been placed in the Library which show a count of finished admission episodes for both gunshot and knife related injuries. Information is provided at primary care trust (PCT) level of residence for knife injuries which is the closest geographical breakdown to a London borough. Information is provided at strategic health authority level for gunshot wounds due to the relatively low numbers for individual PCTs.

Lasers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* research he has undertaken and *(b)* evidence he has used to compile the draft partial impact assessment of deregulating Class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources in the consultation paper Private and Voluntary Healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000. Regulations and National Minimum Standards. [216357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The partial impact assessment (IA) provided a number of arguments and figures in support of our consultation proposals. Some of the arguments and figures were based on working assumptions and these were made clear in the document; other figures were based on evidence and research and these were fully referenced in the IA. It was expected that the consultation would test the working assumptions and would bring to light further research and evidence, which could be fully taken into account when drawing up the final IA.

Leicester Primary Care Trust: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the reconfiguration budget of Leicester primary care trust. [213836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. This is purely a matter for local determination.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects NHS patients living outside a pilot area to be able to travel abroad for operations. [216545]

Mr. Bradshaw: The London Patient choice pilot between 2003 and 2005 included a bilateral arrangement with Belgium for patients who had waited more than six months to access treatment in Belgian hospitals. The scheme was terminated on 31 March 2005 because of low take up and increased availability of capacity within the national health service. There is therefore no possibility of extending this scheme. However, it is open to local commissioners to put in place whatever arrangements they want to make.

There are also routes in European Union law for NHS patients who wish to receive planned health care abroad, namely long-standing social security arrangements under EC Regulation 1408/71. In addition, European Court of Justice case law has established the right for patients to go to EU member states for treatment, subject to certain circumstances. On 2 July 2008 the European Commission adopted a draft directive on the application of patient rights in cross-border health care. This directive will be subject to negotiations, but aims to clarify the application of the case law on overseas treatment.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 3 June 2008, on Government proposals for changes to GP surgeries. [218515]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 4 July 2008.

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on the NHS, which *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* other organisations were visited; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration was of each visit. [195372]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Coroners

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the national health service has legal representation at all inquests involving deaths in hospital. [218194]

Ann Keen: National health service trusts and foundation trusts running hospitals are themselves legal entities distinct from the Department. As such, they are responsible for deciding if and when to take legal advice or seek legal representation, including at any inquest into a death in hospital.

NHS: Drugs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contracts there are for the supply of drugs by Merck, Sharp and Dohme Limited for use under the NHS; what drugs and how much of each type of drug are supplied under each contract; and if he will make a statement; [216550]

(2) how much has been spent on the procurement of drugs manufactured by Merck, Sharp and Dohme Ltd. for use in the NHS in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* drugs and *(b)* doses procured; [216562]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to secure a supply of drugs manufactured by Merck, Sharp and Dohme over the next five years; what recent discussions his Department has had with the company on contracts for the supply of drugs for use in the NHS in that period; and if he will make a statement. [216967]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) contracts for the supply of licensed prescription medicines to the national health service (secondary care) in England.

At present NHS PASA is in no dialogue with Merck, Sharp and Dohme that is specific to this supplier. Any dialogue with Merck, Sharp and Dohme is consistent with NHS PASA dialogue with all other suppliers as part of its sourcing programme and in line with its operating procedures that reflect European Union guidance.

The actual figures of the quantities and values of products purchased from Merck, Sharp and Dohme in the NHS is not collected centrally.

The NHS PASA currently have framework agreements in place for the following products:

Alendronic acid tablets 5 milligrams (mg);

Dorzolamide (as hydrochloride) 2% Timolol 0.5% eye drops 5 millilitres (ml);

Dorzolamide (as hydrochloride) eye drops 2% 5ml;

Imipenem + Cilastatin injection 500mg 120ml;

Imipenem + Cilastatin injection 500mg 120ml Monovial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastatin 500mg intramuscular injection 15ml vial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastatin 500mg powder. 120ml.vial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastatin 500mg powder. 20ml vial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastin 500mg powder for suspension vial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastin 500mg powder for solution monovial;

Imipenem 500mg/Cilastin 500mg powder for solution vial;

Imipenem/Cilastatin intramuscular injection vial 500mg 15ml;

Imipenem/Cilastatin intravenous injection vial 500mg 120ml;

Imipenem/Cilastatin monovial injection vial 500mg 20ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.5% 5ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.25% 2.5ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.5% 2.5ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.25% 2.5ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.5% 2.5ml;

Timolol eye drops long acting 0.5%/2.5m;

Timolol eye drops 0.25% 0.25ml;

Timolol eye drops 0.5% 0.25ml; and

Tirofiban hydrochloride solution for injection bag 12.5mg/250ml.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* initial budget and *(b)* outturn for both (i) revenue and (ii) capital were for the National Programme for IT in the 2007-08 financial year. [215045]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency is responsible both for ensuring delivery of the information technology (IT) systems under the National Programme for IT (NPfIT), and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority.

NHS Connecting for Health does not prepare annual whole-programme budgets for NPfIT activity separate from the business of the Agency as a whole because this would involve the unnecessary apportionment of common management, administrative and support costs. For the same reason, separate outturn figures are not routinely reported for management information purposes.

Information covering all the Agency's responsibilities is shown in the following table. These figures are subject to audit and may therefore continue to be subject to minor adjustment.

2007-08	*Initial Budget*	*£ million Outturn*
Revenue	607	507
Capital	915	686

These figures include amounts allocated in year to NHS organisations.

NHS: Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the downturn in the property market on the financial position of NHS trusts which have factored in profits from the sale of surplus land into their budgets; [217791]

(2) what requirements NHS trusts have to notify his Department of surplus land sales; and what consent regimes exist to authorise the disposal of surplus land; [217792]

(3) what guidance his Department has provided to NHS trusts on the disposal of surplus land. [217793]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts develop and manage their own capital financing plans, to which the proceeds from property disposals may make a contribution. Such transactions are subject to the conditions of the property market at that time. In general, a more significant contribution is made from the cash they receive in their income for the depreciation charge in their accounts, through loans from the Department and, under certain circumstances, allocations of public dividend capital. It is for NHS trusts to manage any changes in value of proceeds from asset disposals as part of their capital and overall financial planning

The Department operates a system of delegated limits for capital investment and for property transactions for NHS trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. A copy of the Delegated Limits for Capital Investment guidance has been placed in the Library.

Guidance to NHS organisations on all land and property transactions, including the disposal of surplus land or buildings, is given in the Department's publication, Health Building Note 00-08: "Estatecode", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Under this guidance, where property has been identified as surplus to a particular NHS organisation, it should be offered to other local trusts to determine whether the asset could be re-used by them for the provision of healthcare services, Government Departments and the local authority. This policy accords with the Government's requirement to make better use of surplus public sector land.

NHS foundation trusts are authorised and regulated by Monitor, the independent regulator, which provides guidance to these trusts on property transactions.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas primary care trust commissioning is immature, as referred to on page 10 of his Department's document, Developing the NHS Performance Regime, published on 4 June 2008. [216907]

Mr. Bradshaw: Commissioning for local health services in England is the core responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs). It is a complex process with responsibilities ranging from assessing population needs and prioritising health outcomes to procuring products and services, and managing service providers. As such, commissioners are required to possess a wide range of skills, including robust analysis, effective stakeholder engagement and communication, financial management, strategic planning and performance management skills. The joint Department of Health and Prime Minister's Delivery Unit review of commissioning capabilities in May 2007 suggested that some PCTs perform better in some areas than others. However, there is not yet any comprehensive evidence about commissioning strengths and weaknesses nationally.

In June this year, a national commissioning assurance system was launched to hold commissioners to account through assessing their performance and rewarding development. PCTs will be assessed against commissioning skill sets, or competencies, organisational governance and health outcomes. By publishing and assessing against the competencies that make commissioning for health services world class, a clearer national picture will emerge. PCTs will also be better able to understand where their commissioning strengths and weaknesses lie and will be incentivised to access support and development resources in order to improve.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a full-time appointment to the post of head of the NHS Commercial Directorate. [R] [216901]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* The Director General of the Commercial Directorate is in post until 15 July 2008. The Department remains committed to having strong commercial expertise and presence in its leadership team and decisions will be taken in due course on appropriate leadership arrangements. In the interim, Director General level leadership for the directorate will be provided by the Director General for Commissioning and System Management.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W, on NHS: telephone service, what the reasons are for the disparity between calls to NHS Direct *(a)* made and *(b)* forecast in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [216083]

Mr. Bradshaw: The reasons for the differences between the number of calls forecast and number of calls made in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

There have been significant increases in web usage across the two years with some patients choosing to access NHS Direct's services through the internet rather than via the telephone;

in 2006-07 web visits increased by 52 per cent. (approximately 7 million additional visits per annum); and

in 2007-08 web visits increased by 49 per cent. (approximately 10 million additional visits per annum).

significant improvements in performance during 2007-08 have helped reduce the number of repeat callers and therefore the number of calls; and

NHS Direct include in their forecast calls to 0845 46 47 and other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners. This includes calls to the appointments line (formerly choose and book appointments line). In 2006-07 the Department overestimated calls to the appointments line when there were 520,000 calls less than the 2 million forecast.

Regulatory Impact Assessments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by his Department to determine whether a regulatory impact assessment should be undertaken on primary legislation; and if he will make a statement. [216402]

Mr. Bradshaw: Regulatory impact assessments no longer exist as they have been superseded by impact assessments. The Department follows the criteria contained in guidance provided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Impact assessments are required:

for all forms of intervention (including primary or secondary legislation as well as codes of practice or guidance) where the department or regulator considers that the effect will be to increase or decrease costs for business, the public sector, third sector organisations, regulators or consumers;

when proposals would not yield an overall net change in costs and benefits but some kind of redistribution, or when there is a change in administrative costs; and

when seeking collective agreement for United Kingdom negotiating positions on European Union proposals, and also when submitting bids for primary legislation to the Legislative Programme Cabinet Committee.

However, a proportionate approach should be used. If the cost of a proposal is below £5 million only a developmental/option stage impact assessment is necessary.

Further information is available on BERR website at:

www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/scrutinising-new-regulations/preparing-impact-assessments/page44077.html

Smoking: Young People

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* tobacco advertising and promotion and *(b)* displays of tobacco at the point of sale on young people's smoking behaviour; and what research has been conducted into each of these areas. [218367]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's recently published 'A consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control' includes an overview of research on tobacco marketing and promotion and young people, and asks several questions of stakeholders in this area.

Copies of the consultation have already been placed in the Library.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken or evaluated on how under 18 year-olds obtain tobacco products. [218368]

Dawn Primarolo: Protecting young people from smoking is a priority for the Government, and is one of the key areas of the Department's current consultation on the future of tobacco control, 'A consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control'. Copies of the consultation have already been placed in the Library. The age of sale for tobacco was raised to 18 years on 1 October 2007. Tougher sanctions against retailers who persistently flout the tobacco age of sale law will be introduced in April 2009.

Latest information about the sources of tobacco for children who regularly smoke is published by The Information Centre for health and social care in 'Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Amongst Young People in England 2006'. Copies of this information have already been placed in the Library.

Social Care Journal

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with publishers on the implementation of the recommendation of the Platt Review on the establishment of a social care journal. [213330]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has commissioned the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to take forward this project on its behalf. In the first phase of work, the SCIE commissioned strategic consultancy from the Central Office of Information to develop options for a new journal. A report on the outcome of this work was submitted to the Department in March 2008.

The second phase will be a formal process of engagement/tendering, between January and March 2009, to identify an appropriate commercial partner.

Southern Cross Healthcare: Care Homes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to investigate the reports by Southern Cross Healthcare that it is experiencing higher than normal attrition rates in its residential care homes; [216807]

(2) what contingency planning the Government have undertaken to ensure the continuance of care for the elderly in the event of Southern Cross Healthcare being unable to continue in operation as a result of its financial difficulties. [216808]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it monitors care homes individually and would take action on any such information received. Regulation 37 Notification of deaths, illness and other events, of the Care Homes Regulations 2001 requires homes to notify CSCI "without delay of the occurrence of *(a)* the death of any service user, including the circumstances of his death".

There have been no concerns raised with local CSCI offices or inspectors in respect of this issue regarding Southern Cross care homes.

Local authorities are responsible for managing and directing their resources in accordance with local priorities and the needs of the communities to which they are accountable. This will include ensuring continuity of care to residents for whose care they are responsible.

St Mary's Hospital NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time in weeks was at St. Mary's NHS Trust for *(a)* ordinary admissions, *(b)* first out-patient attendance from GP referral and *(c)* day case admission in each year since 2007. [216474]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held in the format requested. Data are no longer collected separately for ordinary and day case admissions but are combined for patients waiting for admission to hospital. In addition, St. Mary's NHS Trust merged with Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust on 30 September 2007 to form Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

The following table shows the median waiting times for inpatient admission and first outpatient attendance at St. Mary's NHS Trust and Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust at 31 March 2007 and at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust at 31 March 2008 and 31 May 2008. This is the latest information that is available.

Median waiting time for inpatient admission and first outpatient attendance (weeks)

	Organisation	*Inpatient*	*Outpatient*
Period ending 31 March 2007	St. Mary's NHS Trust	5.3	3.3
	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	5.9	3.4
	Trusts Combined	5.6	3.4
Period ending 31 March 2008	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	3.9	2.5
Period ending May 2008	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	3.1	2.2

Notes:
1. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
2. The inpatient figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The outpatient figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for a first outpatient appointment following a general practitioner (GP) referral at the end of the period stated. Outpatient waiting times are measured from a GP referral to a first outpatient appointment with the consultant.

Source:
Monthly Monitoring Return—provider based.

Vaccination

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which manufacturers have supplied vaccines to the NHS; over what period of time each vaccine was supplied; and if he will make a statement. [216715]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Vaccine	*Manufacturer/brand name*	*Start*	*Finish*
Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (APV)	Lederle—APV	May 1994	August 2000
Anthrax	The Health Protection Agency—Anthrax	September 2004	Ongoing
Bacilllus Calmette Guerin (BCG)	Evans vaccine—BCG (Intradermal)	1986	August 2002
BCG	Evans vaccine—BCG (Percutaneous)	1992	June 2005
BCG	Statens Serum Institut—BCG (Intradermal)	December 2002	Ongoing
Diphtheria and Tetanus (DT)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—different dosages—DT	1992	July 2003
DT	Chiron Vaccines—DT	April 2000	January 2004
DT	Medeva—DT	1992	March 1999
Diphtheria (D)	Medeva—Diphtheria	April 1993	June 2000
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP)	GlaxoSmithKline—Infanrix	October 2001	October 2004
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Wholecell Pertussis (DTwP)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—DTP	1994	June 2000
DTwP	Chiron Behring—DTP	1998	January 2003
DTwP	Medeva—Trviax AD	1992	November 1998
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio (DTaP/IPV)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—Tetravax	April 2001	July 2001
DTaP/IPV	GlaxoSmithKline—Infanrix IPV	February 2005	Ongoing
DTaP/IPV	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—Repevax	August 2004	Ongoing
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Polio with Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP/IPV+Hib)	GlaxoSmithKline—Infanrix/IPV+Hib	March 2006	Ongoing
DTaP/IPV+Hib	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—Pediacel	August 2004	Ongoing
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—ACT Hib	1992	April 2002
Hib	GlaxoSmithKline—Hiberix	June 2001	July 2006
Hib	Lederle—HibTITER	1992	2001
Haemophilus influenzae type b/Meningococcal Group C Conjugate (Hib/Men C)	GlaxoSmithKline—Menitorix	July 2007	Ongoing
Haemophilus influenzae type b with Diphtheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP/Hib)	GlaxoSmithKline—Infanrix Hib	December 1999	February 2003
Haemophilus influenzae type b with Diphtheria, Tetanus and Wholecell Pertussis (DTwP/Hib)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—ACTHib DTP	April 1996	September 2004
DTwP/Hib	SmithKlineBeecham—Trivax/Hib	May 1997	October 1999
Inactivated Polio (IPV)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—Inactivated polio	1984	October 2004
Low Dose Diphtheria (d)	Berna Biotech—Low Dose Diphtheria	October 1995	August 2003
Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	GlaxoSmithKline—Priorix	May 1998	Ongoing
MMR	Pasteur Merieux—Immravax	1989-90	1992-93
MMR	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—MMR II	April 1998	Ongoing
MMR	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—MMR II (American MMR)	May 2005	July 2005
MMR	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—Triplovax (German MMR)	May 2005	June 2005
MMR	SmithKlineBeecham—Pluserix	1988-89	1992-93
Meningoccocal Group C Conjugate (MenC)	Baxter Healthcare—Neisvac	August 2000	January 2007
MenC	Chiron vaccines—Menjugate	March 2000	March 2005
MenC	Novartis vaccines—Menjugate Kit	April 2006	Ongoing
MenC	Wyeth vaccines—Meningitec	October 1999	September 2007
Oral Polio (OPV)	Evans Vaccines—Oral Polio	December 1998	October 2000
OPV	GlaxoSmithKline—Oral polio	April 2001	October 2004
OPV	SmithKilneBeecham—Oral Polio	April 1997	March 2001
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	Wyeth—Prevenar	April 2006	Ongoing

Vaccine	*Manufacturer/brand name*	*Start*	*Finish*
Rabies	Rabies vaccine has been purchased for the NHS since 1979 from either Sanofi Pasteur MSD or Novartis Vaccines	1979	Ongoing
Rubella	Evans—Almevax	1992	1997
Rubella	SmithKlineBeecham—Ervevax	1992	2003
Tetanus and Low Dose Diphtheria (Td)	Aventis Pasteur MSD—Diftavax	September 1994	November 2006
Tetanus and Low Dose Diphtheria with Inactivated Polio (Td/IPV)	Sanofi Pasteur MSD—Revaxis	August 2004	Ongoing
Tuberculin Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) (diagnostic test for tuberculosis (TB))	Chiron vaccines—10 unit	1986	May 2005
Tuberculin PPD (diagnostic test for TB)	Chiron vaccines—100 unit	1992	May 2005
Tuberculin PPD (diagnostic test for TB)	Chiron vaccines—1,000 unit	1992	May 2005
Tuberculin PPD (diagnostic test for TB)	Chiron vaccines—Heaf test	1986	November 2005
Tuberculin PPD (diagnostic test for TB)	Statens Serum Institut—SS2	July 2005	Ongoing
Tuberculin PPD (diagnostic test for TB)	Statens Serum Institut—SSI0	May 2005	Ongoing

Vaccination: Drugs

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions there are on the provision of the drugs *(a)* Pedaciel, *(b)* Repevax, *(c)* Infanrix-IPV and *(d)* Menitorix to GP surgeries; whether any vaccination clinics have not taken place as a result of restrictions in supply; whether any alternative arrangements have been made for vaccination; and if he will make a statement. [216829]

Dawn Primarolo: Pedaciel, Repevax, Infanrix-IPV and Menitorix have been put on an allocation system. The allocation system aims to ensure general practitioner contractors receive doses based on their historic vaccine requirements so every child should be immunised with no need to delay immunisations. Where surgeries are concerned that they may not have sufficient stocks for a clinic they have contacted the Department's vaccine supply team who are working to ensure additional doses have been made available.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213734]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213735]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department expended the following sums on timber products, furniture and fittings in the last five years;

	£
2003-04	74,743
2004-05	164,092
2005-06	532,655
2006-07	1,142,555
2007-08	807,018

It has not been possible to ascertain individual quantities of materials ordered.

The Department confirms that it has specified verifiable, legal and sustainable sources for the provision of timber and timber products purchased by this Department over the last five years, and will specify the European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licensed timber products for future purchases when it becomes available.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 15 July 2008

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the merits of including aviation in the European Emissions Trading Scheme, with particular reference to the likely effect of aviation's demand for carbon permits on other sectors of the economy. [218522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In formulating the collective Government position, a range of impacts of including aviation in the EU ETS has been considered, including the economic impact on other sectors of aviation being a net buyer of carbon allowances.

Buses: Passengers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of bus passenger numbers in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency. [217621]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available from the Department for Transport annual survey of bus operators, although local authority estimates of bus passenger journeys are published by the Audit Commission.

Cycling

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on advertising the Cycle to Work scheme in each year since the scheme began. [215704]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2005-06 the Department spent £9,067 on producing the 'Cycle to Work Implementation Guidance'. In 2006-07 the Department's cycling delivery body, Cycling England, produced two promotional leaflets, one for employers and one for employees, which cost £10,710. Cycling England promoted the scheme and leaflets through a marketing agency during the 2006 Bike Week, which focused on cycle commuting and although it is difficult to disaggregate each element of their promotion of Bike Week, we estimate that the cost in specifically promoting Cycle to Work was around £6,000.

Since 2006 the market has matured considerably with around a dozen commercial providers now in operation and it is therefore in the interests of these providers to promote the scheme. The Department has not incurred any further expenditure other than minimal storage and distribution costs of the guidance and leaflets as they are still available on request.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of the Cycle to Work scheme in each year since the scheme began. [215711]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no assessment by the Department of the effect on carbon dioxide of the Cycle to Work scheme. The scheme is not run by the Department but was created by the bicycle industry to take advantage of the tax exemption provided in the Finance Act 1999 and the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. The Department's role has purely been to assist the bicycle industry in its implementation of the scheme.

There is no requirement for employers to register the scheme with the Department or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. As we do not impose a burden on business to register centrally this information, we are not able to determine the precise level of participation in the scheme and therefore its impact on carbon dioxide.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which buildings occupied by her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 923W, on official cars, if she will require the Government Car and Despatch Agency to undertake an assessment of the effect of its purchasing patterns on the UK car manufacturing sector. [218124]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The ministerial car fleet represents an extremely small fraction (less than 0.0001 per cent.) of new cars sold in the UK each year. We do not consider that making an assessment of the impact of this procurement on the domestic car manufacturing industry would be productive.

Driving Tests

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average change in total costs for driving test candidates which will arise from *(a)* the relocation of the Trowbridge driving test centre in Chippendale and *(b)* the nationwide programme of test centre closures; and what costs to candidates have been taken into account in making decisions on closures. [218768]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* No estimate has been made for changes in the total costs for driving test candidates when closing driving test centres in specific areas, or nationwide. This is due to the high number of variables that would have to be taken into account, such as where candidates live and the value

they place on their time. Any estimated costs could be based only on assumptions and could result in inaccurate figures.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is a trading fund and costs are largely recovered through test fees paid by driving test candidates. In order to keep any fee increases to a minimum, DSA seeks economies in the way it conducts its business.

The existing driving test centre provision is constantly monitored to ensure that acceptable service standards are maintained but there is no wasteful over-provision of facilities. The right balance needs to be struck between the provision of a satisfactory level of public service and the cost that service incurs.

M3: Surrey

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the accident rate at *(a)* Junction 4A of the M3 and *(b)* all three-lane motorway junctions was over the most recent period for which figures are available. [217343]

Mr. Tom Harris: Based on the three years of accident and traffic data up to 2006, the latest data available, the accident rate at *(a)* junction 4A of the M3 is 6.66 accidents per 100 million vehicle-km and *(b)* for all three-lane motorway junctions is 11.38 accidents per 100 million vehicle-km.

M66

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of vehicles which travel each day during peak periods between Bury and Manchester on the M66; and if she will make a statement. [217013]

Mr. Tom Harris: Information from the Highways Agency is that during the period Monday 23 June 2008 to Friday 27 June 2008 inclusive, the traffic flows during peak hours on the M66 between Bury and Manchester were:

Vehicle volumes per hour between M66 junction 3 and M60/M62 junction

Time of day	*Total vehicles per hour*
Southbound 7 am to 10 am	4,291
Northbound 7 am to 10 am	3,170
Southbound 4 pm to 7 pm	3,146
Northbound 4 pm to 7 pm	4,294

These figures represent typical vehicle volumes for that route.

Motor Vehicles: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of households in London who owned *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more cars in each of the last five years. [219048]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives estimated car ownership figures for households in London for the last five years, based on data from the National Travel survey.

Household car availability, London, 2002-06

Percentage

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
None	40	41	42	39	38
One	42	38	40	43	46
Two	16	18	15	15	13
Three	3	2	2	2	3
Four or more	<1	1	1	1	1
Total[1]	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Motor Vehicles: Safety Measures

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the percentage of towing mirrors on sale which have been E-marked. [218799]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not collect information on the number of towing mirrors on sale.

Motorways: Closures

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of costs to the economy of *(a)* the North West and *(b)* the UK arising from motorway closures in 2007. [219098]

Mr. Tom Harris: Figures on the cost of motorway closures to the economy are not routinely calculated.

However, delays are calculated for 91 routes covering most of the strategic road network, including strategic motorway routes in the North West. An estimate of daytime delays (6 am to 8 pm) for each of these routes is available for the period January to December 2007. This information was placed in the House Libraries of the House in response to an answer on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1029-30W to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

Figures are presented on a rolling year basis. Delay is calculated as the difference between observed journey time and a reference journey time (the time that could theoretically be achieved when the traffic is free flowing). Figures for average delays on motorways and trunk roads for individual regions are not calculated on this basis.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 923W, on official cars, if she will make an assessment of the effects of procurement policies for ministerial cars on the domestic car manufacturing industry. [218005]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The ministerial car fleet represents an extremely small fraction (less than 0.0001 per cent.) of new cars sold in the UK each year. We do not consider that making an assessment of the impact of this procurement on the domestic car manufacturing industry would be productive.

Parking

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 938-9W, on fixed penalties: appeals, what methods of redress are available to those whose parking contraventions have been observed or detected since 30 March 2008. [218785]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A motorist who considers that a penalty charge notice (PCN) served on or after 31 March 2008 did not contain the correct information may first make informal representation to the local authority. If this is rejected and the PCN is not paid, a notice to owner is served, against which a motorist may make a formal representation. If the formal representation is rejected, the motorist may appeal to a parking adjudicator.

Fixed penalty notices are only issued by the Police service.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average charge for a two-hour stay during working hours in a municipal car park is in each English local authority area. [218842]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held by central Government.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what parking charges are applied at council-owned parking facilities in South Northamptonshire. [218843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held by central Government.

Parking: Schools

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has issued on the enforcement of parking restrictions in areas denoted by zig-zag road markings outside school gates. [218461]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport's guidance about parking enforcement covers the theory and principles of the process. It does not advise on how the process might be applied in particular situations. Those are decisions for the local authority concerned.

Road Traffic Offences: Cameras

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will instruct each safety camera partnership to publish the revenue resulting from fines attributable to each individual speed camera within their area on an annual basis. [218984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to instruct partnerships to publish details of fine revenue attributable to individual speed cameras. Since 1 April 2007 the individual local partnerships have had full responsibility for the deployment and operation of cameras, and publication of any such information is entirely a matter for them.

Road Accidents: Outside Schools

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of trends in occurrences of injuries to *(a)* children and *(b)* adults caused by traffic outside school gates. [218462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although the location of accidents is collected no work has been done centrally to match these against school addresses and no assessment of trends has been made. Data on injuries sustained by children and young people under 17 on the journey to and from school, some of which may have been outside the school gates, show a downward trend which mirrors the decrease in all children's casualties.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215627]

Mr. Woodward: Since July 2007 the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have not conducted any reviews on regulation.

We are considering the appropriate timing for post legislative scrutiny of Northern Ireland Acts and Orders in Council on excepted and reserved matters that have received Royal Assent since 2005.

We will be agreeing the handling of these reviews with the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

WALES

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203855]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since my re-appointment as Secretary of State in January I have hosted one reception on 27 February to celebrate St. David's Day. Approximately 150 guests attended, including parliamentarians from all parties in both Houses, journalists and others with an interest in Wales. The cost of the reception was £3,059.23.

Smoking

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the number of people in Wales who smoked in the latest year for which figures are available. [218737]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The latest available statistics were published in "Smoking in Wales: Current Facts" published jointly by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Centre for Health in November 2007.

Statistics show that in 2005-06, 25 per cent. of adults in Wales reported that they currently smoked, while regular smoking was reported by 19 per cent. of 15-year-old boys and 28 per cent. of 15-year-old girls in 2004.

However, in 2006-07, more than 12,000 people contacted smoking cessation services and the percentage of adults in Wales who smoke has fallen 15 per cent. over the last 30 years.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the potential economic effects of the 2012 Olympic Games on each region. [215284]

Tessa Jowell: Businesses around the UK will win contracts in the London 2012 supply chains, but there are many other ways in which each region will gain economic benefits from the 2012 games. These include the boost to the tourism industry, the opportunity to inspire people to develop their skills, and using volunteering to improve skills. The pre-games training camps will enable regions to attract inward investment and showcase themselves on an international stage, and UKTI are developing programmes to use the games as a springboard for export.

There is no detailed breakdown of how much each region will benefit in each of these areas. However, the Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working hard to ensure the benefits of 2012 are realised across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG).

All regions, working through the NRG, have now published their own plans to maximise the benefits and opportunities of the 2012 games. Full details of the plans are available via the Nations and Regions pages on the London 2012 website at:

http://www.london2012.com/in-your-area/index.php

Olympic Games 2012: Contaminated Land

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics to which location contaminated soil or other contaminated material found at the Olympic Park site has been transported for disposal; what volumes of material are involved; and what contaminants have been discovered. [214313]

Tessa Jowell: The ODA had calculated that earthworks totalling 1.6 million tonnes of soil is necessary in preparing the Olympic Park site for construction of work. Of this, around 1 million tonnes will require treatment.

To date, less than 2 per cent. has been transported off-site for landfill disposal at Environment Agency approved sites across the UK. The locations of those sites are:

Kings Cliff, Cambridgeshire (Augean Kings Cliff);

Dudley, West Midlands (Himley Quarry);

Teesside, North Yorkshire (Impetus Waste Management ICI 3);

Barling Magna, Essex (Barling Landfill);

Purton, North Wiltshire (Parkgate Farm Landfill);

Middlesbrough, Cleveland (Augean Middlesbrough).

Also, a small percentage of asbestos-contaminated material has been removed off-site during the demolition phase to approved specialist sites for safe disposal. Those sites are:

Kings Cliff, Cambridgeshire (Augean Kings Cliff);

High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire (Biffa Waste);

Dartford, Kent (Pinden Plant and Processing);

Taunton, Somerset (Viridor Waste Management);

Teesside, North Yorkshire (Impetus Waste Management ICI 3).

Other contaminants discovered on-site include hydrocarbons, industrial chemicals, heavy materials and a very small amount of low level radioactive material. A report on the radium find from the ODA's specialist contractor stated that

"no worker or member of the public has been unnecessarily exposed to ionising radiation"

which registered low or very low levels of radioactivity. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was consulted immediately following the find, with the Environment Agency, Newham Environmental Health and the planning authority informed and consulted on safe transit and disposal.

Much of the other contaminants are treated at source and the cleansed material, where appropriate, reused in the landscaping and foundations work of the Olympic Park.

The ODA is currently exceeding its 90 per cent. target of reclaiming material for recycling or reuse from its demolition and remediation works.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has approved a draft costed security plan for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [218386]

Tessa Jowell: The Home Secretary is responsible for the security in the London 2012 Olympic games. The security plan is in the course of preparation by a process which, in relation to the overall objective of a safe and secure games, is proportionate and affordable. The plan is being developed in close discussion with all relevant stakeholders and will be delivered with costs at the end of the year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan and Australia: Morphine

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 8th February 2007 by Lord Triesman, PQ HL1749, what his most recent estimate is of the costs of producing morphine in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Australia; and on what bases the costs are estimated. [215441]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* In 2008, we estimate that it costs US$385 to produce one kilogram of morphine equivalent[1] in Afghanistan. However, this is the 'farm gate' cost of illegal opium production, not the manufacturing cost of the final morphine product. This does not therefore include the following: regulation and security (policing of product, security of product transport from farm to factory); processing; equipment; chemicals; labour costs; and other business costs. These costs are unknown for Afghanistan. We estimate that the breakdown of costs for opium production in Afghanistan (per hectare) is as follows: production costs include fertiliser (estimated at 250 kilograms of urea and 250 kilograms of diammonium phosphate per hectare at a cost of US$210); oxen (at a rate of 10 days per hectare at a cost of US$8 per day); 350 labour days, including 200 days for harvesting (at an estimated wage rate of US$4 per day); and 150 days for land preparation; sowing; weeding; field clearance and seed collection (at an estimated rate of US$2.80 per day).

The Australian Crime Commission advise that it costs a licit manufacturer in Australia approximately US$300 (as at 30 June 2008) to produce one kilogram of morphine. This is the cost of the final product, not the 'farm gate' cost. Due to the commercially sensitive nature of these data, a breakdown of the Australian Crime Commission figures is not available. In 1999 the International Narcotics Control Board stated that the price paid to growers was US$56 for each kilogram of morphine equivalent. The breakdown of these costs is also confidential.

[1] This assumes opium production of around 40 kilograms per hectare and that 10 kilograms of opium is required to produce one kilogram of morphine equivalent.

Bosco Ntaganda

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking together with its international partners to ensure that the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo complies with the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for Bosco Ntaganda. [216746]

Meg Munn: The UK is ready to provide whatever assistance may be required to ensure that those accused of the most serious crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC) are brought into custody. Co-operation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the ICC has already led to the arrest of three DRC nationals, as part of the ICC's investigations into the situation in the DRC. We expect the Government of the DRC to provide the same level of co-operation over the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda.

China: Taiwan

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between China and Taiwan. [217423]

Meg Munn: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said publicly on 22 March, the change of administration in Taiwan is a real opportunity to renew efforts to improve cross-Strait relations. We hope that the Chinese Government and Taiwan President Ma Ying-Jeou's administration will continue to engage in direct dialogue to resolve differences and strengthen cross-Strait stability, with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue, acceptable to the people of both sides of the Strait. We support the EU declaration of 26 May and the EU presidency statement of 13 June which similarly sought to encourage this dialogue and welcome the practical results seen so far. These include the institution of regular direct weekend charter flights between mainland China and Taiwan, which started on 4 July.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215283]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Annual expenditure on consultants is published in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual departmental reports, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The two most recent departmental reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy contractors.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217387]

Meg Munn: A total of 305 staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have taken early retirement in the two years up to 1 July 2008, of whom 19 were FCO services staff. The reasons for granting early retirement range from redundancy to ill health. During this period, there were two restructuring exercises which led to a higher than expected number of early retirements: one reduced the size of the FCO's senior management structure by almost 20 per cent.; and the other involved the closure of a number of business units in preparation for the launch of FCO Services as a Trading Fund from April 2008.

All payments to those who took early retirement with compensation were made in strict accordance with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation scheme.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place a copy of his Department's most recent annual staff survey in the Library. [218685]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) most recent annual staff survey was concluded in December 2007. The results are already available in the public domain. They have been published on two sites: the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/staff-survey/FCO2007.pdf

and the FCO's website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/departmental-report/part2/public-diplomacy/.

I will also arrange for a copy to be forwarded to the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Thurrock of 20th May 2008 on the visit to the US of HRH the Prince of Wales in 2006; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply to the letter. [218927]

Meg Munn: I replied on 9 July to my hon. Friend's letter of 20 May on the visit to the US of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in 2006. The delay in replying was caused by the length of time needed to research the response thoroughly.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216687]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have settled two personal injury claims in the last twelve months. Neither claim was contested by the Department. The payments were:

£4,000.00 Not contested for fingers trapped in door; and

£3,871.02 Not contested for manual handling accident.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 779W, on the Republic of Ireland: Lisbon Treaty, under what circumstances the Government can withdraw an instrument of ratification in respect of an international treaty once it has been deposited with the treaty depositary; and if he will make a statement. [218172]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 14 July 2008]*: The EU (Amendment) Bill received Royal Assent on 19 June. We are proceeding to ratification in the usual way; once prepared, the instrument of ratification will be deposited with the Italian Government in Rome. Once deposited, it will not be withdrawn.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many trade inquiries were handled by the British high commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department has incurred on the promotion of trade with the Maldives in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [216260]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UKTI Trade and Investment team in Colombo handled 241 trade inquiries for the period from April 2007 to March 2008.

UKTI has neither a presence in the Maldives nor financial resources specifically dedicated to the promotion of trade with the islands. No change in this position is currently envisaged.

The British high commission in Colombo (Sri Lanka) however handles inquiries about trade with the Maldives on a reactive basis and companies interested in trading with the islands have access to background information via the UKTI website.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has provided to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in the last three years; and how many days of training for parliamentarians from developing countries the Foundation has delivered in that period. [216780]

Meg Munn: From 2005-08 the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) received £4.1 million annually in grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In addition to this, from 2006-08 WFD received £432,000 from the FCO's Global Opportunities Fund to implement regional projects on behalf of the FCO.

WFD has delivered 192 framing days for parliamentarians in the following countries:

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Bahrain, Peru, Yemen, Chile, Namibia, Belarus, Turkey and Palestine and regional projects in the Balkans, the Caribbean, Central Europe and Africa.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Leader of the House which make and model of car she has chosen as her ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217767]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House's current ministerial car is a Toyota Prius leased under agreement by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members claimed additional costs allowance in respect of a second home *(a)* in London, *(b)* in the hon. Member's constituency and *(c)* elsewhere in the last period for which figures are available. [218857]

Helen Goodman: Hon. Members are entitled to claim the additional costs allowance when staying away from their main home on parliamentary business. The allowance

may be used for help with the cost of purchase or rental of a property, or for hotel or other overnight costs. Currently 441 Members claim the allowance for staying in London and 148 in their constituency.

Of the 148 Members claiming the allowance for staying in the constituency, 34 have homes that fall outside the constituency boundary. All of these are within 20 miles of the boundary, in accordance with the rules that allow second homes to be located up to 20 miles outside the constituency.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Leader of the House what the median relevant increase for the public sector groups which will in future be used in the uprating formula for the salaries of hon. Members was in each of the last 10 years. [217714]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not easily obtainable within the normal timescales for answering written parliamentary questions. I will write to the hon. Member with the information shortly.

TREASURY

Bank Melli plc

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government have evidence that Bank Melli plc has been in breach of UN Security Council resolutions 1737, 1747 and 1803. [217079]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The Government expect all financial institutions in the UK to comply with financial sanctions and any evidence of a breach would be investigated. We cannot comment on individual cases.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the EU designation and his Department's asset freeze imposed on Bank Melli plc is *(a)* related to Bank Melli plc's activities or *(b)* aimed at the holding company in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [217080]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The financial sanctions imposed on Bank Melli plc are directly applicable EC sanctions which the UK has an obligation to enforce. The EC sanctions designated Bank Melli Iran and its branches and subsidiaries abroad, including Melli Bank plc and Bank Melli Iran Zao. As the relevant Council Decision makes clear, Melli Bank plc is designated for financial sanctions as a part of the Bank Melli group and as a subsidiary of Bank Melli Iran.

Capital Allowances: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the withdrawal of capital allowances on buildings in rural areas. [217954]

Jane Kennedy: The phased withdrawal of agricultural buildings allowances (ABAs) is part of a package of measures which also saw the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax and the basic rate of income tax and the introduction of a £50,000 annual investment allowance, allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write-off all their expenditure on plant and machinery (apart from cars) in the year in which it is made. An impact assessment in respect of the business tax reform package as a whole was published as part of the December 2007 technical note on the capital allowances changes. A link to that document is as follows:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=page_Library_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCEPROD1_028217

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* guidance and *(b)* manual in relation to using the TENET software. [218311]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 9 January 2006, to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), *Official Report*, column 250W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on council tax: valuation, which external contractors assisted with the development of the council tax banding support tool. [218316]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool was developed with assistance from CapGemini, SAS and Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on council tax: Wales, how many households moved *(a)* up and *(b)* down bands consequent on the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales. [218313]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1622W.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214710]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the published Annual Report and Accounts of the Treasury 2006-07 (HC 518), pages 135 and 136.

To separately identify the value at purchase and value now of each component of the Treasury's computer system could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Research

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether projects or research have been commissioned from the Institute for Public Policy Research by *(a)* his Department or *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12 months; and on what topics. [211924]

Jane Kennedy: No. HMRC does not hold the requested information centrally and it could be collated only at disproportionate cost. None has been commissioned by the VOA.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216091]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to the Treasury and its agencies for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 can be found on the Civil Service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

All three illnesses are grouped together under the ICD code 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders'.

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available but will be published later in the year. Information for years prior to 2004 data is not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Capability Action Plan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the £200 million funding for the new Financial Capability Action Plan has not been previously announced. [218247]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Capability Action Plan, published jointly by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority, made reference to various different projects to improve financial capability in the UK. This included over £200 million Government funding for debt advice, to help people in serious financial difficulty, which had been previously announced.

Foreign Investment in UK: India

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much foreign direct investment into the UK was from Indian investors in each of the last five years. [219118]

Kitty Ussher: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes data on foreign direct investment (FDI) annually in the "Business Monitor MA4: Foreign Direct Investment". The latest available data on FDI are for 2006, as follows, and available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/MA42006.pdf

Net FDI international positions in the United Kingdom, 1998 to 2006

	Stock of FDI from India to UK (£ million)
1998	94
1999	104
2000	182
2001	162
2002	162
2003	194
2004	164
2005	518
2006	795

Source:
Table 6.1 in Business Monitor MA4: Foreign Direct Investment 2006.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 899W and *(b)* 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1628W, on the Valuation Office, what the value impact is, in numerical terms, of each of dwelling house codes 01 to 09, as identified during the calibration of the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [218264]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1635W, on housing: valuation, if he will outline each substantive change to the coding guide made since January 2005; and on what date each change was made; [218317]

(2) whether the copy of the coding guide on the Valuation Office Agency website is the most up to date available version of the guide incorporating all changes made since January 2005. [218318]

Jane Kennedy: The Dwellinghouse Coding Guide currently shown on the Valuation Office Agency website is the most up to date version. The majority of the changes to the guide since January 2005 have been of a minor nature, and a compiled list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Income Tax

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue from each *(a)* London borough area and *(b)* metropolitan authority area which would accrue from the addition of one penny to the basic rate of income tax. [219090]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the mean and median tax liability of taxpayers living in the London boroughs and metropolitan authorities can be found in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes and 2005-06 is the latest year available.

The yield for the UK from a 1p change in the basic rate of income tax can be found in table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

A breakdown of the yield by borough and district or unitary authority is not available as sample sizes at these levels of geography are small and can demonstrate a large variability from year to year.

PAYE

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of *(a)* the average tax overpayment and *(b)* the average tax underpayment for each PAYE account following clerical review in the latest period for which figures are available. [216621]

Jane Kennedy: Approximately 70 per cent. of PAYE records clear automatically each year with no need for clerical review.

Of the remainder, it is estimated that in 77 per cent. of cases the tax has been correctly paid, in 17 per cent. of cases customers are owed an average of £350 and in 6 per cent. of cases HM Revenue and Customs is owed an average of £300.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216688]

Angela Eagle: There were no personal injury claims brought against the Treasury in the last 12 months, April 2007-March 2008 for which figures are available.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the relative performance against objectives of HM Revenue and Customs staff at *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Bolton, *(c)* Blackburn and *(d)* St. Helens; when a Minister from his Department last visited each such office; and what (i) timetable and (ii) details for re-organisation of these offices (A) were originally announced to staff and (B) are now in place. [218858]

Jane Kennedy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 966W. The reasons for offices being either retained or closed under HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) work force change programme is not a reflection on the current performance of staff working in those offices.

I have not visited the HMRC offices in Chorley, Bolton, Blackburn or St. Helens.

Announcements of decisions on those offices were made on 29 February 2008. In those announcements staff were informed that some movement of work and staff would commence in spring 2008 and continue as alternative accommodation became ready.

Revenue and Customs: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the decision was taken to extend the HM Revenue and Customs and Valuation Office Agency contract with Rightmove.co.uk plc; and what the estimated cost is of the extension. [218295]

Jane Kennedy: A decision to extend the contract has not yet been taken.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status of the contract between Rightmove.co.uk plc and HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency is; and what the termination date of the contract is. [218421]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

Revenue and Customs: Weston-Super-Mare

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a full equality impact assessment was carried out on the effects on *(a)* staff and *(b)* service users of the proposal to close the HM Revenue and Customs office in Weston-Super-Mare. [218319]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is restructuring its business and estate across the whole of the UK in order to achieve business efficiencies and customer service improvements, and release surplus accommodation. On 11 June 2008, proposals were published for the HMRC office in Weston-Super-Mare, which envisage withdrawal from that office. These proposals are under consultation and no final decision has been made. An overview impact assessment which included the Weston-Super-Mare office was published on the same day. Feasibility work undertaken by HMRC before recommendations are made include assessment of the impact of closure on staff, customers and the wider community. This includes any equality impacts.

If the final decision is to withdraw from Weston-Super-Mare, an impact assessment will be published at that point, with an Equality Impact Assessment as an appendix to this document.

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the business case for the proposal to close the HM Revenue and Customs office in Weston-Super-Mare. [218320]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs do not produce a single business case document for any specific building or location. The overall business case within which HMRC's regional review programme operates is its need to restructure in order to achieve the required efficiency savings and customer service improvements. Most of these savings are realised at business unit or even departmental level, and cannot realistically be apportioned to particular offices.

Taxis

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of registration of a private hire vehicle is in each local authority. [218784]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

There are 342 taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing authorities in England and Wales. Under the relevant legislation each authority is permitted to set its licence fees at such a level as to enable it to cover the costs of administering the licensing system. Fees therefore vary from area to area depending on the administrative costs incurred.

Information is not collected centrally on the fees charged by each authority. However, a small-scale sample survey of authorities we undertook in 2006 indicated an average fee of around £200 for a vehicle licence. Fees are also charged for the award of a PHV driver's licence and an operator's licence.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1628-9W, on the Valuation Office, on what date in each month between March 2003 and November 2005 the Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) met. [218266]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 341W.

Valuation Office Agency Local Authority Liaison Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the Valuation Office Agency Local Authority Liaison Group has met since April 2006. [218418]

Jane Kennedy: The Local Authority Liaison Group has met five times since April 2006.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, if he will place in the Library copies of the OASIS training manual and supporting documentation held by the Valuation Office Agency. [218267]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 January 2006, to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), *Official Report*, column 250W.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on Valuation Office: ICT, how many localities there are in each billing authority area in London. [218270]

Jane Kennedy: The number of localities in each billing authority area in London at 2 April 2008 was as follows:

Billing authority	*Count of localities*[1]
Barking and Dagenham	17
Barnet	23
Bexley	40
Brent	18
Bromley	54
Camden	46
City of London	3
Croydon	40
Ealing	24
Enfield	26
Greenwich	55
Hackney	50
Hammersmith and Fulham	55
Haringey	15
Harrow	17
Havering	17
Hillingdon	20
Hounslow	21
Islington	47
Kensington and Chelsea	47
Kingston upon Thames	41
Lambeth	37
Lewisham	35
Merton	39
Newham	29
Redbridge	21
Richmond upon Thames	41
Southwark	46
Sutton	36
Tower Hamlets	44
Waltham Forest	15
Wandsworth	58
Westminster	57

[1] As at 2 April 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding the Valuebill project has received from the Invest to Save budget. [218424]

Jane Kennedy: The Invest to Save budget has not provided funding for the Valuebill project.

Valuation Office: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which projects sponsored by the Valuation Office Agency have been subject to Gateway reviews since 1997. [218416]

Jane Kennedy: The postponed Council Tax Revaluation Programme.

Valuation Office: Travel

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidelines on travelling and subsistence contained in Section 7 of The Guide publication on the Agency's intranet. [218321]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of section 7 of the Valuation Office Agency's guide has been placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Shows

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which rural and agricultural shows Ministers from his Department *(a)* have attended in 2008 and *(b)* plan to attend before 31 September 2008. [215368]

Jonathan Shaw: The rural and agricultural shows that Ministers from my Department have *(a)* attended so far in 2008, and *(b)* plan to attend before 31 September 2008 are tabled as follows:

Show	*Date visited/planned*	*Minister attending*
British Pig and Poultry Fair	13 May	Jeff Rooker
Devon County Show	15 May	Jeff Rooker
Royal Show	3 July	Jeff Rooker
	4 July	Hilary Benn
Great Yorkshire Show	10 July	Hilary Benn
Kent County Show	11 July	Jonathan Shaw
Cumberland Show	19 July	Jeff Rooker
CLA Game Fair	26 July	Jeff Rooker
Dairy Event	17 September	Jeff Rooker
Royal Norfolk Show	26 June	Jonathan Shaw

Agricultural Land

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of changes in the price of agricultural land on the *(a)* profitability and *(b)* productivity of English agriculture. [217272]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA have not made a specific assessment on the effects of changes in the price of agricultural land on the profitability and productivity of English agriculture.

DEFRA publish aggregate balance sheets for agriculture in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom". The balance sheet shows the value of fixed assets at a point in time (December each year) and the value of liabilities at a point in time. Fixed assets are dominated by land. As the volume of land is unchanging, the trend in the value of land and buildings is dominated by the effect of land prices. The latest balance sheet shows the value of UK agricultural land and buildings increasing by 40 per cent. at current prices, between 2003 and 2006.

Changes in profitability of farming are measured by changes to Farm Business Income. Data on Farm Business Incomes are provided by the annual Farm Business Survey conducted in England. These figures are for March/February years. The most recent published figures show Farm Business Income in England at the all types level falling by 2.5 per cent. at current prices, between the years 2003-04 and 2006-07 (to then increase sharply in 2007-08).

Productivity for UK agriculture, measured by Total Factor Productivity, is published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom". The latest publication shows UK agricultural productivity increasing by 5 per cent. between the years 2003 and 2006.

Agriculture: Public Sector

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department provides to British farmers to assist them in supplying fruit and vegetables to the public sector. [216791]

Jonathan Shaw: There is a page on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative web site that is devoted to providing advice to UK farmers on how to supply fruit and vegetables and other produce to the public sector. The page can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/sellingpublic.htm.

The page, for example, contains the guide "Selling to the public sector" which explains how growers (and farmers) can take advantage of opportunities to supply food to the public sector either directly or indirectly via the supply chain of a primary supplier. The guide also includes short case studies showing how small and local producers have worked successfully with the public sector and lists useful sources of further information and advice.

DEFRA is also funding the Government offices for the regions to undertake workshops and projects to improve the supply of domestically grown fruit and vegetables into the public sector. It is also working through key stakeholders such as the NFU and English Farming and Food Partnerships to provide advice and support to producers.

Bees: Diseases

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider increasing his Department's spending on bee health research. [217020]

Jonathan Shaw: An additional £90,000 has been allocated to the National Bee Unit this financial year to expand investigations started last year under a Horizon Scanning project into significant colony losses and to meet the demand for increased inspections of bee imports consequential to the colony losses.

Research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health strategy which has recently been published for public consultation. Commissioned research in later years will be considered in the light of priorities identified in the agreed strategy and the resources available from DEFRA and elsewhere.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of those cattle slaughtered as reactors and inconclusives under the bovine tuberculosis eradication scheme, how many *(a)* were found to be free of tuberculosis through (i) visual inspections of lesions and (ii) culturing of tissue samples after death and *(b)* entered the human food chain in each of the last three years. [217160]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis (TB) control measures in England in each of the last three years, and details the number of cattle where infection with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) was not confirmed at post mortem examination.

	England	
	Number of cattle slaughtered[1]	*Infection not confirmed at post-mortem examination*
2005	23,135	10,243
2006[2]	16,006	6,385
2007[2]	19,777	7,470

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as skin and gamma-interferon (gIFN) test reactors, skin test inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.
[2] 2006-07 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Following a TB breakdown, we aim to carry out post-mortem inspections of all the slaughtered cattle. Tissue samples are taken from the reactor (or if several animals must be removed, from a representative subset of those), to attempt isolation and molecular typing of the causative organism in the laboratory. This is done to support epidemiological investigations and management of the incident, rather than to validate the ante-mortem test results.

Failure to detect lesions of TB by post-mortem examination, or to culture *M. bovis* in the laboratory, does not imply that a test reactor was not infected with bovine TB. With TB in cattle, it is frequently not possible to observe lesions during abattoir post-mortem examination and, due to the fastidious nature of this organism, it is very difficult to isolate it from tissue samples without visible lesions.

Meaningful confirmation proportions for TB test reactors cannot be provided, as substantial numbers of skin and gIFN positive animals are not subject to laboratory culture, for example, once infection has already been identified in other cattle from the same herd.

Responsibility for inspecting TB carcases and their associated offal rests with the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS). Under the EU Food Hygiene Regulations, all animals herds with no visible tuberculosis lesions, plus any cattle with visible tuberculosis lesions localised in one organ or one part of the carcase, will have been considered fit for human consumption by the MHS.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what income to the public purse resulted from cattle that were slaughtered as reactors and inconclusives in the tuberculosis eradication scheme entering the human food chain in each of the last three years. [217842]

Jonathan Shaw: The amount of money received by the Government from the sale of the cattle slaughtered as reactors and inconclusives in England, as a result of bovine tuberculosis control measures from 2004-05 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table:

	Amount received
	£ million
2004-05	3.1
2005-06	4.9
2006-07	1.1

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccines

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department plans to spend on research for a *(a)* wildlife and *(b)* cattle vaccine against bovine tuberculosis in 2008-09; and what plans he has for such spending in the next two years. [217776]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* As part of DEFRA's commitment to tackling the issue of bovine TB (bTB), we have invested in a significant research programme looking into the development of vaccines for both cattle and badgers. The total investment (since 1998) in vaccine development reached more than £17.8 million by March 2008, with over £5.5 million invested in cattle and badger vaccine research last financial year (2007-08).

On 7 July 2008, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a commitment to additional funding over the next three years. During this time period, £20 million will be spent on vaccine development to strengthen the prospects of successfully developing a usable vaccine.

The increased funding will not result in a vaccine being available sooner. While the programme of research has been designed to minimise the time required to deliver licensed vaccines, research by its nature takes time and a significant proportion of the work can only be addressed sequentially.

The exact scope and cost of the research projects is in the process of being finalised, approximate projected spending is shown in the following table:

	Estimated spend (£ million)		
Vaccine type	*2008-09*	*2009-2011*	*Total for CSR period*
Badger (injectable and oral)	2.3	4.7	7
Cattle (including diagnostic test)	4.3	8.7	13
Total	6.6	13.4	20

The larger budget for cattle research reflects the high costs of keeping infected cattle under stringent biosecurity containment in the laboratory.

Cumbria

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed by his predecessor Department in Cumbria in 1997; and how many were employed by his Department in Cumbria at the most recent date for which figures are available. [216277]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff employed by DEFRA's predecessor Department in Cumbria in 1997 is unavailable.

The number of staff (in full-time equivalents) employed at DEFRA's offices in Cumbria as at 30 June 2008 was as follows:

	Full-time equivalent
Carlisle (DEFRA)	1.00
Carlisle (Animal Health)	40.79
Carlisle (Rural Payments Agency)	377.57
Penrith (Veterinary Laboratories Agency)	25.18
Whitehaven (Marine and Fisheries Agency)	1.54
Workington (Rural Payments Agency)	672.37
Total	1,118.45

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215556]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally and for the period April 2007 to March 2008 inclusive the information requested is as follows:

Body	*Expenditure (£)*	*Number of tickets*
CEFAS	1,196	14
Core-DEFRA	64,817	715
GDS	205	2
MFA	11,147	103
Animal Health	15,009	186
Rural Payments Agency	267,405	2,573

Expenditure on travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental travel policy.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212869]

Jonathan Shaw: Information for the period requested, broken down for the period from June 2001 onwards, being the inception of DEFRA, could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Department did not have systems in place to record all the information in the format requested and it would take several days to review systems and track all individual projects.

However spend, excluding property disposal income, against the Department's capital investment programme, on new and refurbishment projects but excluding projects for a number of its agencies (VLA, VMD, CSL, CEFAS) for the period 2001 has been identified as (rounded to the nearest £1 million):

	£ million
2001-03	5
2002-03	9
2003-04	13
2004-05	24
2005-06	22
2006-07	18
2007-08	19

During this period the following specific projects in excess of £0.5 million were undertaken and completed:

	£ million
London, 3-8 Whitehall Place—Fit out of developer led scheme	2.11
London, Nobel House—Major refurbishment	33.9
London, 55 Whitehall—Major refurbishment	4.97
London, Ergon House—Major refurbishments	3.5
London, 9 Millbank—Major refurbishments	3.0
Workington, BCMS Offices—New build modular offices	1.5
London, Eastbury House—Major refurbishments	1.3
Reading, Northgate House—Fit out of new Innovation Centre	1.51
Stafford, RAF Stafford—Fit out for new GDS agency	0.96
Worcester, Whittington Road—Major refurbishments	2.25
London, Ashdown House—Major refurbishments	4.39

Spend in the period 2005-08 period also includes circa £40 million value of projects currently in progress.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213697]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department, excluding a number of its agencies (VMD, CSL, CEFAS) have undertaken and completed BREEAM assessments on a number of new builds and major refurbishments with a value of exceeding £0.5 million as follows:

	Project title	*Rating*
2005-06	New Build—SVS Offices Carmarthen	Excellent Design
2005-06	New Build—3-8 Whitehall Place	Excellent Design
2005-06	New Build—Mills Building (VLA)	Excellent Design
2005-06	New Build—Stewart Stockman Building (VLA)	Very Good Design[1]
2005-06	Major Refurbishment—55 Whitehall	Very Good Design[2]
2006-07	Major Refurbishment—Nobel House	Excellent Design
2007-08	—	—

[1] Very Good achieved despite the building being a complex and high containment building

[2] Very Good achieved in what is a grade 2 listed building

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in *(i)* 2005-06, *(ii)* 2006-07 and *(iii)* 2007-08. [213733]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department, excluding a number of its agencies (VMD, CSL, CEFAS) completed new builds and major refurbishments with a value exceeding £0.5 million as follows:

	New build	*Refurbishments*
2005-06	5	3
2006-07	1	12
2007-08	0	0

Departmental Conferences

Mr Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215176]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215378]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to Figure 18, page 141 of the Departmental Report 2008 for DEFRA presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for DEFRA in May 2008. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 are being finalised and will be available in September 2008.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which make and model of car he has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217769]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's official ministerial cars are all hybrid, with two Toyota Prius cars (1.5 litre petrol/electric) and two Honda Civic Hybrid cars (1.4 litre). The Secretary of State's car is a Toyota Prius.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial cars in line with the Ministerial Code and the Prime Minister's guidance 'Travel by Ministers'.

GCDA advises the Prime Minister on the suitability of cars for inclusion in his guidance, taking into account a number of criteria when assessing suitable cars including their environmental impact, running and maintenance costs and overall suitability as a ministerial car.

Lord Rooker and Helen Ghosh have both given up their GDCA allocated cars, but occasionally use GDCA pool cars and green cars where necessary, and there is no viable public transport alternative.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 34W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215247]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213311]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows details of performance bonuses awarded to staff in DEFRA in each financial year since November 2004. Data prior to November 2004, are only available at disproportionate cost.

Period	*Number of staff awarded bonuses*	*Proportion of workforce (Percentage)*	*Highest bonus paid (£)*
November 2004 - March 2005	[1]513	6.7	7,616
April 2005 - March 2006	[2]3,535	44.9	[3]12,000
April 2006 - March 2007	[2]2,239	37.3	15,147
April 2007 - March 2008	[2]1,818	36.9	15,640

[1] This figure includes in-year performance bonuses only, which are paid to staff at grade 6 and below.
[2] These figures include annual performance bonuses paid to staff in the SCS and at grade 6 and below. They also include in-year performance bonuses paid to staff at grade 6 and below.
[3] The figure quoted represents the highest bonus paid to a permanent member of staff. However, a higher bonus award of £34,040 was paid as an exceptional one-off circumstance, to a fixed-term appointee, as part of their contractual provisions.

The data cover annual performance bonuses paid to SCS and annual and in-year performance bonuses paid to staff in core-DEFRA and those Executive Agencies covered by the core-Department's terms and conditions (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (who merged with the HSE on 1 April 2008).

Separate performance bonus arrangements operate for staff in the SCS and those at grade 6 and below.

For the SCS

Non-consolidated cash payments, otherwise known as bonuses, are used to reward in-year performance in relation to agreed objectives, or short-term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Bonuses are paid addition to base pay increase and do not count towards pension.

Bonuses are allocated by departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the SSRB recommendations. The intention is that the bonus decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

The Department has limited discretion in the application of the policy, as the criteria for the operation of the arrangements are determined centrally by the Cabinet Office.

For staff at grade 6 and below

The High Performance Bonus schemes introduced in April 2005, provide staff in core-DEFRA and those Agencies covered by the core-Departments pay arrangements (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate and Government Decontamination Service), with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance that significantly exceeds normal expectations.

The process should provide staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn a bonus, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem.

These are two types of award:

In-year high performance bonuses paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and

Annual high performance bonuses, which are paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers in each DG for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214685]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has clear guidance on the use of inward secondments, defined as a posting for an individual from a non-civil service organisation.

Inward secondments can:

allow the Department to seek specialist expertise which cannot be provided by existing staff and for which recruitment to permanent posts is not appropriate;

enable the Department to offer to other organisations the broadening, personal development and skills enhancement we seek for our own staff;

foster mutual understanding and co-operation and promote links between the Department and particular sectors or organisations.

They are not a means of addressing the Department's long-term in-house staffing needs and do not restrict opportunities for permanent staff.

For all secondment appointments below senior civil service which will exceed one year, modified rules of fair and open competition apply. The business unit must provide evidence that they have created as wide a field of candidates as they can in the circumstances; that they have selected the best candidate; and that the candidate's qualifications and experience are such as to qualify them to undertake the duties required. However, a single body may be approached where it is the only likely source of a particular expertise, where the secondment is intended to foster a particular relationship between the Department and an external organisation, or where it is part of a recognised programme.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216693]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on sickness absence in the civil service is available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

Published data are available from the 2004 calendar year to the 2006-07 financial year. The number of working days lost due to sickness in DEFRA was as follows:

	Number
2004	56,000
2005	59,826
2006-07	48,026

Data on days lost to sickness before 2004 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214627]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215918]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs can confirm that between 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department's waste arisings decreased by 8 per cent.

DEFRA has taken steps to reduce its waste by ensuring that printers are automatically set to duplex and have the ability to print more than one page to a side. The Department has stopped providing printed copies of its weekly Office Notices, saving over two million sheets of paper, in its place the Office Notice is published electronically on the DEFRA intranet.

DEFRA has also increased recycling by 8 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07 resulting in less waste being sent to landfill.

The increase in recycling can be attributed to staff awareness campaigns and improved site recycling facilities.

At this time the Sustainable Development Commission have yet to verify Government data for 2007-08. Therefore we are unable to provide this information.

Fishing Vessels: Fuels

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department is giving the commercial sea fishing industry to improve the fuel efficiency of its vessels. [217273]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2005-06, DEFRA funded a £20,000 study by SEAFISH on how fishing vessels could reduce their fuel consumption. The results of that study are available to the industry, and advice on what vessel owners can do to improve efficiency is widely available from SEAFISH.

£71 million of grants through the European Fisheries Fund will come on stream in autumn. A significant proportion of these funds will be targeted to support the industry in adapting to higher fuel prices, including through increasing fuel efficiency.

Food Supply

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on food supply, under what circumstances the Government would seek to access food stocks identified by his Department's database. [217222]

Jonathan Shaw: The food supply chain is robust due to the high degree of substitutability of food stuffs and the range of options available when one element of the supply chain is disrupted. This flexibility arises from a combination of domestic production and the multiplicity of trading and transport options that exist.

In the event of a disruption to the food supply, DEFRA would work closely with the food industry to deal with the situation. The information held in the database allows DEFRA to better represent the food industry in any discussions with other Government Departments during incidents which could impact on the industry. However, it is not possible to speculate in advance on the Government's future actions.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on food supply, what stocks are held which are not part of the existing food distribution chain. [217306]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no food stocks held in the UK outside the existing food distribution chain.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts produced by his Department's representative at the conference on GIS in the Public Sector held in London on 14 May 2008. [217856]

Jonathan Shaw: The presentation made by DEFRA at the GIS in the Public Sector conference on the 14 May was part of a joint presentation with the Local Government Association. A more up-to-date presentation from DEFRA—'Seeing the bigger picture: Mapping out a vision of INSPIRE'—was made at the European Commission's INSPIRE Conference held in Slovenia from 23 to 25 June. It is publicly available on the conference website at:

http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/inspire_2008/presentations/06_02_watson.pdf.

The vision for implementing INSPIRE is still in the process of being updated.

Hunting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects of the Hunting Act 2004 on *(a)* rural employment, *(b)* the rural economy and *(c)* the numbers of (i) fox hounds and (ii) horses. [217261]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have made no detailed assessment of the effect of the Hunting Act on rural employment, the rural economy or on the numbers of fox hounds and horses.

The Government note, however, that there is no evidence that the adverse economic, social and welfare consequences, predicted by opponents of the Hunting Act during its passage, have materialised.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 13 June 2008, about the dog rental company, FlexPetz. [217781]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* My noble Friend the Lord Rooker sent his reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 9 July.

Nature Conservation: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on wildlife management and conservation in each of the last five years, broken down by main budget heading. [210937]

Joan Ruddock: Expenditure on UK Biodiversity forms one of the suite of indicators which DEFRA publishes on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Partnership in 'Biodiversity Indicators in your pocket'. Available information based on that underpinning the indicator is provided in the following table. The figures represent programme spend only and do not capture staff costs in non-departmental public bodies funded by the Department through grant-in-aid. Staff in these organisations also contribute significantly to wildlife management and conservation through their various activities, including for example, provision of advice. Furthermore, a number of other programmes have also contributed approximately £10 million per annum to the total budget.

DEFRA's expenditure on biodiversity has approximately doubled in real terms over the last five years. The majority of this comes from agri-environment expenditure. £3.9 billion of agri-environment funding has been secured for England for the period 2007-13, much of which will be targeted at biodiversity. Other contributions also arise from other organisations such as the Royal Botanical Gardens—Kew, who for example, will receive £17.6 million in grant-in-aid this year.

Public sector expenditure on biodiversity schemes

current prices, £ million[1]

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[p]	*2008-09 (budget)*[2]
DEFRA						
Agri-Environment Schemes[3]						
ESA/CSS[4]	129.8	167.8	187.2	170.3	145.3	130.0
Environmental Stewardship	—	—	—	84.3	180.9	250.0
Darwin Initiative[5]	4.0	5.0	7.0	7.7	9.4	4.8
Environment Agency	4.0	6.1	10.8	11.9	7.6	[6]7.6
of which:						
estimated expenditure in England[7]	3.4	5.2	9.2	10.1	6.5	[6]6.5
Forestry Commission England	14.4	14.7	17.7	22.8	28.1	n/a
Natural England[8]	57.2	55.5	57.3	54.1	51.7	[6]51.7
Joint Nature Conservation Committee[9]	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.1	[6]2.1
DEFRA family total (programme/grant spending)[10]	210.0	249.6	280.2	351.2	423.9	466.6

n/a = Data not yet available.
[1] The estimates cover DEFRA family non-administration expenditure related to biodiversity in England and globally.
[2] Where data are provided for 2007-08 and the 2008-09 budget was not available, the 2007-08 estimate has been carried forward.
[3] This represents total scheme expenditure, of which a major share is judged to be spent on biodiversity schemes.
[4] Environmentally sensitive areas and countryside stewardship schemes.
[5] Darwin initiative budget has been reduced in 2008-09 to balance overspend in 2007-08.
[6] Data are provisional or have been assumed to be carried forward.
[7] Based on DEFRA share of grant-in-aid expenditure on environmental protection.
[8] The Natural England contribution to JNCC has been excluded to avoid duplication.
[9] Expenditure shown is based on the income contribution from DEFRA and Natural England as a proportion of total income.
[10] See note 3. Note that Forestry Commission expenditure includes both grant aid to woodland owners and expenditure on the public forest estate.

Nature England: Environment Protection

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the administration of environmental stewardship schemes cost Natural England in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by scheme; and whether this cost is met from *(a)* funding under the England Rural Development Programme and *(b)* within his Department's Natural Environment budget [215370]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost to Natural England of administering Environmental Stewardship is estimated to be £41.6 million per annum. This includes staff, overheads and IT.

We do not record administration costs associated with different schemes separately. Our estimate is that administration costs associated with each scheme is as follows: Entry Level Stewardship/Organic Entry Level Stewardship (£9.6 million) and Higher Level Stewardship (£32.0 million).

The cost of administering the schemes is not met from the £2.9 billion over the current seven-year period allocated to RDPE for making scheme payments to landmanagers. It comes from Natural England's grant in aid funding.

River Thames: Transport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for promoting greater use of the River Thames for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight traffic; what estimate he has made of the amount of (i) passenger and (ii) freight traffic on the River Thames in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [217903]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is working with Sea and Water, the Inland Waterways Advisory Council and the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities to further the potential for the growth of freight across their waterways.

The Environment Agency promotes the River Thames as a leisure destination through a tourism marketing partnership under the River Thames brand. It promotes passenger boats as a leisure experience and an alternative form of transport through this partnership.

The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the non-tidal River Thames (source to Teddington) and registered the following number of passenger boats for use on the non-tidal Thames from 1990 to 2008.

	Number
1990	67
1991	64
1992	69
1993	69
1994	62
1995	63
1996	65
1997	69
1998	65
1999	60
2000	61
2001	60
2002	58
2003	58
2004	57
2005	58
2006	57
2007	55
2008	58

The Environment Agency started monitoring passenger boat movements through locks (traffic) in 2004. The figures are shown in the following table:

	Number
2004	4,853
2005	12,602
2006	14,118
2007	14,314

The Environment Agency does not specifically monitor freight traffic as this is currently negligible on the non-tidal Thames.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what money has been received in the last 10 years from the European Union for promoting greater use of the River Thames for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight traffic. [217906]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the non-tidal River Thames (source to Teddington). No money has been received in the last 10 years from the European Union for promoting greater use of the River Thames for passenger and freight traffic. The Thames Valley is not a priority area for European funding.

Shellfish

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) who has powers to close shellfish waters to fishing on grounds of pollution or toxicity levels; [217047]

(2) what steps his Department takes to prevent shellfish from *(a)* British and *(b)* other waters being marketed when affected by radioactivity or other pollution. [217048]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Food business operators are responsible for placing safe food on the market.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the competent authority for food safety, and is responsible for designating and classifying shellfish beds and ensuring that these areas are monitored for microbiological contamination and the presence of marine biotoxins in accordance with the relevant food safety legislation. In England and Wales this monitoring is undertaken by local enforcement authorities. Delegated powers are conferred on local enforcement authorities to close shellfish beds when monitoring results exceed specified legal limits.

The FSA also carries out a comprehensive monitoring programme around United Kingdom nuclear sites and further afield to ensure the safety of seafood from radioactive pollution. For shellfish from other waters, the port health authorities have the powers to sample shellfish (and other foods) for radioactive pollution and prohibit their placing on the market in the UK, if appropriate.

Subject to ministerial approval, the FSA may also issue Emergency Closure Orders under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1995 to close shellfish beds due to toxicity or pollution levels.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Environment Protection

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the preservation of heathland on Sites of Special Scientific Interest. [217668]

Joan Ruddock: Our policy for heathland on Sites of Special Scientific Interest is to avoid any loss of extent, to maintain the condition of those areas in favourable condition and to improve conditions in those areas that are currently unfavourable.

We are on course to meet the PSA target of 95 per cent. of SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. The current figure for heathland SSSIs is 79.2 per cent.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in Wales in each year since they were introduced. [218770]

Mr. Coaker: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached in Wales (up to 31 December 2006) are given in the following tables. The first table shows the number of orders issued (by year and by area) and the second the number of orders breached in each year by area. It is of course possible that an order recorded as having been breached in, say, 2004 could have been issued in 2003, and therefore the two tables are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by CJS area and year, April 1999 to December 2006

CJS area	Total issued	1999-2000 Apr 99-May 00	2000 Jun-Dec	2001	2002	2003	2004
Dyfed Powys	43	—	—	—	—	12	8
Gwent	121	—	—	2	2	8	27
North Wales	255	—	1	—	7	15	42
South Wales	201	—	1	4	3	29	46
Total Wales	620	—	2	6	12	64	123

	2005					2006				
CJS area	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Dyfed Powys	1	2	5	7	15	6	1	—	1	8
Gwent	7	14	7	5	33	15	9	10	15	49
North Wales	23	31	29	20	103	19	25	17	20	25	87
South Wales	15	15	18	16	64	19	16	10	9	54
Total Wales	46	62	59	48	215	65	43	40	50	198

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Prepared by OCJR

Table 2: ASBOs proven in court to have been breached for the first time within the periods shown[1] by CJS area[2] from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006

CJS area	2000-02[3]	2003	2004	200	2006	Total
Dyfed Powys	0	5	5	6	10	26
Gwent	3	2	16	24	17	62
North Wales	3	7	12	50	51	123
South Wales	4	11	12	29	30	86
Total Wales	10	25	45	109	108	297

[1] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached.
[2] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.
[3] From 1 June 2000.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database

Burglary: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were reported in each police authority area in Wales in each year since 1997; and how many convictions for burglary were obtained in each authority area in each of those years. [218777]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics on the number of recorded offences of burglary in Wales for the years 1997 to 2006-07 are given in Tables 1-3.

Statistics on the number of defendants found guilty at all courts in Wales for burglary for the years 1997 to 2006 are provided in Table 4. Information for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The figures given in Table 4 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Caution must be used when looking at recorded crime statistics and convictions statistics as these are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 Offences of burglary recorded by the police in Wales, 1997

Police force area	*Number of offences*
Dyfed-Powys	2,590
Gwent	9,154
North Wales	7,554
South Wales	27,147
Wales	46,445

Table 2 Offences of burglary recorded by the police in Wales, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*Number of offences 2001-02*
Dyfed-Powys	2,615	2,072	1,489	2,122
Gwent	8,416	7,656	6,899	6,169
North Wales	7,226	6,892	7,197	7,368
South Wales	23,684	20,144	16,765	16,549
Wales	41,941	36,764	32,350	32,208

Notes
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3 Offences of burglary recorded by the police in Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-4*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Number of offences 2006-07*
Dyfed-Powys	2,104	2,703	2,875	2,240	2,232
Gwent	7,586	7,541	6,528	5,999	5,740
North Wales	8,534	7,301	5,008	4,471	4,565
South Wales	18,615	17,127	14,873	13,608	14,237
Wales	36,839	34,672	29,276	26,318	26,774

Note
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 4 Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary by police force area, Wales 1997-2006[1,2]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Number of defendants found guilty 2005*	*2006*
Dyfed-Powys	335	325	268	219	222	220	198	157	147	163
Gwent	426	431	416	334	371	394	344	345	273	306
North Wales	411	437	382	353	353	335	338	315	275	283
South Wales	888	987	883	789	694	806	708	664	584	621
Wales	2,060	2,180	1,949	1,695	1,640	1,755	1,588	1,481	1,279	1,373

Notes
1 These data are on the principal offence basis.
2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source
Court proceedings database—Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Skunk Cannabis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of trends in the average street price of skunk cannabis in the last two years. [216998]

Mr. Coaker: Street prices of drugs vary considerably and are dependent on a number of factors such as demand, availability and quality. In 2006, the average street price for one ounce of skunk cannabis was estimated at £118. In 2007, the price for one ounce of skunk cannabis ranged between £100 and £200, the average price being estimated at £136.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much skunk cannabis was seized in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [218419]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. Skunk cannabis is not separately identifiable in the Home Office's drug seizures collection.

Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent crime offences, *(b)* car crime offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* thefts and *(f)* criminal damage offences there were per 1,000 head of population for each police area in England and Wales in 2007. [219147]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently available. Detailed recorded crime data for 2007-08 will be published in "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08" on 17 July 2008.

Crimes of Violence: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Cambridgeshire Constabulary area and *(b)* Cambridge Constabulary Central Division in each of the last five years. [217078]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table.

Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police in Cambridgeshire

Number of offences

	Cambridgeshire police force area	*Cambridgeshire central*
2002-03	12,574	3,521
2003-04	13,663	3,876
2004-05	13,358	3,638
2005-06	10,158	2,892
2006-07	10,421	2,896

Crimes of Violence: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes against the person were recorded per 1,000 population in each local authority area in the *(a)* East of England and *(b)* East Midlands region in each year since 2002; and if she will make a statement. [216333]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* The information requested is given in the following table.

Recorded offences of violence against the person. Rate per 1,000 population in the East of England and East Midlands region

Region and local authority area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East of England Region					
Babergh	7	9	8	9	9
Basildon	17	18	16	13	14
Bedford	16	16	19	16	16
Braintree	12	13	12	12	11
Breckland	8	10	11	11	11
Brentwood	9	13	11	13	13
Broadland	6	7	8	7	6
Broxbourne	7	12	18	18	16
Cambridge	24	25	24	17	18
Castle Point	9	10	9	9	8
Chelmsford	11	14	15	14	13
Colchester	17	20	19	19	15
Dacorum	6	10	15	14	16
East Cambridgeshire	11	11	10	7	7
East Hertfordshire	5	8	11	11	12
Epping Forest	10	13	14	13	13
Fenland	18	22	19	14	15
Forest Heath	13	15	14	13	17
Great Yarmouth	24	24	27	25	23
Harlow	20	27	29	28	26
Hertsmere	6	11	15	13	14
Huntingdonshire	13	14	13	9	10
Ipswich	19	22	27	25	25
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	12	12	14	13	12
Luton	18	21	24	26	24
Maldon	9	11	10	10	9
Mid Bedfordshire	7	8	8	7	6
Mid Suffolk	6	8	8	7	7
North Hertfordshire	6	10	14	14	13
North Norfolk	10	10	10	11	11
Norwich	27	30	33	32	29
Peterborough UA	29	32	33	26	25
Rochford	8	10	9	8	8
South Bedfordshire	14	15	16	14	13
South Cambridgeshire	8	7	8	5	6
Southend	19	20	21	19	19
South Norfolk	8	8	10	9	9
St Albans	7	11	13	12	13
St. Edmundsbury	12	14	14	14	15
Stevenage	12	16	23	26	26
Suffolk Coastal	8	9	12	11	9
Tendring	14	14	13	14	14
Three Rivers	5	10	11	11	10
Thurrock	17	21	21	18	17
Uttlesford	8	10	8	8	8
Watford	14	21	28	29	33
Waveney	16	20	20	20	20
Welwyn/Hatfield	9	15	19	16	16

Recorded offences of violence against the person: Rate per 1,000 population in the East of England and East Midlands region

Region and local authority area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East Midlands Region					
Amber Valley	12	13	14	15	16
Ashfield	13	14	15	17	17
Bassetlaw	13	17	17	18	20
Blaby	9	10	13	11	11
Bolsover	13	16	17	15	18
Boston	14	15	18	20	19
Broxtowe	8	10	11	13	13
Charnwood	12	15	19	19	19
Chesterfield	18	21	21	21	24
Corby	27	30	30	27	28
Daventry	9	11	10	10	9
Derby	28	28	26	23	20
Derbyshire Dales	9	9	10	10	11
East Lindsey	14	15	16	15	16
East Northamptonshire	12	13	11	10	10
Erewash	12	13	14	15	15
Gedling	9	11	11	13	13
Harborough	7	9	13	9	10
High Peak	15	14	14	16	16
Hinckley and Bosworth	11	12	16	16	16
Kettering	17	18	18	17	15
Leicester	31	34	40	39	37
Lincoln	31	32	33	33	32
Mansfield	21	21	26	26	27
Melton	12	12	13	14	13
Newark and Sherwood	11	12	12	13	13
Northampton	19	23	24	22	21
North East Derbyshire	9	10	10	10	10
North Kesteven	7	8	8	8	7
North West Leicestershire	12	15	18	17	18
Nottingham	28	32	33	35	35
Oadby and Wigston	12	12	16	17	16
Rushcliffe	6	8	8	10	8
Rutland	8	7	9	9	8
South Derbyshire	11	11	11	10	10
South Holland	10	13	14	14	12
South Kesteven	13	15	15	15	14
South Northamptonshire	5	5	6	5	5
Wellingborough	18	17	17	17	18
West Lindsey	10	10	11	10	8

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken together with local authorities to encourage women to report domestic violence. [217174]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has developed a co-ordinated community response to domestic violence, which has included:

providing funding to local partnerships through the Government offices for the regions to support them in developing and rolling out awareness raising campaigns to encourage victims of domestic violence to report incidents.

providing funding to the Local Government Association in December 2003 to run a three-year domestic violence project aimed at identifying and promoting good practice of councils and partner organisations in addressing domestic violence.

developing local area agreement stretch targets for local partnerships, which included increasing the rate of reporting of domestic violence to various agencies.

working with local partnerships through the Government offices for regions to launch the ENOUGH campaign in 2006 and 2007 which encouraged third party reporting of domestic violence incidents.

developing and rolling out routine inquiry to all women attending antenatal clinics and encouraging similar responses for all social and health care agencies to identify victims of domestic violence.

Drugs: Burma

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent of illicit trafficking of opium across Burma's borders into neighbouring countries; and what proposals the Government has put forward to reduce the trade. [218327]

Mr. Coaker: The most recent assessment was conducted in 2007 and drew on information from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime's World Drugs Report 2006. This noted that opium and heroin from

Laos and Burma is trafficked to neighbouring South East Asia countries (notably China) and to the Oceania region (mainly Australia). The main focus of the United Kingdom Government's drugs strategy is on drugs trafficked to this country and there was no indication that any of the traffic out of Burma is destined for the United Kingdom. The current stance of the Burmese Government makes it difficult for any non-Burmese national and international agency to work in that country.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of female genital mutilation have been referred to the police since 2003. [217605]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office collects recorded crime data for offences committed under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. However, these offences are recorded under the offence classification of 'Less serious wounding' and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that offence classification.

Fraud: Crime Prevention

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent combating fraud is a national policing priority; and whether she plans to alter the level of national priority currently accorded to combating fraud. [216034]

Mr. Coaker: The Government take all forms of fraud seriously which is why they have allocated £29 million over the next three years to implement the recommendations of the fraud review. Some of this funding will be directed towards enhancing the police response to fraud by giving the City of London police a national lead role in fraud investigation. The force already receives additional Government and Corporation of London funding to perform a lead force role across the South East and this further funding will enable the force to expand its Economic Crime Department and take on the investigation of serious and complex frauds across the country. The force will also establish a centre of excellence which will provide best practice advice to other forces around the country.

The Home Secretary sets strategic priorities for the police service each year to inform police planning. Last year, these were included in the National Community Safety Plan. Combating fraud is one aspect of the priority on serious and organised crime. We will keep this under review.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the victims of trafficking found during Operation Pentameter 2 were found outside city centres. [217973]

Mr. Coaker: Information on location of victims was not collected under Operation Pentameter 2 in a way that defined city centres as geographically separate from the cities themselves.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking were found in *(a)* residential properties and *(b)* massage parlours and saunas raided under Operation Pentameter 2. [217976]

Mr. Coaker: A total of 167 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were recovered under Operation Pentameter 2 from a number of properties including residences and massage parlours.

The precise numbers found in each type of property is not held centrally.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the money recovered as a result of Operation Pentameter 2 has gone to *(a)* victims in compensation and *(b)* the Exchequer; and what currencies the money recovered was in. [217978]

Mr. Coaker: All receipts from recovered assets are transferred to the Treasury with 50 per cent. returned to the investigative, prosecution and enforcement bodies for re-investment in further asset recovery activity. The remaining 50 per cent. is received by the Home Office and supports a range of business, including community crime reduction projects.

There are various avenues for victims of crime to claim compensation. Victims of violent crime can apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which has granted awards for victims of human trafficking. Additionally, prosecutors can request a compensation order following a conviction and the Crown Prosecution Service has issued guidance highlighting the application of this in human trafficking cases. It is also open to a victim to pursue compensation directly through the civil courts.

The vast majority of cash seized under Operation Pentameter 2 was in sterling with a small amount in euros.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to stop human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [218460]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* On 2 July we published the update on the United Kingdom Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking and on the same day announced the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2.

The original action plan was published in March 2007. It outlines the Government's end to end strategy to tackle human trafficking and to identify and protect victims. The update reports on progress since then and sets out new actions—85 in total, up from 62 actions originally.

Operation Pentameter 2 was a major success. It resulted in the arrest of 528 people and the recovery of the 167 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. A total of 15 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were recovered in Scotland.

We remain committed to tackling this horrendous crime and continue to make progress towards our overall aim of ensuring the UK becomes a hostile environment for the traffickers. This will be further reinforced by the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings before the end of 2008.

Human Trafficking: Arrests

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested under Operation Pentameter 2 have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences. [217969]

Mr. Coaker: As at May 2008 a total of 71 people arrested under Operation Pentameter 2 had been charged with offences under the dedicated human trafficking legislation. These cases are currently at different stages of the criminal justice process.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were arrested during Operation Pentameter 2. [217970]

Mr. Coaker: 528.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the children found as a result of Operation Pentameter 2 have *(a)* been provided with safe house accommodation and *(b)* gone missing since being rescued. [217977]

Mr. Coaker: It is the statutory responsibility of local authorities to assess the needs of all separated children at risk of harm and in need of accommodation. It is their responsibility to provide suitable accommodation, following this assessment, ensuring that they are safeguarded and their welfare promoted under the provisions of the Children Act 1989.

We understand from the police that Operation Pentameter 2 identified 16 children, 13 of whom had been trafficked for sexual exploitation and three for forced labour.

All were appropriately referred to local authorities. We understand from the police that one has absconded.

Human Trafficking: Repatriation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the adult victims of trafficking found under Operation Pentameter 2 have been returned to their country of origin. [217975]

Mr. Coaker: Under Pentameter 2, forty-eight individuals identified as victims of trafficking by the police have returned to their country of origin.

Robbery: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded incidents of *(a)* robbery and *(b)* drug offences there were in each police authority area in Wales in each year since 1997. [218761]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to the number of recorded robbery and drug offences and is given in the following tables.

Table 1 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in Wales, 1997

	Number of offences
Dyfed-Powys	34
Gwent	156
North Wales	112
South Wales	509
Wales	811

Table 2 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in Wales, 1998-99—2001-02

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	Number of offences			
Dyfed-Powys	42	28	20	26
Gwent	173	216	242	215
North Wales	127	146	158	194
South Wales	511	519	460	595
Wales	853	909	880	1,030

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in Wales, 2002-03—2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	Number of offences				
Dyfed-Powys	40	54	41	40	47
Gwent	329	274	351	316	282
North Wales	224	201	149	150	134
South Wales	784	751	543	631	891
Wales	1,377	1,280	1,084	1,137	1,354

Note:
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 4 Drug offences recorded by the police in Wales, 1997[1]

	Number of offences
Dyfed-Powys	374
Gwent	389
North Wales	238
South Wales	525
Wales	1,526

1. Figures for 1997 are for drug trafficking only.

Table 5 Drug offences recorded by the police in Wales, 1998-99—2001-02

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	Number of offences			
Dyfed-Powys	2,483	2,030	1,273	2,407
Gwent	2,447	2,214	2,196	1,729
North Wales	1,885	1,586	1,421	1,382
South Wales	2,934	2,690	3,039	3,907
Wales	9,749	8,520	7,929	9,425

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 6 Drug offences recorded by the police in Wales, 2002-03—2006-07

Number of offences

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Dyfed-Powys	2,978	2,420	2,327	2,495	2,484
Gwent	1,585	1,422	1,332	1,412	1,888
North Wales	1,830	1,830	1,833	2,108	2,105
South Wales	3,872	3,837	3,705	3,483	4,051
Wales	10,265	9,509	9,197	9,498	10,528

Note:
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Squatting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to the police by her Department on the treatment of squatters. [218300]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not issued any guidance to the police on the treatment of squatters.

Stalking

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reviews of the handling of stalker cases involving *(a)* children and *(b)* adults being stalked are under way; when the reviews will be completed; and what guidance her Department has issued to police authorities on the need to review cases involving stalkers. [212670]

Mr. Coaker: No specific reviews of the handling of cases involving children and adults being stalked have been commissioned by the Department.

The Government, however, are committed to tackling the incidence of stalking and harassment. The Home Office currently sits on the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Stalking and Harassment Working Group and has been working closely with them to develop a national risk identification toolkit to ensure that officers are able to apply risk assessments in all cases of stalking and harassment, allowing them to better predict levels of risk to victims.

Revised guidance outlining how police officers should investigate and deal with cases of harassment will be launched by ACPO in the autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she had with her counterparts in the Welsh Assembly Government on initiatives announced in the White Paper, 'Communities in control', Cm 7427, prior to its finalisation for publication. [218906]

Mr. Dhanda: Chapter 1 of 'Communities in control: real people, real power' explains that the policies in the White Paper largely cover England only (paragraph 1.57). We will engage with all devolved administrations on implementation, issue by issue.

Departmental Car Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mileage allowance is provided to each category of entitled worker by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [218483]

Mr. Dhanda: Motor mileage allowance may be claimed for the purpose of official travel by all Communities and Local Government staff. For journeys where staff could reasonably be expected to use public transport then an equivalent mileage rate is paid. A higher, standard mileage rate may be claimed where it is not practical to use public transport. The allowance rates are currently:

Standard mileage rate

Higher (up to 10,000 miles): 40p per mile;

Lower (over 10,000 miles): 25p per mile.

Public transport rate

All mileage: 25p per mile.

Details of motor mileage allowances provided by local authorities are not held centrally.

Departmental Film

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 263-4W, on departmental film, if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the film about the work of the Department and *(b)* the PowerPoint presentation, "One year on (Celebrating success and looking to the future)". [217962]

Mr. Dhanda: I have placed a copy of the two films in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what IT contracts her Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215122]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has awarded the following contracts for IT in the last two financial years. Please note that this list is not exhaustive; it does not, for instance, cover contracts awarded for under £20,000. Details of all IT contracts are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Statistics—Data Upload to website

IT Outsourcing Project (ITSOP) Business Case Mgr Support

Floor Targets Interactive—User Needs Survey

Thames Gateway—Support for Project Mgt System

Planning Portal—Application Form Project

Home Information Pack Programme (HIP)—Home Condition Report Register—Database and Portal

XML Schemas development

Transactional ERDF and State aid project (TESA)—Major Variation to Systems Integrator Contract

Planning Portal—Building control Content Integration

Revenue Support Grant—Future Payment Platform—Business Analyst

HIP Programme—HCR Delivery Manager

ITSOP Decoupling

Maps on Tap (MOT)—Implementation Review

Fire incident recording system (FIRS)—Develop call logging software for Helpdesk

ITSOP—IT Operations Study

Planning Portal—Services Product Plans

Planning Portal—Project Manager

HIP—HCR Register—Senior Requirements Analyst

BMESpark Website Extension

Communities' ICT Provision—Service Level Manager—Contract A

Communities' ICT Provision Service Level Manager—Contract B

Training for the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Toolkit

(Grants Payments System) LOGASNet Migration software licence

Homes Employment and Mobility Service Project (HEMS) Website Testing

Planning Portal Contract—Fixed Price Extension

RPD National Capability Survey (NCS) Geo-database project

Database & Assoc Applications Technical Manager

ITSOP Internet Circuit Bardon Voice ISDN 30 for Eland House

Thames Gateway—PMS Project Leader

TESA Website

Planning Portal—1APP—Technical support

LOGASNet—Major enhancement contract

ITSOP Test Assurance Manager

Floor Targets Interactive (FTI) Business Case

TESA Process Consultant

Web Hosting and Internet Access

Planning Portal—NAPCOL Hosting Agreement

ITSOP—Business Case Support

Government Connect (GC)—Technical Advisers

FIRE CONTROL—MIS Solution

ITSOP—Support for MAN De-coupling

FTI—Re-development

Communities' ICT Provision—Technical Architect

Planning Portal—Planning Apps Database feasibility study

ITSOP Programme Coordinator

Planning Portal—Forms Team Leader

ITSOP ISDN2e at Temple Quay, Bristol—backup for MPLS.

ITSOP Test Assurance Manager

Open Space Works—Circuits

Places/State of the Cities Database Support and Mtce

Communities' ICT Provision Service Level Manager

MOT—Implementation Review—Primary Recommendation

Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI)—Data Upload to BVPI Website

ITSOP Deputy PM

Tenancy Deposit Scheme—Systems Testing Role A

Tenancy Deposit Scheme—Systems Testing Role B

Planning Portal—Hosting Maintenance and support Services Extension

Website Rationalisation Project (WEBRAP)—Additional Project Management resource

System and collection of operational fire statistics

Fixed 8Meg Link to Communities' staff in Titchfield NHPAU

Planning Portal—e-Consultation Business Case Developer

Planning Portal—LPA Monitoring Assignment

Planning Portal—Technical Form Support (Product and Maintenance)

Planning Portal—Datasets Consultant

Planning Portal Planning 360

Planning Portal—Business Case Development for e-Consultation programme

ICTD Service Level Manager

RSG Security Assurance and PEN Testing of Logasnet

ITSOP Performance Review

ITSOP Performance Review

Planning Portal—XML Development expert

Supporting People—Project Resource Agreement

Supporting People—Project Resource Agreement

Preventing Extremism Unit Stakeholder Database Requirements analyst

Corporate IT Support Manager

Thames Gateway Delivery Unit (TGDU) Data Analyst Role

TGDU—Support for PMS

Communities' LINK Upgrade—Project manager

Thames Gateway Project Manager

CLASS Support Contract

GIS—DSI Greenspace Phase 2

Communities' LINK IT Upgrade—Project Assurance Manager

Deprivation Index Mapping Tool

Places Database—Interim 1 Year SLA for support and maintenance

TGDU Data Analyst

TGDU Programme Systems Executive

PP eConsultation Development Project Manager

Planning Portal Adobe Forms Development

Data Interchange Hub

GIS Training

National Register of Social Housing—Database Programmer

FIRS—Tech QA—XML Schema—Renewal

Data Interchange Hub—Project Manager

TESA Website—Modifications

Planning Portal eConsultation—Tech support

Planning Portal—Adobe Forms Development for 1-APP

Planning Portal—Planning 360—Logical Design Requirement

DIH—Project Administrator

DSI Intelligent Address Matching

Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) Technical Support

Corporate IT Provision—Strategic IT Support

IT Outsourcing

CLG Web Hosting

CLG Web Rationalisation

National Resilience Extranet.

The Department agencies have reported the following:

(a) Fire Service College has only had the following IT contract entered into during the last two years in December 2007 for a Managed Learning System infrastructure and support services.

(b) Ordnance Survey has let the following contracts:

Imagery Web Hosting Services

Customer facing web-based Map Services

Oracle Professional Services framework

GIS Development Project

Electronic Document Record Management solution

'Outdoor Exploration' web-based portal

Master Vendor Agency for IT Contractor Resource.

However details of all their IT contracts could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

(c) Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has let one contract—Meeting Matrix—which is for the purchase and installation of room diagramming and imaging software to facilitate the planning of conference and exhibition events.

(d) Planning Inspectorate awarded the following IT contracts the last two financial years 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 (PQ 4317):

MS enterprise agreement

ISS Information Service

PCS Cardiff WAN Upgrade

Electronic Business Model

Programme Manager Software Tool

IT Security

GTN Contract

Collaborative Document Working and Consultation Software/ System for RSS

Technology Refreshment Laptops

Information Back-up Review

Technology Refreshment Desktop PCs.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216371]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have 891 staff who have full remote access to the IT infrastructure. Some of these staff will use these devices from home and others will use them while on the move, or when working at other locations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change in the number of employees in her Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217069]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the change in the number of employees in the Department for Communities and Local Government since July 2006:

	Number of employees		
	July 2006	*July 2007*	*July 2008*
Central CLG	2,283	2,291	2,176
Agencies:			
Fire Service College	215	213	205
Planning Inspectorate	804	855	859
QEII Centre	52	51	51
Total for agencies	1,071	1,119	1,115
Overall total	3,354	3,410	3,291

Departmental Records: Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department's lost laptop held in relation to the Planning Bill. [216015]

Mr. Dhanda: A desk-top computer was stolen from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's constituency office. The matter is now subject to a police investigation.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many reviews of regulation her Department and its agencies has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210886]

Mr. Dhanda: Since July 2007 the Department has reviewed 20 specific pieces of regulations covering Building Regulations, Fire, Housing, Local Government and Planning. We are also putting in place arrangements for the timely review of our Bills and Acts in line with "Post Legislative Scrutiny: the Government's Approach" published in May 2008. The new impact assessment process introduced in May 2007, also places increased emphasis on the post-implementation review of our policies.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many working days have been lost due to sickness among employees for which her Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218030]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office series of reports "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" available in the House of Commons Library. However, there are no reported figures for 1997 and 1998.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215913]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has taken numerous steps over the last two years to reduce its volume of general waste produced and sent for incineration. The measures taken have included:

Reducing the number of personal general waste bins, to encourage staff to produce less waste and to dispose of recyclable materials in the appropriate facilities provided.

In headquarter buildings, plastic bottle recycling has been replaced by a system of 'total plastics recycling' enabling all common plastic polymers to be recycled, not just those used for bottles.

Introducing mobile phone and waste electronic and electrical equipment recycling systems, in addition to the standard recycling provisions such as paper, cardboard, glass and cans.

Organic waste recycling was also extended, enabling staff to compost waste in tea points of HQ buildings. This facility is also provided in kitchens and restaurant areas.

The number of printers has also been reduced to encourage less printing.

Communications campaigns are run at various intervals to remind staff to recycle; this has included focusing on avoiding

the use of single use plastic bags and holding a 'Sustainability Month' during which staff were reminded to make full use of recycling facilities provided.

An environmental champions network has been established comprising staff volunteers who encourage their colleagues to foster more sustainable practices in the office, such as reducing waste production and recycling more.

Plastic food containers in staff restaurants have been replaced with biodegradable alternatives.

Major office furniture replacement projects have included ensuring redundant office furniture is disposed of by Green Works. Green Works is a not for profit social enterprise which redirects second hand furniture to third sector organisations such as schools and charities. The replacement office furniture has been selected ensuring a high level of reuse and recyclability to enable future general waste levels to be minimised.

Communities also relaunched its reusable water bottling scheme in its main HQ building. Instead of buying mineral water in glass bottles, the Department bottles filtered tap water on site in reusable glass bottles. This not only minimises waste but, similar to many sustainable waste solutions, reduces carbon dioxide emissions associated with waste treatment and transportation.

The Department will continue to identify further waste solutions to improve its future performance.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessments her Department has made of the performance of the digital television initiatives in Kirklees, Hull and Glasgow referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting on 27 February. [217165]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Kirklees digital TV initiative was developed as part of the local e-government programme. In 2006, at the end of the programme, an assessment of the business case was undertaken. The business case continues to be revised annually on the basis of the experience of the 70+ local authorities who continue to use the service, now branded 'DigiTV'. The latest published business case can be found online at:

http://www.digitv.gov.uk/site/content/view/110/64/

Independent external evaluations of the programme in Kingston upon Hull are currently being undertaken both by the University of Hull and by York St John. These will report later in the year.

The Department has no responsibility for the digital television initiative being developed in Glasgow.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided for the digital television initiatives in Kirklees, Hull and Glasgow referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting of 27 February 2008. [215267]

Mr. Iain Wright: In total, £3,768,000 of funding was provided to develop the Kirklees initiative, which formed part of the local e-government programme. This initiative is now entirely self-sustaining and no longer relies on funding from central Government.

The Kingston upon Hull project has been allocated £30,000 from the overall award which was made to the runners-up in the Department's 2007 Digital Challenge competition to enable them to develop their key projects.

CLG has no responsibility for the Glasgow digital television initiative.

European Union Solidarity Fund

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the amount that the UK will receive from the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist in recovery from floods in 2007. [217835]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The EU budgetary authority have approved €162.4 million in EUSF assistance for the UK in relation to the summer 2007 flooding. The sterling value of this grant will be determined at the time the funds are made available.

Fire Services: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost, including VAT, has been of consultants' fees for the FiReControl project, broken down by consultancy; and which of these costs will be included in the business case. [217128]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* Total project spend on consultants to the end of June 2008 was £38.6 million inclusive of VAT. The following table gives a breakdown by company:

Company name	£ *Costs to date*
Atkins Transport Planning	1,195,682
Cornwell Management Consultants Plc	1,194,949
Denton Wilde Sapte	2,145,670
Donaldsons	269,652
Electronic Commerce Associates Ltd	755,667
Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd	100,320
Insight Management and Systems Consultants	148,462
PA Consulting Services Limited	25,371,774
PKF	889,516
Systeme Evolutif Ltd	42,158
Turner and Townsend	3,964,407
Other	2,493,255
Total	38,571,512

These costs were included in the business case version one published in June 2007 and will be updated in part two of the business case to be published later in the summer. A copy of the full business case will be placed in the Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's estimate for planning purposes of the convergence costs associated with FiReControl was in each fire *(a)* authority and *(b)* region; and whether these costs will be included in the FiReControl business case. [R] [217125]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* Regional and Fire and Rescue Authority project costs including the costs of convergence activities are met through New Burdens funding. A detailed breakdown of payments and allocations to Regions and Fire and Rescue Authorities can be found in Implementation Funding Circulars 63/2005, 44/2006, 76/2006 and 5/2008.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* staffing costs, including civil servants, interim and agency staff, *(b)* secondment costs and *(c)* travel costs of the national FiReControl project team have been; and whether these costs are included in the business case. [R] [217126]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The following table identifies the costs incurred on FiReControl to the end of June 2008.

Resource type	*Total (£)*
T and S	1,176,773
Pay, civil servants	4,824,300
Interim (including fixed term contractors and agency staff)	11,692,568
Secondee	4,328,853
Total	22,022,494

These costs were included in the Business Case version 1 published in June 2007 and will be updated in part 2 of the Business Case to be published later in the summer. A copy of the full Business Case will be placed in the Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* staffing costs, including civil servants, interim and agency staff, *(b)* secondment costs and *(c)* travel costs of the regional FiReControl project teams have been; and whether these costs are included in the business case. [R] [217127]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* Regional and Fire and Rescue Authority project costs including those associated with staffing, secondment and travel are met as part of the New Burdens funding. A detailed breakdown of payments and allocations to Regions and Fire and Rescue Authorities can be found in Implementation Funding Circulars 63/2005, 44/2006, 76/2006 and 5/2008. CLG does not keep records of this expenditure.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the cost, including VAT, of all consultants' fees for the FiReControl project for the duration of the project. [217129]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* To the end of June 2008 the cost of consultancy services for the FiReControl project totalled £38.6 million (inclusive of VAT). Communities and Local Government estimates that future costs will be £16.9 million (inclusive of VAT).

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of each fire and rescue service regional management board was in financial year *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [216560]

Mr. Dhanda: The running costs of each Regional Management Board (RMB) are financed by the constituent Fire and Rescue Authorities from the FRAs' allocations. How this is administered is a matter for each RMB. Central Government do not hold information about the cost of each RMB in each financial year.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much fish was procured by her Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217898]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on how many occasions staff employed by her Department and its agencies defrauded her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [214631]

(2) what estimate she has made of the losses to her Department from fraud committed by staff of her Department and its agencies in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [214638]

(3) how many staff in her Department and its agencies were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [214642]

(4) how many staff of her Department and its agencies were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in her Department and its agencies in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [214645]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 2003 departmental records show that there have been two members of staff who have committed fraud totalling £871,818.73. Both were successfully prosecuted and action was taken to recover the monies. These two frauds consisted of 28 separate transactions. In addition there was one separate instance of attempted fraud of a value of £700. This attempted fraud was carried out by one of the perpetrators of the aforementioned frauds, but was prevented by the controls put in place during the fraud investigation.

Departmental records do not go back beyond 2003.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 443W, on home information packs, whether informal minutes of the subsequent meetings were taken by civil servants from her Department. [217825]

Caroline Flint: No minutes were taken of the Stakeholder Panel meetings.

Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many and what proportion of housing stock units were *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* privately rented and *(c)* socially rented in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) each London local authority in (A) 1980, (B) 1990, (C) 2000 and (D) 2007; [217103]

(2) if she will rank each English local authority by the percentage change in the number of properties in the social rented sector in its area since 1980. [217104]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households by housing tenure are available from the 1981, 1991 and 2001 censuses. Estimates for 2007 are derived from the labour force survey, but only for England and the regions. Information on housing stock for 2007 is also available from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), collected from local authorities. This information does not separately identify privately rented and owner occupied dwellings—however it does provide estimates for the London boroughs.

Data on the change in social housing stock between 1980 and 2007 are from the Housing Investment Programme (1980) and the HSSA (2007). Local authorities that did not provide data or are in areas where there was local government reorganisation over this period have been excluded.

Tables showing (1) census-based household figures for 1981, 1991, 2001 and labour force survey estimates for 2007; (2) housing stock figures by tenure for England, the regions and London boroughs as at 1 April 2007; and (3) social housing stock by local authority: England 1980 and 2007 have been deposited in the Library.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target has been set for house building in *(a)* North Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the period to 2021; and what assessment she has made of progress towards these targets. [214944]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing targets below national level are not set directly by Government, but are set out in regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks which are developed through the regional and local planning processes. The 2007 Green Paper "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (Cm7191), copies of which are in the Library, sets out the Government's long-term objectives in terms of housing supply.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the effect of current conditions in the housing market on the likelihood of her Department meeting its 2020 house-building targets. [217257]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 497W.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to local authorities on the provision of short-term supply of land within their control for housing in the event of numbers of new housing starts falling; and whether the number of new housing starts in an area should be a material consideration in planning appeals relating to possible sites for new houses. [217553]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing (PPS3) requires local planning authorities to identify sufficient specific, deliverable sites to deliver housing in the first five years, as part of a 15-year plan period horizon. The policy advises how local planning authorities need to regularly monitor housing performance against trajectory and that in circumstances where market conditions have changed, local authorities may find it necessary to reassess need and demand, considering a review of approach across the whole market area. PPS3, including those policies relating to whether the local authority has an up to date five year supply of deliverable sites, is capable of being taken into account by local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate Agency or other relevant decision maker, in determining planning applications.

Housing: Heating

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of electrically heated new homes built in the last five years that have compatible gas grid connections available; [217551]

(2) how many new homes which were *(a)* electrically heated and *(b)* gas heated were built in 2007-08. [217659]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's statistics for new home completions do not include details of the form of heating used.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made estimates of the number of electrically heated new homes built in the last five years that have compatible gas grid connections available.

However, based on statistics for house completions in 2004, the regulatory impact assessment supporting the 2006 amendment to part L of the building regulations estimated that electricity was used for heating in 90 per cent. of flats, but only 1 per cent. of houses. Flats made up 43 per cent. of new build homes.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend the building regulations to require the

installation of energy efficient domestic heating pumps; and if she will make a statement. [217694]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no plans to amend the building regulations to require the installation of particular heating systems. However, as announced in July 2007, it is proposed that the energy performance standards of the building regulations will be progressively improved in 2010, 2013 and 2016 to ensure all new homes are zero carbon by 2016. The installation of energy efficient technologies will help to meet these higher standards.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Homes and Communities Agency promotes the application of lifetime homes standards in new build homes. [217117]

Caroline Flint: As stated in the National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, in the first instance Lifetime Homes Standards will be a mandatory element in the Code for Sustainable Homes at level 6 from 2008, at level 4 from 2010 and level 3 from 2013. This will have the effect of ensuring that all public sector funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011. We are currently proposing amendments to the Housing and Regeneration Bill to make explicit reference to the needs of both elderly and disabled persons.

We will expect the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) to promote well designed quality homes and places by using industry benchmarks in conjunction with recognised public sector standards. The standards adopted will include social, economic, environmental and physical measures of design and performance. They will apply equally to the private and public sector activity in which the HCA engages, covering regeneration and housing, existing places and new places. We also expect the HCA to consult widely about their proposed approach to quality before adopting specific measures.

Local Government Ombudsman: Freedom of Information

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward legislative proposals to remove exemptions from the Freedom of Information Act 2000 of the Local Government Ombudsman under Sections 32 and 44 of the Local Government Act 1974; and if she will make a statement. [217827]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no plans to remove the exemptions from the Freedom of Information Act that currently apply to the Local Government Ombudsman. The removal of such exemptions could deter people suffering injustice due to a council's maladministration from raising the matter with the ombudsman and hence obtaining redress.

It is the policy of the Local Government Ombudsman to operate as openly as possible without putting at risk its investigations and the service provides for the public.

Ordnance Survey: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what income her Department received from the Ordnance Survey 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217540]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither the Department nor Ordnance Survey has received income from Ordnance Survey's 0845 numbers in any of the years in question.

Planning Permission: National Parks

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will put in place measures to ensure that planning applications relating to areas within National Parks are dealt with expeditiously. [217609]

Mr. Iain Wright: National Parks are subject to the same national targets for dealing with planning applications as all other local planning authorities which are that 60 per cent. of major applications (10 houses or more) should be dealt with within 13 weeks, that 65 per cent. of minor applications and 80 per cent. of all other applications should be dealt with within eight weeks.

Planning Permission: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of proposed changes in planning regulations of *(a)* re-using under used or disused property in rural areas, *(b)* developing rural business centres and *(c)* new-build for employment purposes in the countryside. [217489]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4: 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development' for consultation in December 2007. The draft PPS asks regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to plan positively and proactively to encourage economic development, in line with the principles of sustainable development.

The draft PPS asks local authorities to encourage new uses for vacant or derelict buildings, including historic buildings in urban and rural areas and is clear that local authorities should support small scale economic development in rural villages, whether it be rural business centres or dedicated new-build, where it provides the most sustainable option.

The Department has received over 300 responses to the consultation and is currently considering these. We also expect to receive shortly the report of the Taylor review into the issues facing rural areas in terms of housing and the economy. The hon. Member for Truro looked at these and other issues, and we will take account of his recommendations as we finalise our policies for sustainable economic development.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to reduce the average time taken to grant planning permission for employment purposes in rural areas. [217490]

Mr. Iain Wright: All local planning authorities, including those in rural areas, have targets within which to determine planning applications (60 per cent. within 13 weeks for major applications, 65 per cent. and 80 per cent. within eight weeks for minors and others). Authorities have been steadily improving their performance to meet these targets; recent data show that 84 per cent. of authorities met all three key performance targets over the year April 2007 to March 2008.

Prisons: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what role the Secretary of State plays in considering planning applications from Crown development for Titan prisons; [215996]

(2) who will be responsible for considering planning applications made in respect of Titan prisons. [215998]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning applications for Titan prisons would be considered under the Town and County Planning legislation and normally be determined by the local planning authority. It is possible that such an application could be called in by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for her own decision, or, if refused by the local planning authority, any appeal could be recovered for determination by the Secretary of State.

If the Ministry of Justice concluded, on the basis of pre-application discussions, that the relevant local planning authority would be likely to refuse planning permission and provided that he can certify that the scheme is of national importance and required urgently, the Secretary of State for Justice could submit the application direct to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under section 293 A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This provides for the case to be determined by the Secretary of State under an expedited procedure.

Property Development

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the merits of the proximity principle in planning and building new housing developments; and if she will make a statement. [216887]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government has received the Campaign to Protect Rural England's report "The Proximity Principle: why we are living too far apart" published in May.

Many of the issues discussed in the report, such as prioritising the use of suitable brownfield land and making the most efficient and effective use of that land, are already set out in the Government's Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the future:more affordable, more sustainable", and Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing (PPS3). PPS3 sets out that homes should be delivered to a high quality, in suitable locations, with good accessibility to jobs, key services and infrastructure, which will contribute to sustainable communities.

The report also comments on eco-towns. We are currently consulting on eco-towns and the first stage of the consultation, which closed on 30 June, looked at potential locations of eco-towns and how they might be delivered. In due course we will provide a statement on the responses received. We will also draw on these responses, and look at the findings in this report to inform the second stage of consultation on the draft Sustainability Appraisal and draft planning policy statement.

Regional Development Agencies: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding each regional development agency in each year since the agencies were established; and if she will make a statement; [214641]

(2) how many staff employed in each regional development agency defrauded that agency in each year since they were established; and if she will make a statement; [214632]

(3) how many staff employed in each regional development agency were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in each year since the agencies were established; and if she will make a statement. [214633]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

No members of RDA staff have been prosecuted for either *(a)* defrauding, or *(b)* attempting to defraud the RDAs since they were established in 1999.

There are no known instances of fraud or attempted fraud by RDA staff members.

Regional Development Agencies: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria she uses to assess the *(a)* accessibility and *(b)* responsiveness of regional development agencies to the sectors they serve; and if she will make a statement. [201438]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Each RDA, in consultation with stakeholders in its region, has drawn up a regional economic strategy identifying the key priorities and sectors for securing the region's economic growth. BERR and other Government Departments are also involved in developing the strategy, as are businesses in the region. BERR ministers review and approve RDA corporate plans to ensure that they deliver against the priorities identified in the strategy.

The RDAs are also responsible for the delivery of Business Link advice to firms in all sectors.

Social Conditions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition her Department uses of a poor quality environment for the purposes of measuring progress against her Department's liveability performance indicator. [217834]

Mr. Iain Wright: For the purposes of the Department's liveability performance indicator, a 'poor quality environment' is defined as one assessed to have 'major' or 'significant' problems relating to any of 16 environmental problems. The assessments are carried out by professional surveyors as part of the English House Condition Survey and are based on observed problems in the immediate environment of households, in some cases verified by residents. Problems are assessed on a scale of 1 ('no problems') to 5 ('major problems'), with scores of 4 and 5 corresponding with 'major' or 'significant'. The 16 specific environmental problems are:

ambient air quality;
condition of dwellings;
dog or other excrement;
graffiti;
heavy traffic;
intrusion from motorways/arterial roads;
intrusive industry;
litter and rubbish dumping;
non-conforming uses;
nuisance from street parking;
railway/aircraft noise;
scruffy gardens;
scruffy/neglected buildings;
vacant sites;
vacant/boarded up buildings;
vandalism.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many recommendations in the Commission for Rural Communities report, "England's rural areas: steps to release their economic potential", are within his Department's areas of responsibility and Department intends to implement; and if he will provide a timetable for implementation. [217701]

Mr. McFadden: The Rural Advocate's Report, commissioned by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, illustrates the contribution made by businesses in rural areas to the national economy. It highlights the relevance of activity across all levels of Government and by the private sector. The recommendations within the report are, therefore, very broadly targeted. The Department is working with other Government Departments and the RDAs in considering how best to respond to its recommendations.

China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department visited China on official business in 2007-08, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent figures for the Department of Trade and Industry were in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2006. [209101]

Mr. Thomas: According to records held by Carlson Wagonlit, the Department's travel agent, the number of Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform/Department of Trade and Industry officials who travelled to China between April 2005 and March 2008 is as follows:

April to March each year	*Number*
2007-08	63
2006-07	83
2005-06	74

These figures relate to number of trips booked with Carlson Wagonlit only, and additional trips may have been taken. We are not able to provide a breakdown by grade. Information for any period earlier than April 2005 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what IT contracts his Department and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215118]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2653-54W. The contracts listed in this answer remain unchanged and were all let in the last two years.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/3220) asking what IT contracts his Department and its agencies have entered into the last two years.

The IT contracts have entered in the last two years is recorded under the table below:

IT Contracts	*Contractor*	*Year of contract*	*Expiry of contract*
IT Desk Top Services/ Infrastructure	IBM	2007	2012
IT Application Support Service	Ace Database	2005	2009
IT Product Licences	Singularity (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2007	2010+
IT Product Licences	Agresso (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2008	2010
IT Product Licences	Thunderhead (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2008	Ongoing
IT Product Licences	Wisdom (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Business Objects (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Parasoft	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Wisdom (subcontractor to Computacenter)	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Business Objects (sub-contractor to Computacenter)	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Parasoft	2007	2009

IT Contracts	Contractor	Year of contract	Expiry of contract
IT Product Licences	Condeco	2008	2011
IT Product Licences	Parity	2007	2008
IT Product Licences	Serena	2006	2008
IT Product Licences	Wisdom (sub-contractor to Computacenter)	2007	2009
IT Product Licences	Microsoft/Trustmarque	2007	2010
IT Product Licences	C&C Technology	2006	2008
IT Product Licences/ hardware	BT	2007	2008

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 14 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Since April 2006 Companies House has entered into the following IT contracts:

Software Support Services for the Image Database

Finance Systems Managed Service

Mainframe Bureau Services and Print and Output Handling

Multi-vendor Hardware Maintenance Services

Network Support Services

WAN Replacement and Support Services

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212034]

Mr. Thomas: Since the creation of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform spend on branding is listed in the following table.

Item	£
Fees paid to advisors	0
Stationery	2,354
Rebranding and IT changes including revised email addresses, new signage, web based changes, new logo and print costs	191,709
Cost of producing branding guidelines	20,000
Total	214,063

In the 2007-08 financial year, spending on advertising and direct marketing procured through the Central Office of Information by my Department and the former DTI was as follows:

Advertising	£
Nuclear energy consultation 2007-08	149,634
Employing people 2007-08	77,447
National minimum wage 2007-08	588,499
Total for advertising	815,580

Direct marketing	£
BERR Information and consultation 2007-08	49,784
Companies Act 2007-08	12,650
Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulation 2007-08	168,798
Employment Law 2007-08	607,534
National minimum wage 2007-08 experiential activity	248,922
Queen's award data cleanse 2007-08	7,320
Queens awards publicity campaign 2007-08	125,500
Total for direct marketing	1,220,508

Details of other costs for BERR advertising and marketing activities are not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

UK Trade and Investment's costs in maintaining its brand guidelines are £850.00 per month for hosting on the UKTI website. Other costs for UKTI marketing activities are not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The Insolvency Service and Companies House will reply directly.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 14 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In the financial year 2007/8 Companies House spent £749,831 on branding and marketing activity.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 14 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/3026) asking how much the Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency spent £13,060.98 on branding and marketing in the financial year 2007-08.

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce legislation requiring all regulatory bodies sponsored by his Department to admit the public to their meetings. [208072]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has no plans to introduce such legislation.

However, the regulatory bodies generally have statutory duties under specific legislation e.g. Ofcom operates under the Communications Act 2003 and the Competition Commission's procedures are governed by the provisions of the Enterprise Act. They must abide by their statutory duties in the exercise of their functions. These include requirements to consult and to consider representations before taking decisions. The regulatory bodies can be held to account by Parliament, via the Business and Enterprise Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, for the exercise of their statutory duties.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216691]

Mr. Thomas: Cabinet Office has introduced a revised format for reporting sickness absence statistics across the civil service. The new format was introduced at the end of March 2008 and the first report covers the calendar year 2007. It indicates 6.1 average working days lost per employee lost due to sickness.

Sickness absence data for the Department's predecessor, the Department of Trade and Industry, for 2006-07, 2005 and 2004, including the average number of days taken as sick leave, are published on the public civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

along with data for other Departments and agencies.

Earlier sickness data are not readily available and the cost of producing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210586]

Mr. Thomas: Individuals and their line managers identify learning and development needs, and the appropriate training to attend, over the course of the year. Individuals can then access a variety of interventions to meet their requirements either through the Department's preferred suppliers or through other suppliers if the required training is not available. Details are not held centrally as learning and development is devolved across the Department.

Family Businesses

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sources of advice and financial support are available to family businesses. [216500]

Mr. McFadden: The Government support a suite of national instruments to help businesses and SMEs to start up and grow. At the national level, the Small Firms Loan Guarantee exists to help lending to SMEs with viable business propositions that lack the necessary collateral with which to secure a commercial loan. Enterprise Capital Funds invest a mixture of public and private money into small growth businesses seeking up to £2 million in risk capital. Regions, via RDAs, also offer sources of finance on a regional and sub-regional basis, including loan and equity programmes, and support to prepare businesses with skills they need to attract finance. Information on national and regional programmes, and advice and support on wider issues is available on Business Link's website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

and via their helpline on 0845 600 9006.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214889]

Mr. Thomas: The following information shows the amount spent on food by the Department's contracted catering service provider, with the amount spent on food of British origin shown in brackets over the last five years:

	£
2004	878,427 (527,056)
2005	905,304 (570,341)
2006	893,688 (580,897)
2007	919,855 (735,884)
2008[1] (to end June)	621,483 (497,186)

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214890]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's contracted service provider does not hold records which would enable an accurate answer to be given and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The majority of food procured by our current contractor originates from the UK (meat, vegetables and fish), Europe (fruit and vegetables), France (poultry) and Greenland (seafood).

Foreign Investment in UK: China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Chinese businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the United Kingdom and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [209098]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment promotes the UK as the location in Europe for foreign investors to do business. It provides information, advice, and guidance for companies wishing to locate in the UK and its Global Partnership Programme provides a fast expert partner matching service for overseas organisations.

In 2003-04, the last year that Regional Selective Assistance was available, no offers were accepted or payments made to a Chinese owned company. Since Selective Finance for Investment (SFI) came into effect in April 2004 there has been one offer of £3.8 million accepted by a Chinese owned company in February this year. (SFI is a capital grant business support scheme that can, subject to European Commission and Treasury criteria being satisfied, provide financial assistance to companies, foreign owned or indigenous, who wish to invest or create jobs in deprived areas in England.)

The UK welcomes inward investment from around the world, including China, which is why the latest European Investment Monitor figures show that in 2007 the UK remained the number one location in Europe for attracting inward investment globally with 19.2 per cent. of market share ahead for France in second place with 14.6 per cent.

Global Coal Management Resources

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for International Development on the proposed project by

the UK company Global Coal Management Resources plc for an opencast coalmine at Phulbari in North West Bangladesh and possible effects for the population living in the area in advance of the decision to provide support to the company through the High Commission in Dhaka. [209461]

Mr. Thomas: BERR officials have held regular discussions with officials from the Department for International Development on this subject, both in the UK and the British high commission in Dhaka.

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints have been received by local trading standards bodies about non-surgical laser and intense pulsed light treatments in the last five years. [210099]

Mr. Thomas: Consumer contact with Local Authority Trading Standards Services has been handled by the Government funded Consumer Direct telephone and online advice service since June 2004. Before this time contacts were made direct to the 205 local authorities and are not readily available or collected by BERR.

Contacts recorded against the categories of hair removal therapy; beauty treatments; cosmetic therapies; hair replacement therapies and the term "laser" identifies 199 contacts since June 2004. A contact may be a complaint or could be a request for other information such as pre-shopping advice. Consumer Direct does not specifically record contacts regarding non-surgical laser and intense pulsed light treatments.

Oil: Prices

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential use as business cost relief of tax revenues obtained from increased oil prices. [217014]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have regular discussions on a wide range of issues.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact on people with disabilities of the planned closure of Hinton St George post office in Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [212249]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Holidays

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the establishment of an additional public holiday; and if he will make a statement. [208876]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are currently conducting a wide-ranging consultation on the nature of our citizenship and our constitution, including how best we celebrate our national identity. As part of this process, we have received a number of suggestions for new or replacement bank holidays, designed to celebrate or commemorate aspects of British life or history. At present, we have no plans to change the current pattern of bank holidays, but we are nevertheless considering all these suggestions carefully.

Street Trading: Regulation

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has made of introducing a public Bill with generally applicable provisions analogous to those in the Leeds City Council Bill and other similar private Bills. [218160]

Mr. Thomas: I am aware that several local authorities, including Leeds city council, are pursuing private Bills seeking to extend their powers in relation to the control of street trading and to limit the activities of certified pedlars, and that some seven local authorities have already done so.

This Department is in the process of undertaking research to better establish evidence about the effectiveness of current legislation in this area and to gather views from all stakeholder groups with an interest. This will enable us to better assess whether there is a case for national legislation to provide all local authorities with additional powers along the lines of the private Bills and Acts; and to decide the best way forward that balances the interests of business, consumers and pedlars.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: EU Action

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received on the effect of the proposed changes to the rules on product placement contained in the European Audiovisual Media Services Directive. [218382]

Andy Burnham: Since the AVMS Directive was adopted in December 2007, my Department has received three written representations on this issue.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to start consultation on the implementation of the European Audiovisual Media Services Directive; and how long the consultation will last. [218390]

Andy Burnham: I intend to begin this consultation shortly. The consultation period will last for at least 12 weeks.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what courses have been organised as part of the Cultural Leadership programme in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each has been; [216531]

(2) what the estimated cost of staging the Cultural Leadership programme *(a)* Vision 2020 event at the Royal Opera House on 26 June 2008 and *(b)* Alumni gathering event at the Emirates Stadium on 11 September 2008 is; and how much has been spent by the Cultural Leadership programme on conferences and events in each of the last three years. [216532]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* According to Arts Council England, the Cultural Leadership Programme has delivered, itself and with a range of partners, over 300 courses since June 2006. The courses have ranged from two-week intensive courses to one-day and half-day courses. Details are set out in the following tables.

2006-07

	Cost (£)
Clore Leadership	4,100
Catalyst/Impact Unleashed	22,000
Networks	3,000
Governance	4,000

2007-08

	Cost (£)
Clore Leadership	4,100
Clore Fellows	4,100
Leadership Development Days	5,100
Dynamics of Leadership Coaching	20,000
Dynamics of Leadership Coaching 2	12,000
Networks	3,000
Governance (Clore)	6,000
Governance (Gold)	14,000
Shape Future Leaders	1,500
Carver Model	3,500
Entrepreneurs	15,000
Discovering Voices	19,000
The Circle	1,000
Action Learning Sets	1,000
CEO Breakfasts	2,400
Strategic Skills Training	5,800

2008-09

	Cost (£)
Clore Leadership	4,100
Clore Fellows	4,100
Leadership Development Days	5,100
Dynamics of Leadership: Foundation Course	11,500
Integrated Leadership	8,000
Networks	2,000
Governance	6,000
Action Learning Sets	1,000
Facilitation Skills	12,000
The Circle	1,000

BBC

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to put in place mechanisms for enhanced parliamentary oversight of the BBC, with particular reference to its development of *(a)* local video news services and *(b)* education websites. [217709]

Andy Burnham: I have no plans to do so. The question of parliamentary oversight of the BBC was fully addressed in the BBC Charter review.

BBC Trust: Accountability

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what elements of the 2006 agreement between his Department and the BBC govern the financial accountability of the BBC Trust. [217707]

Andy Burnham: Provisions as to the financial accountability of the BBC Trust are included in article 45 of the Royal Charter, which deals with reporting and accounting arrangements for the BBC as a whole.

BBC: Internet

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will undertake an assessment of the effect on the commercial television market of the BBC's proposal to create web pages for every episode of each television programme it broadcasts. [217711]

Andy Burnham: I have no plans to do so. Under the terms of the BBC's Charter and agreement, the BBC Trust must have regard to the competitive impact of the BBC's activities on the wider market.

BBC: Manpower

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 86W, on the BBC, if he will give a breakdown of the expenditure referred to by main budget heading; and how much was spent on *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* redundancies. [217708]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's director of finance to write to the hon. Member direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214668]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has the following information regarding leases due for renewal in the next four years:

Leases due for renewal

	Renewal date
Arts Council England	
Eastgate Business Park, Basildon	2010
Future House, Bradford	2008
Sovereign House, Brighton	2009
Manchester House, Manchester	2008
Manchester House, Manchester	2011
Manchester House, Manchester	2010

Leases due for renewal	Renewal date
Unit A212 LCB Depot, Leicester	2008
17-18 The Parade, Margate	2009
Big Lottery Fund	
Baron House, Newcastle Upon Tyne	2009
Dominion House, Guildford	2010
Carlton Tower, Leeds	2009
1 Cromac Quay, Belfast	2008
Elizabeth House, Cambridge	2009
Greyfriars Road, Cardiff	2009
Newhall Street, Birmingham	2009
British Standard Commission	
The Sanctuary, Victoria	2010
English Heritage	
Canada House, Manchester	2009
55 Blandford Street, London	2009
Unit 5, Marlborough Court, Exeter	2011
Wyndham House, Salisbury	2009
1 Waterhouse Square, London	2998
Fortress House, London	2010
Football Licensing Authority	
Harcourt House, London	2010
Heritage Lottery Fund	
Holbein Place, London	2009
Imperial War Museum	
The Wych, Cambridge	2012
65-67 Lambeth Walk, London	2010
National Gallery	
St. Vincent House, Victoria	2008
National Heritage Memorial Fund	
Carlton Tower, Leeds	2012
Holbein Place, London	2009
Trinity Court, Exeter	2009
Trinity Court, Exeter	2010
82 King Street, Manchester	2010
82 King Street, Manchester	2012
114-116 St Mary Street, Cardiff	2012
St Nicholas Court 25-27, Nottingham	2012
Bank House, Birmingham	2012
Adelaide Road, Belfast	2012

Leases due for renewal	Renewal date
National Lottery Commission	
101 Wigmore Street, London	2012
National Maritime Museum	
Vizgol House, London	2009
National Portrait Gallery	
Unit 15, Merton Industrial Park, London	2009
Natural History Museum	
Units 1 and 2, Willow Lane, Mitcham	2011
Olympic Delivery Authority	
11 Burford Road, London	2008
1 Churchill Place, Docklands	2009
Sport England	
Astley House, Manchester	2009
Cresent House, Bedford	2009
Grove House, Nottingham	2011
The Churches Conservation Trust	
1 West Smithfield, London	2012
Victoria and Albert Museum	
88 Kirtling Street, London	2012
Visit Britain	
Thames Tower, London	2009
1 Regent Street, London	2012
1 Regent Street, London	2008
1 Regent Street, London	2010

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff have been disciplined by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(d)* English Heritage, *(e)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(f)* Sport England, *(g)* UK Sport and *(h)* the Heritage Lottery Fund for (i) bullying and (ii) harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [216533]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* The table indicates how many members of staff have been disciplined for bullying and harassment of colleagues, as provided by the bodies in question.

	DCMS	Arts Council England	MLA	English Heritage	Big Lottery	Sport England	UK Sport	Heritage Lottery Fund
Bullying								
2005	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	—	0	[1]	0	0
2007	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Harassment								
2005	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	1	0	[1]	0	0

	DCMS	Arts Council England	MLA	English Heritage	Big Lottery	Sport England	UK Sport	Heritage Lottery Fund
2007	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

[1] Same employee disciplined for bullying and harassment.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish each of his Department's directorates' most recent business plans. [216520]

Margaret Hodge: My Department underwent a reorganisation on 15 April 2008 in response to the findings of its Capability Review. Business planning for 2008-09 focused on how the Department should be configured. Now that most of the Department has been restructured, the new directorates are working on plans to show how they intend to deliver against departmental goals. A Corporate Plan was published on 15 April and is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS_Corporate_Plan_2008_PDF.pdf

Festivals and Special Occasions: Finance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by publicly-funded bodies for which his Department is responsible on celebrations of *(a)* St. David's Day, *(b)* St. Patrick's Day, *(c)* St. George's Day and *(d)* St. Andrew's Day in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [216917]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* This information is not held centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Festivals and Special Occasions: Religion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days of religious celebration his Department allocated funding to in 2007. [218531]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department did not allocate any funding to religious celebration days in 2007.

Listed Buildings: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Grade *(a)* I, *(b)* II* and *(c)* II listed buildings are in use as school buildings. [218763]

Margaret Hodge: It is not possible to say how many listed buildings are currently in use as school buildings. The English Heritage Listed Building System records the number of listed buildings in the category of schools as:

	Number
Grade I	195
Grade II*	494
Grade II	4,688

These figures include buildings that were originally built as schools, but are now in another use; buildings that were used as a school as part of their chronological history; and buildings that, since listing, are no longer used as schools.

Sport: Community Development

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Sport England through the Priority Groups Revenue Fund in each year since 1999. [213790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the Priority Revenues Group Fund was renamed and became Active Communities Development Fund in February 2001. There was no funding prior to 2001. The amounts spent in each year since 2001 is as follows:

	Programme	Total
2001-02	Active Communities Development Fund	7,373,308
2002-03	Active Communities Development Fund	6,136,687
2003-04	Active Communities Development Fund	2,244,655
2004-05	Active Communities Development Fund	230,012
2005-06	Active Communities Development Fund	11,571
2006-07	Active Communities Development Fund	1,900
2007-08	Active Communities Development Fund	11,625

Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Ministers in his Department attended or plan to attend the *(a)* Ascot Race Week, *(b)* Henley Regatta, *(c)* Wimbledon Championships, *(d)* British Grand Prix, *(e)* Lords Test Matches and *(f)* Open Golf Championship in 2008. [218352]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State attended the Wimbledon Championships Men's Final on 6 July, and the Lords Tests Match on 11 July. I attended the Ascot Race on 17 June and the British Grand Prix on 6 July, and the Lords Tests Match on 10 July. I will also be going to the Open Golf Championship on 20 July.

Sports: Commonwealth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he *(a)* has recently taken and *(b)* plans to take to improve sporting links between the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries. [215775]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are a number of recent initiatives and planned activities, primarily delivered through bodies such as UK Sport and the British Council, designed to improve sporting links between the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries.

UK Sport currently supports sport development projects and programmes which foster school links through sport in 21 Commonwealth countries and plans to work in one further Commonwealth country. UK Sport works in conjunction with the British Council and UNICEF to deliver the international inspiration project to inspire young people in developing countries and communities to take part in sport.

In addition Dreams + Teams is an initiative to promote Youth Leadership and School Links through sport. Dreams + Teams currently operate in the Commonwealth countries (as shown in the table). We anticipate that much of the work on Dreams + Teams will be absorbed into International Inspiration and Premier Skills (a joint development project between the British Council and the Premier League) over the next two years.

UK Sport hosted the Next Step Conference, empowering young sports leaders to champion the Olympic values of friendship and fair play, in Namibia in 2007 where 19 Commonwealth countries were represented.

Representatives from 67 of the 71 Commonwealth Games Associations attended the Commonwealth Sports Development Conference in Glasgow in June 2008 focusing on how sport and development initiatives can raise levels of grass-roots participation and create pathways to excellence both here in the UK and in the developing world, and was hosted by Culture and Sport Glasgow with support from Glasgow city council.

UK Sport and the Commonwealth Games Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2007 for a four year period to develop and broaden the relationship between the two organizations. Additionally, Sue Campbell, Chair of UK Sport, is also Chair of Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) which was established in 2005 to promote the value of sport as a tool for social, economic, health and educational development. Its advocacy work is directed primarily at the Commonwealth governments through their Ministers of Sport, the Commonwealth secretariat and other key policy-makers.

Countries where UK Sport International Development Programmes and British Council Dreams + Teams programmes are currently working

	Country	*UK Sport International Development Programmes*	*Dreams + Teams*
1	Botswana	yes	yes
2	Cameroon	yes	yes
3	Ghana	—	yes
4	India	yes	yes
5	Kenya	yes	yes
6	Lesotho	yes	—
7	Malawi	yes	yes
8	Malaysia	—	yes
9	Mauritius	—	yes
10	Mozambique	—	yes
11	Namibia	yes	yes
12	Nigeria	yes	yes
13	Pakistan	—	yes
14	Sierra Leone	—	yes
15	Singapore	—	yes
16	South Africa	yes	yes
17	Sri Lanka	—	yes
18	Tanzania	yes	yes
19	Trinidad and Tobago	—	yes
20	Uganda	—	yes
21	Zambia	yes	yes
	Bangladesh	[1] —	—

[1] There are plans in place to extend work to Bangladesh.

Strip Clubs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1375W, on strip clubs, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), how many licensable activities have been carried out under the Licensing Act 2003; and what activities are included in that category. [215332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the number of licences and certificates in force on 31 March 2007 in England and Wales which permitted regulated entertainment. This shows responses from 68 per cent. of licensing authorities. Around 53 per cent. of licensing authorities provided the further break down by type of permitted regulated entertainment.

	Total	*Percentage of entertainment licences*	*Percentage of all licences*
Premises licences	162,053	—	100
Premises licences with any regulated entertainment	72,643	100	45
Plays	8,798	12	5
Films	15,296	21	9
Indoor sporting events	13,119	18	8
Boxing or wrestling	1,692	2	1
Live music	38,096	52	24
Recorded music	48,977	67	30
Performance of dance	21,622	30	13
Entertainment similar to live music, recorded music or dance	18,953	26	12
Facilities for making music	23,864	33	15
Facilities for dancing	26,919	37	17
Facilities for entertainment similar to making music or dancing	14,579	20	9
Club premises certificates	15,187	—	100
Club premises certificates with any regulated entertainment	9,100	100	60
Plays	1,257	14	8
Films	1,708	19	11
Indoor sporting events	2,895	32	19
Boxing or wrestling	341	4	2
Live music	5,548	61	37
Recorded music	5,953	65	39
Performance of dance	2,742	30	18
Entertainment similar to live music, recorded music or dance	2,202	24	14
Facilities for making music	2,944	32	19
Facilities for dancing	4,637	51	31
Facilities for entertainment similar to making music or dancing	1,893	21	12

Note:
Multiple activities can apply to a particular premises.

Entertainment is regulated by the Act if it includes the performance of live music or dance, recorded music or entertainment comparable to these activities. It must be available to the public or members and guests of a qualifying club (whether a charge is made or not), or to a private audience if there is a charge with a view to making a profit.

Premises offering entertainment in the form of striptease or similar dancing must, therefore, apply for a licence to cater for the performance of dance (or entertainment of similar description), live or recorded music and, if it has a bar, alcohol sales.

Tourism: Career Structure

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward policies to promote career development strategies in the tourism industry. [219188]

Margaret Hodge: People 1st, the Sector Skills Council for the tourism industry, is promoting career development opportunities as part of the National Skills Strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism—an employer-led strategy launched by my Department in March 2007. Government have signed up to the strategy's 10-point plan to improve skills, retention and career development, which is a key part of my Department's broader tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond.

Within the National Skills Strategy, People 1st has developed an on-line skills and employment resource—the UKSP (previously the UK Skills Passport)—which includes a detailed and easy-to-use career map of the sector, and allows individuals to match themselves and their skills to the best employers who have signed up to the industry's 'Good Employer' standards. UKSP marketing is also targeted to attract new talent by showing potential recruits the career opportunities available right across the sector. People 1st is also giving clarity to the role of qualifications in an individual's career pathway, from pre-entry to employment, through to workplace development and progression.

Finally, the National Skills Academy for Hospitality was approved by Government in May. Over the next five years over 65,000 learners will go through academy programmes, helping learners develop good careers in the industry through UKSP and by linking up with the network of Good Employers.

Travel Information: Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage travel companies to inform their customers of the human rights records of countries to which they are travelling. [217558]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's interests in relation to tourism are to champion the tourism and leisure industries, helping everyone make the most of the UK as a tourist and leisure destination.

My Department is not responsible for regulation of the outbound tourism industry, and I have no plans to impose or encourage travel companies to provide information to customers on the human rights records of countries they intend to visit.

Information on the Government's human rights policy overseas is available through the FCO website. Some aspects of human rights are covered in local laws and customs in FCO Travel Advice as they relate to Britons travelling abroad.

The Association of British Travel Agents advise that their code of practice for tour operators encourages them to adhere to the FCO travel advice for their customers who are travelling abroad, but it is ultimately down to customers to make informed decisions about were they choose to holiday.

World Book Day: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on promoting World Book Day in each of the last five years. [218529]

Margaret Hodge: World Book Day is not a Government initiative, but a partnership of publishers, booksellers and others.

However the promotion of literacy and the love of reading remain central to the purpose of the modern public library, so we fully support the Day's efforts and focus for children, adults and family learners about the benefits that reading can bring.

World Heritage Sites

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the review of the tentative list of World Heritage sites in the UK. [218202]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The paper on the Review of World Heritage Policy is currently under consideration. A decision on publication will be made shortly.

World Heritage Sites: Climate Change

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review the management plan for World Heritage Sites in the UK with regard to their effects on climate change. [218197]

Margaret Hodge: In accordance with UNESCO's adopted recommendations on climate change at its 2006 World Heritage Committee in Vilnius (WHC-06/30.COM/7.1), UK World Heritage Site Steering Groups are considering the effects of climate change when reviewing their management plans. Management plans are reviewed every five years.

DEFENCE

7 Regiment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tasks were completed by 7 Regiment in the last six months. [218392]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last six months 7 Regiment Army Air Corps undertook various tasks including: support to training for operational deployment, support to UK operations, support to non-operational training, recruiting activities and communication flights.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* private security companies, *(b)* nations and *(c)* intergovernmental organisations are involved with training Afghan national police; and how many British citizens participate in each training initiative, broken down by (i) military and (ii) civilian personnel. [217255]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The Government hold contracts with Global Strategies Ltd. and G4S (formerly Armour Group) to deliver elements of our work with the Afghan police. The US Government contract a number of private security companies to deliver training, including Blackwater Worldwide and DynCorp International. We do not hold a full list of the companies used by other nations.

A total of 25 nations provide training to the Afghan police. The European Police Mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL) currently includes officers from 21 nations, specifically Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

The US, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Turkey also have personnel providing training to the Afghan national police on a bilateral basis, as do the UN Office of Drugs and Crime and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The Government have deployed a total of 84 personnel to work with the police in Afghanistan. Of these, 11 are deployed as part of EUPOL, three are deployed as police advisors to the US reform programme and 70 work on bilateral projects.

Out of 84 UK personnel, 24 are from the military and the remainder are civilians.

Air Force: Training

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-commissioned officers in the RAF have achieved the National Examining Board for Supervision and Management Award at diploma level since 1998. [217589]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment has been made of the through-life cost of powering the new aircraft carriers with *(a)* conventional gas turbine/diesel engines and *(b)* nuclear reactor plants; [218241]

(2) what studies his Department has undertaken on suitability of nuclear reactor power for the new aircraft carriers. [218430]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The through-life cost of powering the Future Aircraft Carriers with a combination of conventional gas turbines and diesel engines was considered during the assessment and demonstration phases of the project and selected as the preferred option for manufacture. On nuclear reactor plants, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 255W, and on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the designs for Carrier Vessel Future have retained the option to install *(a)* catapults and *(b)* arrestor gear. [218470]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. The adaptable design retains the option to install both catapults and arrestor gear.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has considered the potential installation of *(a)* steam-powered or *(b)* electro-magnetic catapults for the Carrier Vessel Future. [218471]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. Both these options were considered during the assessment phase of the Future Aircraft Carrier project, prior to the adoption of the current adaptable design, configured for short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK involvement there is in the Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System project; and what estimate he has made of UK expenditure on the project to completion. [218472]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has no direct involvement in the US Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System project and has not committed funds to this project.

Armed Conflict: Medals

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of awarding a veteran's badge to those who worked in munitions factories in the UK during the world wars; and if he will make a statement. [217157]

Derek Twigg: The Veterans Badge is designed explicitly to recognise those who have served at any time in the country's armed forces and it would not therefore be appropriate to extend this badge to those who worked in munitions factories in the UK during the World Wars. The Government hold in high esteem the contribution of all those who supported the war effort during these major periods of national conflict which has been recognised in a number of different ways depending on the particular group. Any question of a badge specifically for munitions workers would be a matter for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which has legacy responsibility for those matters covered by the Ministry of Supply, including those who worked in the munitions industry.

Armed Forces: Delivery Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which commercial undertakings do not acknowledge BFPO addresses for deliveries; [218363]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that servicemen who receive their mail via BFPO addresses are not discriminated against by commercial undertakings; [218364]

(3) if he will make it his policy not to place departmental business with commercial undertakings which do not deliver to BFPO addresses. [218365]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* We are aware of a small number of commercial undertakings who do not acknowledge BFPO addresses for deliveries, however companies are free to make their own commercial decisions. In these circumstances, it is MOD policy to work with the organisations to persuade them to adapt their systems to accommodate BFPO addresses. BFPO is in negotiation with the Royal Mail Group, and its IT system providers to develop a technical solution, while continuing to implement successfully 'work-around' solutions with individual companies.

Approximately 1,500 commercial undertakings, including major mail order companies and carriers, have entered into contracts with BFPO and offer deliveries to BFPO addresses. A full list of these can be found on the BFPO website at

www.bfpo.org.uk.

All MOD contracts are subject to Government procurement regulations and it would be unlawful to discriminate against any company.

Armed Forces: Disability Living Allowance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* veterans are (i) waiting for and (ii) in redress of disability allowances being offered. [203985]

Derek Twigg: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) administers two schemes under which disability allowances may become payable—the armed forces compensation scheme (AFCS) and the war pension scheme (WPS). In the case of AFCS, ongoing disability allowances are payable to the most seriously injured and this payment becomes due on discharge. Therefore there are no such claims for ongoing disability allowances outstanding for serving personnel. However the majority of awards comprise of a lump sum payment which may be paid in service or following service depending on when the individual decides to make a claim. WPS claims are always made and awarded following discharge.

SPVA records show that at 31 March 2008 the number of claims of disability related payments, in the process of consideration, against each scheme was 1,292 for serving personnel and veterans under AFCS and 7,238 for veterans under WPS. This does not constitute a backlog as the claims are at various stages of consideration in line with the normal procedures. In considering claims under both schemes, medical evidence of the condition(s) claimed, prognosis for recovery or enduring disability and evidence of the link to service is required. Depending on the complexity and needs of the individual cases, gaining sufficient information in order to properly inform the correct decision can take a varying amount of time.

With regard to the number of claims under redress both schemes offer an appeals process which utilises the independent Pension Appeal Tribunals (administered by the Ministry of Justice). Personnel may decide to appeal for a number of reasons such as the availability of additional information or because they disagree with any aspect of the decision made. The number of appeals currently in progress is 102 for AFCS and 565 for WPS.

Armed Forces: Food

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operational ration packs his Department disposed of in each of the last five years. [218190]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* During the last five years, the MOD's Defence Storage and Distribution Agency has disposed of the following quantities of 24 hour operational ration packs (ORP):

	Number
2003	3,132
2004	16,083
2005	95,299
2006	420
2007	7,152

Figures are not held centrally for disposal of ORPs issued to front line Commands and for use on operations.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it cost his Department to procure an operational ration pack in the latest period for which figures are available. [218191]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The cost of procurement of an operational ration pack is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

The average cost of the components required to make one ORP are as follows:

	£
24 hour general purpose ORP	8.75
24 hour Sikh/Hindu ORP	8.77
24 hour Halal ORP	9.34
24 hour vegetarian ORP	8.89

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of operational ration packs which are approaching the end of their shelf life. [218192]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* All operational ration packs (ORP) components are intended to achieve a minimum of 24 months shelf life after production. A selection of each pack date is sent for analysis by the MOD contracted chemist at the 18 month point. Depending on the recommendations made by the chemist the rations are then recommended for re-inspection in six months, three months or certified as no longer suitable for issue. This process is repeated until the rations are certified as no longer suitable for issue. A monthly report is issued to all units in the armed forces through front line Commands detailing the material condition of each pack date. Action is then taken to ensure that stocks are managed accordingly.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses on the Ministry of Defence estate in *(a)* the North of England and *(b)* Cumbria will be refurbished in each of the next five years. [217309]

Derek Twigg: Refurbishment of property is not readily distinguishable from other maintenance or upgrade expenditure when compiling data and planning for Service Families Accommodation (SFA).

The Upgrade Programme prioritises those properties identified as being in the greatest need.

There are no properties on the current upgrade programme in the north of England (defined as north of the Mersey/Humber).

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on armed forces: manpower, if he will make it his policy to collect such information centrally and place it in the Library. [218122]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Medical Employment Standard (MES) codes (and supporting codes showing Medical Limitations) are used to define an individual's medical fitness and enable the communication of the necessary information to their career manager/chain of command without any breach of medical confidentiality. These codes are used to ensure that an individual is appropriately employed without unnecessarily endangering their own health or that of others. Historically, the codes have evolved along single-service lines and this presents difficulties in deriving a consistent, central view of medical employability across the services which has made it impractical to provide the information requested. Currently, the MES codes do not equate to medical 'deployability' (i.e. the fitness of an individual to deploy on operations).

A working group has been set up to define and plan a set of Joint MES codes and Medical Limitations against which all service personnel will be assessed for their deployability and employability status. This definition work is due to be complete by the end of 2008 and the changes will be implemented on relevant IT systems as soon as possible thereafter. Once in place, this system will provide centrally held information on fitness for employment and deployability. Once the system is in place we will consider the most appropriate means by which this information could be placed in the Library of the House.

It is the Department's intention to maximise the employability and deployability of all individuals at all times. This means that an individual who is unfit for frontline operational duty may still be employable within his/her service. Each case is considered and managed on its individual merits.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel there are, broken down by *(a)* service, *(b)* branch, *(c)* regiment and *(d)* trade. [218497]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide figures of sales and receipts of *(a)* substitute single living accommodation and *(b)* substitute service family accommodation housing in (i) Scotland and (ii) Northern Ireland in each year since 1995. [218439]

Derek Twigg: As substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute single service accommodation (SSSA) are sourced from the local commercial rental market, such properties are not owned by MOD and no receipts accrue to this Department. We cease paying rent when families vacate.

SSFA and SSSA are not used in Northern Ireland.

Army: Recruitment

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Army will not recruit a person with a known nut allergy. [218350]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* All Army personnel, regardless of their chosen trade, must be fit to serve anywhere in the world, in all environments and in locations where medical care may be limited or remote, and medical re-supply uncertain or impossible.

Regrettably, it is not possible to guarantee that food provided through the military catering system is nut-free. Labelling alone would not therefore provide a sufficient safeguard for an individual with a nut intolerance attempting to self-regulate their diet. Neither would it be practical to make special arrangements to accommodate people with such an allergy. It would therefore be highly irresponsible of the Army to employ an individual with such a condition.

For these reasons any recruit with a past history of food allergy is automatically graded as unfit for service, unless there is irrefutable evidence that they are no longer sensitive.

AWE Management: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes there were in the staffing levels of the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each year since 2003; and what the reasons for each annual change were. [218756]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 849W and 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1144W.

Defence: Foreign Investment in UK

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Chancellor of the Exchequer the potential for national security implications to arise from overseas shareholdings in British defence companies. [217505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As the Government's Defence Industrial Strategy (Cm6697) made clear, we welcome overseas investment in the UK's Defence technological and industrial base. Transactions in the defence arena are closely monitored by Government Departments. Where a potential acquisition by a foreign company raises national security concerns, the Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, normally following consultation with Defence Ministers, to intervene in order to remedy those concerns, usually through statutory undertakings provided by the acquiring company.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the revised version of the Defence Industrial Strategy. [218219]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my noble Friend, Baroness Taylor of Bolton gave in the other place on 16 June 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 795, to the noble Lord, Lord Astor of Hever.

Departmental Internet

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on updating the *(a)* Defence News and *(b)* Defence News Blog section of the Ministry of Defence Website during off-duty hours and at weekends. [217256]

Derek Twigg: The Defence News section of the MOD website and the Defence News Blog aim to provide the latest news and information about UK armed forces and MOD activity to the defence community and the public. Both can be updated outside of office hours and at weekends through a "duty officer" system.

Out-of-hours updates are generally confined to (i) important, unplanned developments such as operational fatalities and (ii) coverage of significant, pre-planned events and announcements which occur outside of office hours, such as Remembrance Sunday.

Although closely interlinked, the Defence News section of the MOD website and the Defence News Blog are separate websites, and hosted separately. If one site is unavailable for any reason, any necessary updates can be added to the other, giving a capability which is robust to technical outages, planned or unplanned.

Exservicemen: Pensions

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the Government will offer ex-servicemen who retired from the armed forces before 31 March 1973 the opportunity of buying their wives a forces family widows pension at half-rate on an actuarially calculated, no cost basis. [215086]

Derek Twigg: No. It would be difficult, in equity, to extend the half rate pension to widows whose husbands had left the service before 31 March 1973 because they had not contributed financially towards the improvement. It has also been the long-standing policy of successive Governments that discretionary changes to improve the benefits offered by public service pensions schemes should be implemented for future service only.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219011]

Derek Twigg: This Department has commissioned two home information packs in respect of the disposal of 7 and 9 Ladysmith Road, Ashton-under- Lyne, Greater Manchester at a cost of £250.00 each. No voluntary home condition reports were provided.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of flying hours for each *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* helicopter type operating in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan was in each of the last 12 months. [216234]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Hercules flights there have been between Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [218488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not run a regular schedule of C130 Hercules flights between Iraq and Afghanistan. Statistics on those flights which have taken place are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Army personnel completed training for (i) fast jet and (ii) rotary types in each year since 2001. [216255]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Financial year						
Service	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Fleet Air Arm							
Fast-Jet	5	8	7	10	4	2	3
Rotary	56	62	64	76	52	46	64

Service	Financial year 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Army							
Rotary	41	46	43	41	50	46	45
RAF[1]							
Fast-Jet	65	62	72	72	51	55	58
Rotary	58	79	83	76	50	63	93

[1] These figures include all RAF personnel who completed training for fast-jet and rotary aircraft (i.e. pilots, navigators and crewmen) as appropriate. The figures for rotary aircraft include Chinook, Merlin and Puma.

Military Attaches

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of each defence section in each (a) city and (b) country outside the UK in each year since 1997. [214351]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the cost of each Defence Section by city and country outside the UK in each year since 2000.

Capital	Country	Financial year 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Kabul[1]	Afghanistan	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Abu Dhabi	UAE	189,693	199,178	239,295	261,760	268,304	275,012	242,928	249,001
Abuja	Nigeria	191,675	201,259	214,364	225,083	230,710	236,477	305,844	313,490
Accra	Ghana	184,814	194,055	279,299	293,264	300,595	308,110	236,758	242,677
Addis Ababa	Ethiopia	[2]	[2]	[2]	212,000	217,300	222,733	224,702	230,320
Algiers	Algeria	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	170,547	174,811
Astana[1]	Kazakhstan	[2]	[2]	204,417	214,638	220,004	225,504	294,360	301,719
Amman	Jordan	367,846	386,238	537,108	563,963	578,062	592,513	421,334	431,867
Ankara	Turkey	356,948	374,795	427,786	449,175	460,404	471,915	517,932	530,880
Athens	Greece	627,865	659,258	603,346	633,513	649,351	665,585	536,096	549,498
Baghdad	Iraq	[2]	[2]	[2]	212,000	217,300	222,733	239,220	245,201
Bahrain	Bahrain	156,197	164,007	183,023	192,174	196,978	201,903	183,703	188,296
Bangkok	Thailand	203,861	214,054	220,409	231,429	237,215	243,145	279,972	286,971
Beirut	Lebanon	153,354	161,022	165,376	173,645	177,986	182,436	155,408	159,293
Belgrade	Serbia	11,326	175,000	273,920	287,616	294,806	302,177	329,473	337,710
Berlin[2]	Germany	788,428	824,527	934,481	977,714	1,002,157	1,027,211	828,874	849,595
Berne	Switzerland	184,073	193,277	194,773	204,511	209,624	[3]	[3]	[3]
Bogota	Colombia	208,448	218,870	258,718	271,654	278,446	285,407	310,662	318,429
Brasilia	Brazil	501,808	526,898	532,212	558,822	572,793	587,113	378,896	388,368
Bratislava	Slovakia	135,088	141,842	299,034	313,985	321,835	329,881	303,752	311,346
Bridgetown	Barbados	222,646	233,778	241,552	253,630	259,970	266,469	292,571	299,885
Brunei	Brunei	136,695	143,530	181,450	190,522	195,285	200,167	183,739	188,332
Brussels	Belgium	276,079	289,883	286,189	300,498	308,011	[3]	[3]	[3]
Bucharest	Romania	198,631	208,563	318,589	334,519	342,882	351,454	469,934	481,682
Budapest	Hungary	172,674	181,308	293,507	308,182	315,887	323,784	20,618	21,133
Buenos Aires	Argentina	557,661	585,544	520,081	546,085	559,737	573,730	456,978	468,402
Cairo	Egypt	456,405	479,225	456,473	479,297	491,279	503,561	438,708	449,676
Canberra	Australia	626,953	658,301	683,106	717,262	735,193	753,573	572,273	586,580
Caracas	Venezuela	283,181	297,340	244,939	257,186	263,616	270,206	239,416	[3]
Colombo	Sri Lanka	178,941	187,888	189,813	199,303	204,286	209,393	235,737	241,630
Copenhagen	Denmark	181,806	190,896	227,882	239,276	245,258	251,389	250,964	257,238
Damascus	Syria	186,906	196,251	221,892	232,986	238,811	244,781	201,688	206,730
Dhaka	Bangladesh	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	235,737	241,630
Doha	Qatar	209,145	219,602	236,936	248,783	255,002	261,378	237,372	243,306
Dublin	Irish Republic	177,349	186,216	221,239	232,301	238,108	244,061	302,758	310,327
Freetown	Sierra Leone	40,972	175,000	219,420	230,391	236,151	242,055	228,533	234,246
Guatemala City	Guatemala	175,587	184,366	248,116	260,522	267,035	273,710	385,289	[3]
Harare	Zimbabwe	178,498	187,423	207,815	218,206	223,661	229,253	303,579	311,168
Helsinki	Finland	207,844	218,236	228,121	239,527	245,515	251,653	261,280	267,812
Islamabad	Pakistan	359,497	377,472	447,857	470,250	482,006	494,056	511,127	523,905
Jakarta	Indonesia	233,195	244,855	211,035	221,586	227,126	232,804	292,955	300,279

		Financial year							
Capital	*Country*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Kampala	Uganda	173,364	182,032	217,646	228,529	234,242	240,098	241,298	247,330
Kathmandu[2]	Nepal	185,540	193,188	228,191	237,889	243,836	249,932	214,893	220,265
Khartoum	Sudan	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	280,416	287,426
Kyiv	Ukraine	297,983	312,882	400,506	420,532	431,045	441,821	412,478	422,790
Kingston	Jamaica	270,737	284,274	273,938	287,635	294,826	302,197	265,719	272,362
Kinshasa	D R Congo	24,560	175,000	213,815	224,506	230,118	235,871	317,747	325,691
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	433,868	455,561	432,855	454,498	465,861	477,507	350,558	359,322
Kuwait City	Kuwait	183,948	193,145	259,257	272,220	279,025	286,001	217,231	222,662
Lisbon	Portugal	206,256	216,569	218,169	229,078	234,804	240,675	228,375	234,084
Ljubljana	Slovenia	108,967	114,415	187,836	197,228	202,158	207,212	8,749	[1]
Luanda	Angola	[2]	213,000	247,640	260,022	266,523	273,186	2,592	[1]
Madrid	Spain	440,822	462,863	436,130	457,936	469,385	481,120	464,945	476,569
Manila	Philippines	175,321	184,087	229,939	241,436	247,472	253,659	250,532	266,020
Mexico City	Mexico	139,483	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Moscow	Russia	1,083,882	1,138,076	1,391,127	1,460,684	1,497,201	1,534,631	1,515,168	1,553,047
Muscat	Oman	419,755	440,743	530,007	556,508	570,420	584,681	410,639	420,905
Nairobi	Kenya	234,453	246,176	225,371	236,639	242,555	248,619	271,064	277,841
New Delhi	India	523,478	549,652	546,489	573,814	588,159	602,863	670,420	687,181
Nicosia	Cyprus	164,787	173,026	192,453	202,075	207,127	212,305	221,578	227,117
Oslo	Norway	326,758	343,096	277,432	291,304	298,586	306,051	277,425	284,361
Ottawa	Canada	647,670	680,054	710,315	745,831	764,477	783,588	815,899	836,296
Paris[2]	France	957,228	1,004,242	1,038,243	1,089,266	1,116,498	1,144,410	1,154,068	1,182,919
Peking	China	518,015	543,916	573,869	602,563	617,627	633,068	674,372	691,231
Prague	Czech [3]	178,249	187,161	319,558	335,536	343,925	352,523	313,924	321,772
Pretoria	South Africa	365,346	383,613	500,221	525,232	538,363	551,822	468,996	480,721
Rabat	Morocco	205,322	215,588	254,545	267,272	273,954	280,803	235,313	241,196
Riga	Latvia	179,916	188,912	239,340	251,317	257,600	264,040	68,608	[1]
Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	641,613	673,694	734,485	771,210	790,490	810,252	544,790	558,410
Rome	Italy	587,920	617,316	681,572	715,650	733,541	751,880	609,012	624,237
Sana'a	Yemen	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	119,094	122,071
Santiago	Chile	221,694	232,779	211,494	222,069	227,620	233,311	272,950	279,774
Sarajevo	Bosnia	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	173,063	177,390
Seoul	Korea	432,661	454,294	489,467	513,940	526,788	539,958	525,757	538,901
Singapore[2]	Singapore	468,843	490,171	410,111	428,396	439,106	450,083	413,728	481,563
Skopje	Macedonia	159,269	167,232	166,750	175,088	179,465	183,952	203,007	208,082
Sofia	Bulgaria	211,873	222,467	341,988	359,088	368,065	377,266	411,539	421,827
Stockholm	Sweden	268,112	281,518	216,108	226,914	232,586	238,401	244,880	251,002
Tallinn	Estonia	[3]	[3]	204,231	214,443	219,804	225,299	101,317	[1]
Tashkent	Uzbekistan	[2]	[2]	267,244	280,606	287,621	294,812	47,139	[1]
Tbilisi	Georgia	130,028	136,529	246,018	258,319	264,777	271,396	222,118	227,671
Tel Aviv	Israel	393,970	413,669	531,212	557,772	571,717	586,010	451,078	462,355
The Hague	Netherlands	314,374	330,093	309,323	324,790	332,909	341,232	481,676	493,718
Tirana	Albania	1,127	190,000	155,644	163,427	167,512	171,700	219,991	225,491
Tokyo	Japan	492,466	517,089	334,361	351,079	359,856	368,852	406,964	417,138
Vienna	Austria	255,226	267,987	320,292	336,307	344,715	353,332	321,096	329,123
Vilnius	Lithuania	15,958	189,000	165,516	173,792	178,137	182,590	232,973	238,797
Warsaw	Poland	351,595	369,175	447,302	469,667	481,409	493,444	441,306	452,339
Wellington	New Zealand	81,982	189,000	177,558	186,436	191,097	195,875	230,926	236,699
Zagreb	Croatia	155,625	163,406	194,215	203,926	209,024	214,250	254,499	260,861
New York[1]	USA	—	—	—	—	—	—	407,522	417,710
Washington	USA	887,279	910,151	1,024,892	1,055,439	1,177,608	1,390,170	1,479,383	1,572,000

[1] From November 2006, previously Almaty
[2] No Defence Section
[3] Closed

Notes:

1. The Defence Section in Afghanistan opened in November 2007. There are no costs available from that date as the Defence Section is funded through Operational funds which cannot be disaggregated from the overall budget.
2. These costs include estimated costs for personnel funded by the single service funds which cannot be disaggregated from their overall budgets.
3. Costs are not available prior to financial year 2006-07.
4. All the costs in the table exclude pre-post preparation training costs that fall to the single service budgets; these are assessed to be in the order of £8.7 million at FY 2007-08 prices.
5. All the costs in the table are at their respective financial year prices.
6. The costs in paragraph 2 do not include the personnel funded by the single services, the pre-post preparation costs and the UKMIS New York costs.

Details of the cost of each Defence Section outside the UK in each year from 1997 to 2000 are not available by city and capital. The overall costs of all Defence Sections for Financial Year 1996-97 to Financial Year 1999-00 are as follows:

	£ million
1996-97	22.471
1997-98	22.071
1998-99	23.202
1999-2000	23.925

Military Bases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress has been made with *(a)* the upgrade of RAF Northolt and *(b)* the decommissioning of other sites; [218474]

(2) how far the London MoDEL project has progressed since it was commenced; what land has been earmarked to be sold under this project; and if he will make a statement. [218476]

Derek Twigg: The upgrade of RAF Northolt and the decommissioning and sale of other sites forms part of Project MoDEL, which is making good progress.

At Northolt, approximately half of the construction programme has been completed since contract award in August 2006. 11 new facilities have been delivered so far, including: four blocks of Single Living Accommodation (SLA)—250 rooms in total; welfare facilities; office accommodation; a five-bay hangar; and the new British Forces Post Office (BFPO) facility. The new facilities, not least the SLA blocks, have improved the living and working conditions for personnel at RAF Northolt.

So far as decommissioning and sales are concerned, six sites across the Greater London area have been designated surplus and are being released as part of Project MoDEL. Of these, RAF Eastcote and RAF West Ruislip have been sold for residential development, releasing funding for development of the Defence estate and other departmental priorities. The former BFPO site at Mill Hill and RAF Bentley Priory closed in January and May 2008 respectively. These two sites will be sold once planning submissions have been agreed by the local planning authorities.

We are engaging closely with the local planning authority and a number of other organisations and stakeholders to secure the future of Bentley Priory's heritage. A way forward has been agreed and a planning application is currently with the London Borough of Harrow for approval.

RAF Uxbridge and Victoria House, Woolwich, remain operational at present. At Uxbridge, our contractor is preparing a supplementary planning document for the site for submission to the London borough of Hillingdon, and at Victoria House a planning application for development of the site as a residential care home is currently with the London borough of Greenwich for approval.

In addition, Chelsea Barracks was sold earlier this year.

Navy: Fuels

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has made to ensure the security of fuel supply to all Royal Navy vessels. [218242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The security of fuel supply to Royal Naval vessels is maintained through the use of multiple supply sources, together with the maintenance of appropriate reserves, and by international agreements that allow access to partners' fuels stocks.

Navy: International Waters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Royal Navy has in the defence of *(a)* trade and *(b)* shipping in international waters; and if he will make a statement. [218150]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy maintains a constant presence in the Gulf, Arabian sea, Indian ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic to ensure that the vital sea lanes and choke points along the maritime trade routes are preserved for free, safe and lawful use. This task is achieved in collaboration with other navies and coastguards through a series of coalition maritime operations and strategic alliances.

The Royal Navy also works closely with other Government Departments on shipping protection issues and maintains a worldwide Maritime Trade Operations policy which is capable of providing a range of options to support British merchant shipping.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status of the ISOLUS programme is; and if he will make a statement. [218348]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Following the Government and Devolved Administrations' response to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's report in October 2006, the ISOLUS project team has been able to take forward technical and siting issues in conjunction with the new stakeholder groups, which have been created. The results of a technical options study are due by the end of this year. The project procurement strategy is currently being developed within the context of the Defence Industrial Strategy. These work areas are interrelated and the output from each will be drawn together over the next year to inform a recommendation for the way ahead. The project remains committed to further public consultation before major decisions are made.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for *(a)* caterers and *(b)* administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton in the categories requested. Information is available only from financial year 2003-04.

Financial year	Officer specialisation: Catering	Administration
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-commissioned officers have taken the *(a)* junior management and leadership course, *(b)* intermediate management and leadership course and *(c)* advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the areas requested, from financial year 2003-04 to present.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior - on promotion to corporal)	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow was of civilian staff at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217591]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the inflow and outflow of civilian staff at RAF Halton. This does not include personnel who have transferred within the MOD to or from posts at RAF Halton. The information is only available from financial year 2004-05. Earlier dates could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	In	Out
2004-05	28	18
2005-06	20	42
2006-07	17	31
2007-08	13	25

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow was of armed forces personnel at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217592]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the inflow and outflow of the armed forces personnel at RAF Halton.

Financial year	Inflow	Outflow
2006-07	240	204
2007-08	213	160

Data before 1 April 2006 are not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel have received training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217594]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

RAF St. Athan

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence training personnel have been consulted on proposals for relocation to St. Athan; what the outcome of such consultation has been; and if he will make a statement. [218759]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 Integrated Project Team (IPT) has from the outset routinely consulted the trade unions representing all the civilian employees potentially affected by the proposals stemming from the project. Such meetings, which now include representatives of the Metrix Consortium, take place every three months and provide an informal opportunity to update trade union representatives on project progress and address concerns and questions. Where required, the obligations under TUPE (2006) Regulations have been met through more formal consultation and exchanges of information. The approach taken has been as open as commercial considerations allow and has been cited by the trade unions as best practice. The MOD remains committed to continue the consultative process as the project proceeds. Consultation at MOD level is also matched by meetings and briefings that take place within DTR colleges.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what ways his Department plans to participate in the public consultation proposals for a defence and training academy at St. Athan. [218835]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following selection by the Ministry of Defence as preferred bidder for provision of the Defence Technical Academy at St. Athan, the Metrix Consortium is preparing to submit planning applications to the Vale of Glamorgan council. As part of their preparations, Metrix have instigated a public consultation process, the first stage of which will be a series of public exhibitions in the week of 14 July. This aims to ensure

that local stakeholders and members of the public can view and discuss the proposed plans. A public website will be made available, letters will be sent to key stakeholders and advertisements will be placed in the local press. The Ministry of Defence will be supporting Metrix in this process, in particular by providing advice and guidance on both their proposals and approach to public consultation and by making available representatives who can respond to any questions arising. The MOD and Metrix are committed to this programme of consultation and communication with the local community.

Submarines: Manpower

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to increase the number of suitably qualified submarine warfare officers and ratings in naval service. [217247]

Derek Twigg: Addressing manning shortfalls within the Submarine Service is a key personnel priority. The entire Submarine Service recruiting process has been re-invigorated and its profile raised. Additional people are now in the training pipeline. Work continues to promote recruiting from General Service for both officers, from suitable junior and senior rates, and ratings. Retention measures are being exploited and financial packages updated. These include:

£7,500 Submarine 'Golden Hello' for transferees from the General Service;

£5,500 commitment bonus for specific submarine branches at the five year point;

£1,000 'recruit an oppo' bounty for individuals who recruit someone to specific submarine branches;

£5,000 submarine 'Golden Hello' for new recruits when they complete their training and are awarded their Dolphins.

£25,000 submarine warfare officer financial retention initiative which is payable on qualifying as a Watchleader.

Swiftsure Class Submarines

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of each Swiftsure Class submarine was. [218237]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Swiftsure Class of six submarines were commissioned at regular intervals between 1972 and 1981 and the commissioning date for each boat is listed as follows. Due to the long period of time that has since elapsed, the unit cost of these submarines is no longer held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Swiftsure class	*Commissioning dates*
HMS Swiftsure	17 April 1973
HMS Sovereign	11 July 1974
HMS Superb	13 November 1976
HMS Sceptre	14 February 1978
HMS Spartan	22 September 1979
HMS Splendid	21 March 1981

Type 42 Destroyers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's plans are for the decommissioning of Type 42 destroyers. [218486]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our present planning assumptions, which are kept under review, are that the Type 42 destroyers will be withdrawn from service on the following dates:

Type 42 destroyers

	Withdrawal date
HMS Southampton	2009
HMS Exeter	2009
HMS Nottingham	2010
HMS Manchester	2011
HMS Gloucester	2011
HMS Liverpool	2012
HMS York	2012
HMS Edinburgh	2013

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to maintain a number of Type 42 destroyers in active service following the commissioning of Type 45s. [218487]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Type 42 destroyers will be withdrawn gradually as the Type 45s enter service to replace them. On present plans, which are kept under review, all Type 42s will have been withdrawn by the time the sixth Type 45 enters service.

USA: Ministry of Defence Guarding and Police Agency

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1628W, on Ministry of Defence Guarding and Police Agency: USA, when he expects the revised Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the US Visiting Forces to be finalised. [218407]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the US authorities was signed on 20 May 2008. It will come into effect on 1 October 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of rising energy prices in Africa. [217799]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is taking a close interest in the effects of rising oil prices in sub-Saharan Africa, drawing

on reports by the OECD and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as our own assessments. The dollar price of crude oil has doubled over the past two years. The economic impacts in Africa vary from country to country, with oil producers generally gaining through increased foreign earnings.

Non-oil producers have experienced reductions in economic growth. According to the IMF, an increase in the real price of crude oil from $75 to $100 from October 2007 to April 2008 has reduced economic growth by between 0.2 and 1.0 per cent. For some countries, the impacts of high oil prices has been partly offset by higher prices earned from other exported commodities. For all countries, there have been increases in the consumer price of oil products, such as petrol and kerosene.

Africa: Fisheries

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department provides to African countries to help them protect their waters from illegal fishing; and if he will make a statement. [217424]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has funded research which showed that illegal fishing costs the global economy some $23 billion per year. This includes around $1 billion in sub-Saharan Africa, representing a quarter of the total value of legitimate African fish exports. DFID has contributed some £700,000 to increase awareness of illegal fishing in southern Africa. This culminated in the Southern Africa Development Commission (SADC) Ministerial Conference on Illegal Fishing held in Namibia on 4 July (2008), at which urgent measures to tackle illegal fishing were discussed and agreed; these included improving sharing regional intelligence, improving fisheries governance and to encourage market measures that keep illegal produce out of supply chains. Subject to design and appraisal, DFID has allocated £6 million over six years to take this forward under an international partnership for African fisheries governance and trade. Partner donors are likely to include Norway, Germany, the World Bank and the European Commission.

DFID is also providing financial support for the operations of the joint maritime authority in Sierra Leone, which is tackling illegal fishing in that country.

Bangladesh: Storms

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK relief and reconstruction aid in Bangladesh following the November 2007 cyclone. [218741]

Mr. Malik: Following the 2007 cyclone in Bangladesh, the UK has contributed just over £15 million in relief and reconstruction aid. This has so far helped more than 2.8 million people in Bangladesh affected by the cyclone, and over the past eight months, has resulted in the following:

812,268 people benefited from receiving basic life saving survival packages;

66,375 people have received shelter assistance in the form of repairs or new constructions;

416,332 people have received livelihoods recovery and restoration support to help them generate incomes again;

1,293,650 people have received access to improved water services;

233,240 people have received access to sanitation, particularly women.

We are currently planning for a full independent evaluation to take place in October to look at the effectiveness of our relief and reconstruction funding for both the 2007 cyclone and floods in Bangladesh, as well as providing lessons to take forward for future emergency responses.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217406]

Gillian Merron: In the last two years, the number of staff within the Department for International Development who have been:

(a) dismissed due to conduct: 5

(b) disciplined due to conduct: 17

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217396]

Gillian Merron: 135 Department for International Development (DFID) staff have taken early retirement during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008.

Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department took second language training in each of the last five years; and what the five languages in which such training was most frequently undertaken were. [218921]

Gillian Merron: Requirements for language training are assessed by each overseas office and based upon business priorities. As such the Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold central records on language training but according to our main external language training provider 130 staff have received training in the last 18 months. This is equivalent to 35 per cent. of home civil service staff posted overseas at any given time. The top five languages in which training was most frequently undertaken were—French, Arabic, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

Pakistan: Earthquakes

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the UK relief and reconstruction effort in areas affected by the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. [218738]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £53 million of emergency relief (food and shelter) over six months to help the 3.5 million people affected by the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan.

Since then, we have been working closely with the Government of Pakistan to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation process. This assistance, totalling £51 million to date, has helped construct 250,000 houses using seismic resistant techniques. It will also fund the construction of 50 new seismic resistant bridges to further help those communities cut off by the earthquake and to improve road access in many remote areas. In partnership with the UN we have also funded almost 900 fully equipped prefabricated offices to get local government back to work while permanent buildings are repaired. Other future work planned includes rebuilding of schools and other education institutions, almost 6,300 of which were damaged by the earthquake.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will list the conferences hosted by the Government Equalities Office in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211682]

Barbara Follett: Since the Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established in October 2007, it has hosted the following conferences:

Events as part of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007

		GEO contribution (£)
Focus on Youth Seminar	22 October 2007	9,985
Local Government Association Seminar	1 November 2007	17,111
Voluntary and Community Sector Seminar	15 November 2007	22,549
Women and Men working together to achieve Gender Equality Event	3 December 2007	12,990
Age Equality—Its Our Right Event	7 December 2007	11,624
UK Celebration EYEOA Closing Event (HoC)	13 December 2007	12,668
Total	—	86,927

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

John Bercow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what funding her Department has allocated to charities which provide specialist support to women who have been affected by domestic violence over the next three years. [204304]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office (GEO), has a strategic and influencing role within Government to address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender; race; disability; age; sexual orientation; religion or belief. It is managing a cross-Government emergency fund aimed at keeping a number of rape crisis centres open. However, GEO does not typically allocate funding to charities which provide specialist support services to those experiencing disadvantage and has no plans to do so for charities supporting women affected by domestic violence.

The responsibility for funding decisions about local level, including the provision of specialist support to women who have been affected by domestic violence, rests with local authorities. GEO will continue to work in partnership with the Women's National Commission, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and other Government Departments to keep a close watch on the way in which local areas prioritise funding for domestic violence services.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much money has been collected by the Child Support Agency from non-resident parents in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997; [217171]

(2) in respect of how many children child maintenance payments were made in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [217172]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 15 July 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much money has been collected by the Child Support Agency from non-resident parents in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997; [217171] and

For how many children child maintenance payments were made in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [217172]

Such information as is available is presented in the attached table, which shows both the amount of money collected or arranged and the number of children benefiting from child maintenance since 1997.

Since the introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan two years ago, the number of children benefiting from maintenance has risen by around 126,000 to over 749,000 children. The Agency also collected or arranged a record breaking £1bn in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Maintenance Collected or Arranged and Children benefiting from maintenance: 1997 to 2008

	Jarrow		*South Tyneside*		*North East*		*Great Britain*	
	Money (£000)	*Children*	*Money (£000)*	*Children*	*Money (£000)*	*Children*	*Money (£000)*	*Children*
1996/97	786	500	1,479	900	21,000	19,200	213,000	324,700
1997/98	817	600	1,753	1,200	25,000	24,200	306,000	394,700
1998/99	1,150	900	2,143	1,500	32,000	30,100	393,000	470,900
1999/2000	1,416	1,100	2,469	1,900	38,000	34,400	461,000	534,100
2000/01	1,490	600	2,623	1,500	43,000	35,300	503,000	543,300
2001/02	1,441	900	2,731	2,000	45,000	36,500	528,000	546,800
2002/03	1,482	700	2,783	2,000	47,000	34,500	573,000	548,100
2003/04	1,439	900	2,505	2,100	41,000	31,900	797,000	537,500
2004/05	1,338	1,000	2,540	2,200	42,000	34,600	798,000	561,100
2005/06	1,302	1,000	2,569	2,400	44,000	36,500	836,000	623,000
2006/07	1,318	1,000	2,524	2,400	45,000	38,900	898,000	[1]683,300
2007/08	1,536	1,400	3,356	2,800	51,000	43,000	1,010,000	[1]749,300

[1] Children figures for Great Britain include receipts on cases progressed clerically for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and do not include performance of cases held clerically by Parliamentary Constituency, Local Authority or region.

Notes:

1. Figures on money are received via the collection service as well as maintenance arranged via maintenance direct agreements. Figures for Great Britain are sourced from General Ledger and figures for Jarrow, South Tyneside and the North East sourced from Management information.
2. Figures on money for Great Britain include receipts on cases progressed clerically. Figures do not include performance of cases held clerically by Parliamentary Constituency, Local Authority or Region.
3. All Great Britain figures on money are for the relevant financial year. Figures for Jarrow, South Tyneside and the North East up to and including 2002/03 are for the 12 months up to February. For 2003/04 onwards, all information is for full financial years.
4. Money collected and arranged has been allocated to Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, South Tyneside Local Authority and the North East by matching the postcode of the non resident parent against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
5. Figures on money rounded to the nearest £1,000 for Jarrow and South Tyneside and £1m for North East and Great Britain and children rounded to the nearest 100.
6. Children benefiting are allocated to Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, South Tyneside Local Authority and the North East by matching the postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory. Some movements in the caseload may be down to changes in the postcode directory over time. The reduction in children benefiting between February 2000 and February 2001 in Jarrow is largely due to changes in the postcode directory at this time and is not a real reduction.

Employment: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of all Government employment programmes, excluding Remploy, in each year for which information is available since 1997. [203267]

Mr. Timms: There are a range of employment programmes that ensure that people get the support that they need to move back into work.

The new deal embodied the idea that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand. In return for the extra support and opportunities provided, young people were expected to take up jobs and training or see their benefits cut. As we saw this approach working, we extended it to other groups. Together with a stable economy, this has helped take a million people off key out-of-work benefits and cut claimant unemployment by 50 per cent. The latest figures show that the number of people on jobseeker's allowance is 819.3 thousand. This is down 58.1 thousand on the year, and down 800.3 thousand since 1997. The result is we are spending over £5 billion less on key out-of-work benefits.

At the same time, we have increased employment support by £800 million and been able to increase help to those who simply cannot work. This is good for the individual and for our society as a whole. All the evidence shows that work is the best route out of poverty and that by helping people into work, we make sure our economy benefits from making better use of individuals' talent while cutting the welfare bill.

Information about the cost of employment programmes is in the following table.

Employment programmes excluding Remploy

	£ million
1997-98	200
1998-99	322
1999-2000	531
2000-01	557
2001-02	791
2002-03	805
2003-04	919
2004-05	1,044
2005-06	973
2006-07	865

Notes:

1. Figures are in nominal terms.
2. Programmes included are: Employment Zones; Working Neighbourhoods Pilot; External Action Teams; Princes Youth Business Trust; Work Based Learning for Adults; European Social Fund; Jobsearch Provision; Incapacity Benefit Reforms; Ambition; Adviser Discretion Fund; Internal Action Teams; Ethnic Minorities Pilot; New Deals; Work Step; Access to Work; Residential Training Centres; Work Preparation.
3. Not all programmes ran in each year.
4. Information about programme expenditure for Employment Zones, The Prince's Trust, and Working Neighbourhoods is not available prior to 2004-05, and is not included in the figures for earlier years.
5. The figures do not include administration expenditure.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, and Employment Service annual reports.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of lone parent families that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2010 will have *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children and *(c)* three or more children aged between seven and 16 on that date; and if he will make a statement; [214951]

(2) how many and what proportion of lone parent families that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2009 will have *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children and *(c)* three or more children aged between 10 and 16 on that date; and if he will make a statement; [214952]

(3) how many and what proportion of the lone parent families that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2008 will have *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children and *(c)* three or more children aged between 12 and 16 years on that date; and if he will make a statement. [214953]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Information is available on the number of lone parents receiving income support at August 2007 who had a youngest child aged between seven and 16, 10 and 16, and 12 and 16 by number of children in those age bands at that date.

That information is in the following table.

Number of IS lone parents at August 2007

	All	*Percentage*
Whose youngest child is aged 12 to 16		
All	106,700	—
One child aged 12 to 16	76,300	71.5
Two children aged 12 to 16	26,600	24.9
Three or more children aged 12 to 16	3,800	3.6
Whose youngest child is aged 10 to 16		
All	169,400	—
One child aged 10 to 16	107,400	63.4
Two children aged 10 to 16	50,000	29.5
Three or more children aged 10 to 16	12,100	7.1
Whose youngest child is aged seven to 16		
All	287,800	—
One child aged seven to 16	157,000	54.5
Two children aged seven to 16	93,900	32.6
Three or more children aged 7 to 16	36,900	12.8

Note:
5 per cent. sample figures are uprated to 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimates are of the number of lone parent families in each region that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in *(a)* October 2009 and *(b)* October 2010; and if he will make a statement; [214954]

(2) what his latest estimates are of the number of lone parent families in each region that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [214955]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Information is available on the number of lone parents receiving income support at November 2007 who had a youngest child aged seven, 10 or 12 or over at that date by region.

That information is in the following table:

Number of income support lone parents at November 2007, by age of youngest child

Government Office Region	*12 or over*	*10 and over*	*7 and over*
North East	5,020	8,100	13,490
North West	13,010	21,200	35,770
Yorkshire and The Humber	8,280	13,530	22,480
East Midlands	6,100	9,910	16,860
West Midlands	9,780	15,990	26,920
East of England	7,630	12,720	21,760
London	22,430	36,740	62,570
South East	10,190	16,920	29,040
South West	6,260	10,330	17,540
Wales	4,900	8,130	13,920
Scotland	8,730	14,400	24,090
Claimants living abroad/ Unknown	0	0	10

Note:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS.

Jobcentre Plus: Breast Feeding

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on breastfeeding by clients in Jobcentre Plus offices; and if he will make a statement. [218630]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking about the policy on breastfeeding by clients in Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has no specific policy on mothers breastfeeding in our offices. Our managers adopt a flexible approach, which will often depend on the particular circumstances of the office. In some offices, this can include, for example, the provision of a suitable area.

I hope this is helpful.

National Insurance: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1289W, on national insurance: immigrants, how many individuals were on the list of those whose licences had been revoked supplied by the Security Industry Authority to his Department; and when his Department began checking the national insurance numbers and national insurance status of the illegal workers. [206320]

Mr. Timms: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) provided the Department for Work and Pensions with a list of 7,266 individuals on 7 March 2008, and a further 920 individuals on 16 April 2008. This total of 8,186 names included cases where licences had already been revoked and all cases where appeals were pending at the time and where revocation remained a possibility. Work on checking the cases commenced on the 10 March 2008 and has only recently been completed.

Analysis of the details provided by the SIA shows that a total of 294 national insurance numbers were issued following the introduction of the right to work test in July 2006. Detailed checks have confirmed that 269 of these did have the right to work at the time the NINO was issued. The right to work had subsequently expired which is why they were found to be working illegally by the SIA. A balance of 25 cases were found not to have had the right to work and to have been issued with a NINO incorrectly. However, this was due to a temporary misunderstanding by staff about students having an automatic right to work which was quickly rectified.

The remaining 7,892 cases were either issued before the right to work test was introduced (4,617 or about 58.5 per cent. of the 7,892) or are cases where the names or NINOs given to the SIA appear to be false (3,275 or about 41.5 per cent.). Further examination into cases where false names or NINOs appear to have been provided has been initiated where appropriate.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by single pensioners of each sex aged 85 years or over entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214957]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by pensioner couples where one or both were aged 85 years or over, who were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215758]

(3) what estimates his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by single pensioners aged 60 to 75 years or over who were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215888]

(4) what estimates the Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 60 to 75 years old, who are entitled to, but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215985]

(5) what recent estimates the Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by pensioner couples, where one or both are aged 75 to 85 years old, who are entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215993]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of the average unclaimed weekly amounts of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07'.

The following table presents average unclaimed weekly amounts of guarantee credit and council tax benefit among pensioners who are entitled to but not receiving both benefits. The amounts are presented for the different family types identified in the question and for each complete financial year since the introduction of pension credit. The amounts for each year are presented in the prices for that year and are rounded to the nearest 10 pence. These estimates are based on survey data and so will be subject to some sampling variation.

Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for the groups identified in the other parts of the question. We are therefore unable to provide estimates for those entitled to but not claiming guarantee credit and housing benefit as identified in part *(b)* of each question. Similarly we cannot provide estimates for those entitled to but not claiming guarantee credit and housing benefit and council tax benefit as identified in part *(c)* each time.

Average weekly unclaimed amount of GC and CTB

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Single male pensioners aged 85 or over	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

Average weekly unclaimed amount of GC and CTB

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Single female pensioners aged 85 or over	[1]—	45.20	50.50	47.40
Pensioner couples where one or more is aged 85 or over	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Single male pensioners aged 75 to 84	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Single female pensioners aged 75 to 84	44.80	40.30	42.40	47.90
Pensioner couples where one or more is aged 75 to 84	[1]—	54.50	51.70	55.90
Single male pensioners aged 60 to 74	[1]—	59.00	63.60	67.20
Single female pensioners aged 60 to 74	37.10	41.20	53.00	52.10
Pensioner couples where one or more is aged 60 to 74	58.00	63.80	71.40	72.60

[1] Sample sizes for the group in question are too small to yield reliable results.

Note:

Some couples are included in more than one of the specified family types. For example where a 61-year-old is married to a 76-year-old, this couple is counted both as a 'couple where one more is aged 60 to 74' and as a 'couple where one or more is aged 75 to 84'.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of employment and support allowance claimants who will receive *(a)* pensioner premium, *(b)* severe disability premium, *(c)* enhanced disability premium and *(d)* carer premium in each of the next five years. [209939]

Mr. Timms: We expect there will be similar proportions in receipt of the severe disability premium, carer's premium and pensioner premiums under employment and support allowance, as there are for the current incapacity benefits stock. The number of people eligible for the enhanced disability premium will increase under employment and support allowance, due to the automatic passport to the premium for those in the support group. This ensures that everyone in the group receiving income-related employment and support allowance will receive the enhanced disability premium.

The following table provides estimates for those receiving the premiums under incapacity benefits without the introduction of employment and support allowance and this is broadly similar to the combined incapacity benefits and employment and support allowance totals. However, the exception is the number of people in receipt of the enhanced disability premium, which is expected to rise by over 100,000 in the long-run, over and above the figures presented as follows.

Incapacity benefits—additional premiums paid through income support: Estimated benefit case loads

	2007-08 estimated outturn	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Enhanced disability premium	160,000	165,000	170,000	175,000
Severe disability premium	220,000	225,000	230,000	240,000
Carer's premium	95,000	100,000	100,000	105,000
Pensioner premium	—	—	—	—

'—' Indicates figures are negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5,000.
2. Figures are based on information underlying benefit expenditure tables published on the DWP website. The tables are accessible via the following link:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Social Security Benefits: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in each benefit delivery centre in each month since they were established; and if he will make a statement. [215755]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 15 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed in each benefit delivery centre in each month since they were established. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Centralisation of benefit payments in the Benefit Delivery Centres commenced in April 2006 and was completed by March 2008. The number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) employed each month in Benefit Delivery Centres within the period April 2006 to May 2008 is attached as an Annex to this letter. Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in how many cases debt collectors visited individuals to reclaim overpayments of benefits following the death of a claimant in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [211149]

(2) what contractual arrangements his Department has with companies for the recovery of overpayment of benefits where the claimant has died. [211218]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does employ debt collectors to recover overpayments of benefits where the debtor cannot be traced or is refusing to pay. However, it is not departmental policy to use debt collectors to reclaim overpayments following death of a claimant.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to each benefit delivery centre in each month since they were established; and if he will make a statement. [214967]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 15 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were made to each benefit delivery centre in each month since they were established. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Benefit Centralisation was completed in March 2008 and comparable information is available from November 2007. On average we answer 700,000 calls per week in 80 Benefit Delivery Centres.

The available information is attached and has also been placed in the House of Commons library.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Teenage Pregnancy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many births were recorded to mothers under 16 years of age in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [218736]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the number of births recorded to mothers under 16 years of age in (a) England (b) Wales (c) Scotland and (d) Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. (218736)

The latest year for which figures from birth registration are available is 2007. The table below shows the number of births to mothers aged 15 or below in each of the four constituent countries of the UK from 1997 to 2007.

Live births to women aged under 16[1] in England, Wales[2], Scotland and Northern Ireland[3,4], 1997 to 2007

	Number of live births			
	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1997	1,477	124	178	39
1998	1,429	113	137	56
1999	1,372	99	142	63
2000	1,376	106	136	58
2001	1,340	93	132	41
2002	1,254	97	110	36
2003	1,177	69	105	33
2004	1,155	67	96	39
2005	1,102	87	104	35
2006	1,154	79	110	35
2007[5]	1,064	75	107	36

[1] Age refers to mother's age at the time of the birth. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, age of mother is imputed where it is not stated at birth registration. Figures for Scotland exclude births where age of mother is not stated at registration.
[2] Live births registered within England and Wales are assigned to England or Wales based on the usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth—births are excluded if the usual residence is outside England and Wales.
[3] Figures for Northern Ireland exclude births to mothers not usually resident in Northern Ireland at the time of the birth. Figures for Scotland include births to mothers not usually resident in Scotland at the time of the birth.
[4] For Northern Ireland and Scotland, figures relate to the number of live births registered in a calendar year. For England and Wales, figures relate to the number of live births occurring in each calendar year.
[5] The first release of live birth figures for 2007 for England and for Wales occurred on 10 July 2008. Figures for 2007 for Scotland and for Northern Ireland are provisional.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to require abortion clinics to inform women seeking an abortion about alternatives to abortion; what guidance he has *(a)* issued and *(b)* plans to issue on this matter; what recent representations he has received (i) supporting and (ii) opposing the issuing of such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [217728]

Dawn Primarolo: The following guidance recommends that women should be provided with information on alternatives to abortion:

Procedures for the approval of independent sector places for the termination of pregnancy, Department of Health, 1999;

Independent Health Care National Minimum Standards, Department of Health, 2002;

Effective Commissioning of Sexual Health and HIV Services, A Sexual Health and HIV Commissioning Toolkit for primary care trusts and local authorities, Department of Health, 2003;

The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion, Evidence-based Clinical Guideline Number 7, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 2004; and

Recommended standards for sexual health services, Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health, 2005.

Further guidance will be included in the forthcoming Department of Health document "Good Practice Guidance for the Commissioning of Contraception and Abortion Services" due to be published later this year.

As such, we have no plans to bring forward proposals to require abortion clinics to inform women seeking an abortion about alternatives to abortion.

The Department has received around 200 letters on abortion during 2008. We are unable to break this down in the format requested.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged under 18 have been admitted to hospitals in England and Wales with illnesses associated with the consumption of alcohol in each of the last five years. [218995]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W.

Brain Cancer

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding the National Cancer Research Institute has provided for *(a)* brain tumour research and *(b)* other cancer-related research (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a proportion of its expenditure in each of the last 10 years. [R] [216380]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) was formed on 1 April 2001. The NCRI brings together the major funders (including government, the voluntary sector and industry) together with cancer patient representatives, to ensure a national strategic approach on cancer research. The information shown in the following table relates to research directly funded by NCRI partners.

£ million

	Brain and central nervous system (CNS) expenditure	*Total site-specific expenditure (and brain and CNS expenditure as a percentage of that total)*	*Total expenditure (and brain and CNS expenditure as a percentage of that total)*
2002	1.6	104 (1.6)	258 (0.6)
2003	1.9	121 (1.6)	284 (0.7)
2004	1.8	114 (1.6)	304 (0.6)
2005	2.5	128 (1.9)	348 (0.7)
2006	3.1	159 (1.9)	393 (0.8)

Cannabis: Nicotine

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned or evaluated on the physical and psychological effects of *(a)* using cannabis and nicotine together and *(b)* using each substance individually. [215722]

Dawn Primarolo: At the request of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), recently carried out a substantial review of the harms associated with cannabis use, including the physical and psychological effects of cannabis.

The report, 'Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)', was published in May 2008 and copies have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Home Office's website at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/acmd-cannabis-report-2008

Recently, the Department commissioned a systematic review of studies in this area. The peer-reviewed results of this review were published in *The Lancet* in July 2007 and confirmed the increased evidence of an association, possibly causal, between prior cannabis use and later development of psychosis and schizophrenia with a 40 per cent. increase in risk reported (up to 200 per cent. increase for at-risk heavy users).

The Department has also commissioned research into the harmful components of cannabis and tobacco smoke. This work is well advanced and a publication date will be set in due course.

The Department keeps the evidence of the physical and psychological effects of cannabis under review and has commissioned the National Addiction Centre to review the evidence of harms for the Department's publication, 'Dangerousness of Drugs (2001)', copies of which have already been placed in the Library. The Department has identified funding for the review to be updated later this year.

Dental Services: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of dentists required in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency to meet demand for NHS dental care. [217427]

Ann Keen: Decisions on the provision of dental services are left to local national health service organisations, who are best placed to judge the requirements of the communities they serve.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many Copeland residents access NHS dental treatment outside Copeland; [217429]

(2) how many dental practices in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency have stopped accepting NHS patients in the last 12 months; [217430]

(3) how many dental practices in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency are accepting new NHS patients. [217431]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally. However, my hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of Cumbria primary care trust, which might hold some of the information that has been requested.

Dentistry: Carlisle

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the first cohort of new dentists will qualify from the new dental school in Carlisle; [217426]

(2) how many students are expected to qualify as dentists from the new dental school in Carlisle each year. [217428]

Ann Keen: The new dental school at the University of Central Lancashire has four dental education centres at Accrington, Blackpool, Carlisle and Morecambe Bay where students are trained in clinical dentistry. The school admitted its first cohort of 32 students, eight of whom will be placed in Carlisle, in autumn 2007. The first students to graduate from this cohort will qualify as dentists in the summer of 2011.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217380]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers of staff who have taken early retirement in the last two years are presented in the following table:

	2007-08	*2006-07*
Departmental staff	75	21
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	0	2
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	1	1

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216375]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the 30 June 2008, there were 2,082 information technology (IT) accounts which had remote access to the Department's IT infrastructure. This included departmental staff and other authorised workers such as seconded and contract staff. Staff can connect securely from practically any location with access to a telephone or broadband line including their home address. If a mobile telephone network card has been supplied, connection is possible from anywhere with a general packet radio service or 3G signal. To establish how many accounts are solely for departmental staff or how many staff actually access the Department's IT infrastructure from their homes, will not be possible without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies have two sets of arrangements under which bonuses can be awarded. For senior civil servants (SCSs), pay arrangements are common across all Government Departments. The Department's senior pay strategy, which conforms to these common arrangements, explains that bonuses may be awarded for delivery of personal objectives or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. Individuals are required to agree their priorities with their manager at the beginning of the performance year. Line managers then make recommendations for performance bonuses which are considered by the Department's pay committees at the end of the performance year. The pay committees, which meet annually, make the final decision on whether a bonus should be awarded, relative to the performance of others. In 2006 and 2007, 85 per cent. of SCSs in the Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under the scheme. Bonuses for 2008 have yet to be decided.

For staff below the SCS, the Department and its agencies operate a special bonus scheme whereby managers may award a bonus to recognise an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding situation. This can include a temporary and substantial increase in job loading, dealing with pressures arising from temporary vacancies or job requirements, a high level of commitment and resolution to get a job done, difficulties requiring a special effort to overcome, or a contribution over and above what would normally be expected for the job and of the person, or team, concerned. Bonuses are generally small in value, but there is no specified maximum size of award. As a result, it is not possible to answer the question for this scheme.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215535]

Mr. Bradshaw: Only one planning application has been made on behalf of the Secretary of State within the last 24 months. This was for 10 flats on a site at Woodside car park, Plymouth.

No licensing applications have been made.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a full breakdown of the *(a)* central Strategic Health Authority allocations, *(b)* Department of Health administration and *(c)* other revenue budgets, noting for each how much money has not yet been allocated; [209134]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1672W, on departmental public expenditure, if he will provide a break down of the allocations to central budget holders made on 17 March. [209182]

Mr. Bradshaw: The breakdown of budgets are given in the following tables:

Table one: Central strategic health authority (SHA) allocations;

Table two: Departmental administration; and

Table three: Other revenue budgets.

All budgets were issued to budget holders by the start of this financial year.

Table 1: Central SHA allocations

Budget title	*Budget (£ million)*
Revenue support	218
Clinical Excellence Awards	202
Prison healthcare payments to Home Office	196
NHS Direct—non contestable core services	139
newGeneral Medical Services (nGMS) Contract fees for Dispensing Doctors	84
Independent sector treatment centres	78
Securing Recombinant Clotting Factors	46
Dangerous People with Severe Personality Disorders	40
SHA Strategic Development Fund (Was Modernisation Agency Corporate Programme)	39
National Cancer Screening Management—Further Funding of £39.971 million in Departmental Central Budget to be transferred to York	32
Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)	28
Community and Prison Drug Treatment	23
SHA Strategic Development Fund (was Modernisation Agency Corporate Programme)	22
Heart Improvement	18
Personal Medical Services (PMEDs): Personal Admin Costs for Non Dispensing Doctors	17
National Screening Programmes—Pilots and Quality Management. (Was Antenatal and Child Health Pilots Quality Management)	15
Rare conditions—burns	14
SHA Strategic Development Fund (was Modernisation Agency Corporate Programme)	12
Mental health choice and inclusion	11
Choose and book appointments line	11
Budgets less than £10 million	73
Total	1,319

Table 2: Departmental administration

Budget title	*Budget (£ million)*
Direct administration costs (as reported in Figure A5 of Department Report 2008)	219
Administration related expenditure e.g. Capital charges, provisions, Administration cost of collection, Consultancy	28
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	29
Total	276

Table 3: Other Revenue Budgets

Budget Title	*Budget (£ million)*
Injury benefit review	60
Emergency planning	57
School fruit and vegetable scheme	41
Injury allowances	40
Electronic Staff Records	40
National Cancer Screening	40
NHS Choices	38
Health and Social Care Policy Research	34
Ambulance Radio Contract	34
Service Delivery	33
Tobacco Smoke Free Legislation	31
Smoking	26
Substance Misuse	25
Multi-Professional Education & Training Transfer	24
Pensions Programme	22
Contract management	18
Whole system Demonstrators	18
Elective Care	18
General Scheme of Grants to National Voluntary Organisations (S64)	18
International	17

Table 3: Other Revenue Budgets

Budget Title	*Budget (£ million)*
Sexual Health	17
Children and Young People	17
Health Protection	16
Human Resource Services	16
Education and Learning	16
Secretary of States Health Inequalities Review	16
Monitor	16
Public Health Information & Intelligence and Workforce Capacity	14
Social Marketing	12
Independent Complaints	11
Life Check	11
Inequalities analytical work: Communities for Health	11
Cancer Registry Modernisation	11
Scientific Development & Bioethics (including genetics and stem cells)	10
GP Patient Survey	10
Toward Cleaner Hospitals/Healthcare Associated Infection & Cleanliness	10
Child Safety	10
Other Budgets less than £10 million including receipts	308
Total	1,167

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218722]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers and percentages of staff in the Department who have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years are given in the following table.

	Number	*Percentage*
2007-08	344	15
2006-07	343	15
2005-06	328	13

Percentages are based on numbers of staff in post at the end of each financial year.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218968]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. However information is available for the last three years on the numbers of staff who have had five or more periods of sickness of less than five days. This is given in the following table.

	Number
2007-08	93
2006-07	93
2005-06	87

Information is not available before 2005-06.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of the Food Standards Agency last met counterparts from each of the other member states of the European Union to discuss the Government's objectives for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and what the outcome of each of those meetings was; [216281]

(2) when the Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency last met officials of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Affairs to discuss the Government's objectives for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; whom he met; and what the outcome of that meeting was; [216282]

(3) how many representations he has received from *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* others on the process of setting maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive in 2008. [216283]

Dawn Primarolo: No recent meetings have been held between Health Ministers and their counterparts in other member states on setting maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials met their counterparts from other member states at a European Commission working group meeting to discuss this issue on 27 June 2008. A summary of the meeting will be made available on the Food Standards Agency's website.

We have been advised by the FSA that their officials are planning a series of bilateral meetings to discuss the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements in the near future.

No meetings have been held between the FSA's chief executive and officials of the European Commission's directorate-general for health and consumer protection specifically to discuss setting maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

In 2008, Health Ministers have received 24 written representations on setting maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements from right hon. and hon. Members and peers and five from others.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between ecstasy use and psychosis. [215764]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department keeps the evidence on the relationship between ecstasy use and psychosis under review and it has commissioned the National Addiction Centre to review the evidence of harms for the Department's publication, 'Dangerousness of Drugs (2001)', copies of which have already been placed in the Library. The Department has identified funding for the review to be updated later this year.

Additionally, the Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), has undertaken to provide advice on the harm and prevention of harms caused by ecstasy (MDMA) in the form of a published review.

The ACMD review will draw from a recent Health Technology Assessment review of ecstasy and is expected to be available to Ministers in the later part of 2008.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between crystal methamphetamine use and psychosis. [215765]

Dawn Primarolo: Although the Department has not commissioned any specific research into the relationship between crystal methamphetamine use and psychosis, it does keep the evidence base under review and has commissioned the National Addiction Centre to review the evidence of harms for the Department's publication, 'Dangerousness of Drugs (2001)', copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. The Department has identified funding for the review to be updated later this year.

In addition, the Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) carried out a substantial review entitled 'Methamphetamine Review' of the harms of methylamphetamine, including the risks of psychosis in 2005 prior to its reclassification as a Class A drug. This review is available on the Home Office's website at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/reports-research/

Methylamphetamine is also a standing item on the ACMD's Technical Committee agenda.

Food: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Food Standards Agency is taking to ensure that food containing genetically modified organisms which is sold in restaurants and public houses is identified as such to customers; and if he will make a statement. [217152]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The labelling requirements for genetically modified (GM) food are set out in the directly applicable Regulations (EC) Nos. 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed) and 1830/2003 (Traceability and Labelling of GM Organisms). GM food may only be marketed in the European Union (EU) if it has been authorised following a process which involves a rigorous safety assessment. GM organisms which have not been authorised for use in the EU are prohibited.

Regulation 1829/2003 states that its labelling requirements apply to foods which are to be delivered as such to the final consumer or mass caterers in the Community.

Local authorities are responsible for enforcement of the legislation in catering establishments and checks for the presence of GM material in foods on the basis of sampling and analysis as part of their enforcement activities.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered with general practitioners in England in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [218644]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of patients registered with general practitioners in England, by primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the following table.

Data at this level has been published online by the Information Centre for health and social care (IC) since 2006 and are available on the IC's website at:

2006

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/nhsstaff2006/gp/Primary%20Care%20Trusts.xls

2007

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/nhsstaff2007/gp/PCT%20Level.xls

Registered patients by PCT in England, as at 30 September

							Headcount
			2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	England		52,710,700	52,527,737	52,817,500	53,203,787	53,588,174
Q30	*North East SHA*		2,642,373	2,606,732	2,626,296	2,636,773	2,652,206
	5D7	Newcastle PCT	279,268	268,904	272,062	274,063	275,311
	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	205,600	202,636	210,180	209,784	211,121
	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	93,500	93,945	93,818	92,890	93,135
	5E1	North Tees PCT	186,610	188,364	187,851	189,375	188,792
	5J9	Darlington PCT	102,159	102,104	102,341	103,249	103,971
	5K1	Gateshead PCT	204,067	204,275	203,548	203,990	202,603
	5K6	South Tyneside PCT	156,775	155,761	155,492	155,660	151,096
	5K8	Sunderland Teaching PCT	289,527	280,843	283,391	285,196	284,540
	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	148,205	144,526	143,094	151,670	150,111
	5ND	County Durham PCT	516,641	511,317	518,164	515,497	524,007
	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	144,490	137,551	143,512	136,552	130,019
	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	315,522	306,906	312,843	319,067	317,410
Q31	*North West SHA*		7,184,131	7,118,563	7,147,635	7,219,728	7,229,567
	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	159,563	160,348	157,095	162,197	161,689
	5F5	Salford PCT	231,528	228,658	222,739	234,372	229,628
	5F7	Stockport PCT	294,030	294,316	294,350	294,130	295,317
	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	308,549	296,898	300,985	310,477	311,507
	5HP	Blackpool PCT	150,680	151,100	151,155	151,159	149,017
	5HQ	Bolton PCT	279,771	280,826	280,096	284,628	286,810
	5J2	Warrington PCT	198,348	199,072	199,370	200,603	199,989
	5J4	Knowsley PCT	160,302	141,213	150,659	154,493	155,367
	5J5	Oldham PCT	231,152	226,271	229,827	233,546	231,467
	5JX	Bury PCT	188,326	188,496	175,651	190,944	191,828
	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	233,098	231,995	232,559	234,557	236,049
	5NE	Cumbria PCT	502,549	503,923	508,609	514,480	516,644
	5NF	North Lancashire Teaching PCT	332,460	332,515	335,811	334,126	335,956
	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	456,764	455,818	457,495	456,602	459,041
	5NH	East Lancashire Teaching PCT	379,208	367,233	381,196	382,357	385,301
	5NJ	Sefton PCT	284,928	280,633	281,061	279,143	273,335
	5NK	Wirral PCT	336,330	335,487	334,499	334,655	334,167
	5NL	Liverpool PCT	484,300	483,193	472,250	474,435	470,095
	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	314,126	314,351	311,098	316,851	315,534
	5NN	West Cheshire PCT	255,175	256,235	255,888	256,607	258,648
	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	453,907	448,916	450,035	461,315	463,711
	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	216,021	209,823	216,505	217,730	218,797
	5NR	Trafford PCT	220,888	223,391	221,066	225,209	228,904
	5NT	Manchester PCT	507,534	507,942	510,548	514,934	520,706
Q32	*Yorkshire and Humber SHA*		5,239,916	5,233,457	5,260,062	5,310,906	5,328,651
	5LF	North Lincolnshire PCT	159,542	163,376	162,691	164,027	165,143

Registered patients by PCT in England, as at 30 September

			2003	2004	2005	2006	Headcount 2007
	5H8	Rotherham PCT	250,838	250,488	252,868	253,938	254,477
	5JA	Calderdale PCT	201,230	202,694	201,721	205,200	203,735
	5JE	Barnsley PCT	234,621	233,148	234,796	239,218	240,872
	5N1	Leeds PCT	764,773	763,980	767,465	778,374	781,616
	5N2	Kirklees PCT	402,808	400,434	399,788	408,538	407,536
	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	338,512	341,075	342,747	345,169	347,205
	5N4	Sheffield PCT	543,586	534,072	541,803	544,587	547,258
	5N5	Doncaster PCT	304,001	301,431	303,121	304,073	303,698
	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	770,223	775,156	777,454	781,780	786,984
	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	301,458	304,975	307,362	309,641	312,071
	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	295,889	282,319	281,262	283,286	283,534
	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	514,057	516,695	517,074	524,846	524,764
	TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	169,678	163,614	170,010	168,139	169,758
Q33	*East Midlands SHA*		4,349,859	4,333,787	4,388,746	4,426,994	4,480,036
	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	313,527	310,084	313,703	315,374	324,403
	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	108,328	107,474	108,384	108,814	107,559
	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	696,183	680,689	701,625	695,547	707,339
	5N7	Derby City PCT	276,897	272,617	277,675	282,017	285,241
	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	641,492	643,314	644,486	648,411	653,309
	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	684,230	694,252	704,916	699,087	725,087
	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	645,489	643,855	647,422	658,609	657,860
	5PC	Leicester City Teaching PCT	336,597	327,233	326,872	342,899	335,967
	5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	649,145	654,269	663,703	676,316	683,241
Q34	*West Midlands SHA*		5,608,459	5,581,512	5,613,419	5,629,001	5,684,311
	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	174,445	175,981	176,755	177,699	179,039
	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	378,193	371,970	372,135	377,828	381,178
	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	282,884	288,518	289,211	291,951	293,980
	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	263,070	262,800	264,556	265,898	262,545
	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	339,895	338,399	339,770	345,922	348,475
	5MK	Telford And Wrekin PCT	163,744	165,205	165,484	167,149	168,325
	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	258,982	255,789	257,126	258,188	259,250
	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	314,844	306,002	294,627	312,779	310,552
	5PE	Dudley PCT	312,027	310,805	314,637	305,151	314,560
	5PF	Sandwell PCT	318,097	304,646	314,036	324,708	326,382
	5PG	Birmingham East And North PCT	440,409	440,602	443,279	427,784	436,286
	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	210,888	208,086	207,825	202,108	208,065
	5PJ	Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	269,761	262,923	272,469	264,231	269,290
	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	593,809	594,926	598,737	601,251	603,057
	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	554,509	558,552	561,567	565,182	569,527
	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	520,373	522,432	526,533	531,164	535,740
	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	212,530	213,896	214,672	210,008	218,060
Q35	*East England SHA*		5,662,615	5,671,345	5,715,730	5,755,696	5,829,376
	5GC	Luton PCT	201,438	201,420	202,215	203,339	203,699
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	351,468	352,536	352,449	348,056	351,720
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	408,452	412,118	412,687	414,061	419,994
	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	561,184	561,831	564,390	570,717	573,659
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	561,066	562,025	566,059	570,343	574,267
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	160,695	163,647	164,999	163,070	168,084
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	579,352	578,391	592,269	585,077	598,253
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	704,253	711,775	716,650	731,525	737,337

Registered patients by PCT in England, as at 30 September

			2003	2004	2005	2006	Headcount 2007
	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	221,957	220,363	225,970	222,042	228,819
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	573,699	585,184	588,288	595,114	602,308
	5PV	West Essex PCT	269,748	269,378	267,960	274,187	274,872
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	307,035	306,251	306,933	309,921	313,816
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	355,072	352,688	358,444	366,931	370,673
	5PY	South West Essex Teaching PCT	407,196	393,738	396,418	401,313	411,875
Q36	*London SHA*		8,357,783	8,284,400	8,309,123	8,445,425	8,411,763
	5A4	Havering PCT	248,029	242,557	247,423	248,158	247,315
	5A5	Kingston PCT	177,468	177,659	179,191	181,641	181,810
	5A7	Bromley PCT	316,819	314,708	315,368	321,435	320,424
	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	253,156	254,421	259,970	262,986	263,105
	5A9	Barnet PCT	376,448	373,213	372,269	372,760	364,347
	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	258,940	259,010	260,318	266,460	263,850
	5C1	Enfield PCT	289,642	287,503	288,223	283,473	287,467
	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	170,493	164,668	167,309	176,377	176,814
	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	271,202	262,820	257,307	269,845	270,661
	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	220,739	212,599	216,280	230,348	236,828
	5C5	Newham PCT	305,285	302,192	306,359	320,594	328,247
	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	288,120	284,093	279,610	280,198	271,332
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	188,199	192,768	188,986	191,059	190,935
	5HX	Ealing PCT	361,069	367,788	356,613	366,640	348,410
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	253,558	249,525	251,717	257,835	256,246
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	352,148	344,394	345,507	346,204	348,125
	5K6	Harrow PCT	222,615	226,686	229,112	229,703	231,602
	5K7	Camden PCT	246,705	235,120	243,337	235,513	231,807
	5K8	Islington PCT	222,617	223,070	226,749	220,021	203,649
	5K9	Croydon PCT	359,756	358,525	361,059	363,647	361,266
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	195,743	190,957	183,440	183,005	181,910
	5LC	Westminster PCT	250,884	240,212	235,329	244,963	245,988
	5LD	Lambeth PCT	353,962	351,969	347,101	353,784	355,985
	5LE	Southwark PCT	281,524	277,970	285,558	291,564	297,476
	5LF	Lewisham PCT	279,822	288,731	280,550	285,786	285,978
	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	309,365	302,557	312,436	325,864	328,223
	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	197,985	198,758	198,842	192,597	194,656
	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	383,794	384,652	392,655	400,117	403,620
	5NA	Redbridge PCT	243,463	240,834	245,223	255,889	253,671
	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	257,484	253,116	253,090	263,485	257,997
	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	220,748	221,325	222,192	223,474	222,019
Q37	*South East Coast SHA*		4,377,212	4,364,414	4,375,551	4,424,349	4,454,941
	5L3	Medway PCT	275,597	272,891	274,732	276,098	270,534
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	288,518	280,663	285,148	290,282	286,646
	5P5	Surrey PCT	1,110,240	1,108,212	1,114,179	1,119,201	1,136,034
	5P6	West Sussex Teaching PCT	793,385	797,881	796,553	801,236	806,472
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	334,336	337,550	338,690	339,480	342,038
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	177,346	177,863	176,356	176,659	180,022
	5P9	West Kent PCT	669,839	666,762	667,827	682,310	690,770
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	727,951	722,592	722,066	739,083	742,425
Q38	*South Central SHA*		4,131,822	4,130,760	4,140,793	4,159,688	4,206,838
	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	234,824	235,920	237,975	240,554	245,966
	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	187,535	186,140	187,080	203,695	204,590

Registered patients by PCT in England, as at 30 September

			2003	2004	2005	2006	Headcount 2007
	5L1	Southampton City PCT	249,317	247,287	249,049	251,069	253,277
	5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,272,557	1,279,060	1,281,874	1,265,468	1,288,089
	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	512,249	514,460	514,570	517,634	518,987
	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	656,320	655,585	655,766	655,623	659,081
	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	480,244	475,339	478,953	483,819	487,318
	5QG	Berkshire East Teaching PCT	403,998	400,357	397,826	403,390	409,658
	5QT	Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	134,778	136,612	137,700	138,436	139,872
Q39	*South West SHA*		5,159,581	5,202,767	5,240,145	5,275,227	5,330,515
	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	243,585	248,746	248,448	249,644	250,906
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	260,369	259,217	261,881	263,789	265,518
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	188,566	190,434	191,373	192,507	193,105
	5K3	Swindon PCT	196,734	193,993	198,830	202,448	205,891
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	193,387	192,298	198,414	200,982	204,031
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	583,923	588,394	591,702	596,632	602,048
	5QJ	Bristol Teaching PCT	436,899	440,925	444,363	448,485	450,947
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	436,271	440,199	442,619	446,158	448,650
	5QL	Somerset PCT	510,610	513,700	516,490	510,936	524,890
	5QM	Dorset PCT	384,376	389,320	391,840	394,974	398,852
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	342,579	344,003	345,560	348,161	353,187
	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	517,763	525,843	529,854	535,079	539,777
	5QQ	Devon PCT	722,309	731,954	735,809	740,899	747,350
	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	142,209	143,741	143,762	144,533	145,363

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

General Practitioners: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what general practitioner practices within Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust *(a)* have agreed extended opening hours and *(b)* declined to extend opening hours. [218356]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected in the requested format. Information is only available for the number of general practitioner (GP) practices offering extended opening. According to the latest data collected in June 2008, there are no GP practices within Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust currently offering extended opening.

In order to extend GP opening hours £158 million has been provided nationally. The development and location of services are a matter for the national health service locally, based on need and working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter locally.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on dispensing GPs of implementing the proposals set out in the Pharmacy White Paper; what discussions he has had with dispensing GPs on the matter; and what recent representations he has received on the proposals. [217952]

Mr. Bradshaw: The White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future" looks at aligning the future provision of pharmaceutical services and sets out proposals to look at the market entry criteria for doctors and community pharmacists, (copies of this are available in the Library). No final decision has been taken over any criteria to be used in considering future arrangements for patients to receive pharmaceutical services from their general practitioner (GP).

A consultation paper will be launched later this summer following the recent publication of the primary and community care strategy—"NHS Next Stage Review" (copies of this publication have already been deposited in the Library). This will put forward possible options to address these issues and will contain an initial assessment of the impact of any proposals on patients, the national health service and contractors.

The Department has carried out a number of listening events around the country in the past two months on the Pharmacy White Paper. As part of this, over 120 dispensing GPs and practice managers attended these events. In addition, The Department's officials have met with representatives of GPs and pharmacists to discuss these matters and a large amount of correspondence has been received on the proposals contained in the White Paper.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on health centres, on what dates regional workshops have been held; and if he will place

in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* minutes and *(c)* other papers for each of these workshops. [209191]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows dates of regional workshops held to date.

Agendas and generic presentations for Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Evaluation workshops and Finance workshops are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Procurementandproposals/Procurement/ProcurementatPCTs/DH_081031#_20

Papers for all future workshops will also be available on the Department's website.

Workshops held to date are detailed in the following table:

	Workshop	*Aim/topics/content*	*Invitees*
Programme launch			
13 December 2007	National Programme Launch Conference on Local Procurements—Equitable Access to Primary Medical Care (EAPMC)	Provide an understanding of: Policy around Access to Primary Medical Care. Primary care trust (PCT) Procurement Framework and the website. What a Procurement Framework is. Level of support provided by the Department.	All PCTs and strategic health authorities (SHAs)
Workshop 1—Procurement Planning to Advert Stage			
17 January 2008	Yorks and Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Workshop 1	Provide an understanding of: Procurement processes and initiation of procurement. Covered PCT project specification to advert stage.[1]	Regional SHAs and respective PCTs[2]
23 January 2008	East of England SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
24 January 2008	North East SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
30 January 2008	North West SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
31 January 2008	West Midlands SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
4 February 2008	South West SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
14 February 2008	South East Coast SHA Workshop 1	[1]—	[2]—
Knowledge Share Workshops—Developing Commercial and Legal Understanding			
19 February 2008	Legal Workshop	Introduction to Equitable Access in primary medical care. Legal and Contract aspects.	Selected PCTs and SHAs.
26 February 2008	Commercial Workshop	Introduction to Proper Balance between: Quality, Value and Safety.	Selected PCTs and SHAs.
Procurement Hub Workshop			
4 March 2008	—	Provide an understanding of: Procurement/ Commercial Strategy. Bidder Management.	Collaborative Procurement Hubs
Workshop 2—ITT Stage			
15 April 2008	South West SHA Workshop 2	Provide an understanding of: Commercial principles that inform the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for GP Practices and Health Centres. How to adapt template documents to meet PCT needs. Building Clinical Quality Requirements into the Contract.[3]	Regional SHAs and respective PCTs[4]
16 April 2008	South East SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
22 April 2008	South Central Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
23 April 2008	Yorkshire and Humber SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
29 April 2008	West Midlands SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
30 April 2008	North West SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
1 May 2008	East of England SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
7 May 2008	North East SHA Workshop 2	[3]—	[4]—
Finance Workshops—Affordability Review and Financial Model Template			
21 April 2008	South West SHA Affordability Model and Financial Model Template (FMT)	Understanding the FMT and Affordability Models and how to adapt the FMT to meet PCT needs[5]	Regional SHAs and respective PCTs[6]
13 May 2008	Yorkshire and Humber SHA Affordability Model and FMT	[5]—	[6]—
21 May 2008	East Midlands SHA Affordability Model and FMT	[5]—	[6]—
3 June 2008	West Midlands SHA Affordability Model and FMT	[5]—	[6]—
5 June 2008	South Central SHA Affordability Model and FMT	[5]—	[6]—

	Workshop	Aim/topics/content	Invitees
6 June 2008	North West SHA Affordability Model and FMT	[5]	[6]
10 June 2008	East of England Affordability Model and FMT	[5]	[6]
12 June 2008	North East Affordability Model and FMT	[5]	[6]
Evaluation Workshops			
21 May 2008	North West SHA Evaluation Workshop	Provide an enhanced understanding of: Bidder selection process. Key elements of the ITT evaluation. ITT Requirements and Weightings. Consolidation Results.[7]	Regional SHAs and respective PCTs[8]
17 June 2008	South West	[7]	[8]
19 June 2008	East of England	[7]	[8]
25 June 2008	South East Coast	[7]	[8]
3 July 2008	North East	[7]	[8]
9 July 2008	Yorkshire and Humber	[7]	[8]

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on health centres, on what dates future regional workshops have been planned; and what the planned content is of each. [209192]

Mr. Bradshaw: Workshops planned for the future are regional (strategic health authority (SHA) Level) evaluation process workshops and a London region programme overview workshop for London primary care trusts (PCTs). These will be held during the month of July 2008.

The planned content is as follows:

Evaluation Workshop:

overview of the evaluation/bidder selection process;

pre-qualification questionnaire process overview and questions;

key elements of the invitation to tender evaluation;

invitation to tender requirements and weightings; and

consolidating results evaluation results.

London Workshop 1:

overview of the equitable access to primary medical care programme;

commercial and market management strategy overview;

an understanding of the early steps of a procurement process (service design, affordability assessment, stakeholder engagement and procurement planning and publishing advertisements); and

set out next steps and timeline for delivery for London PCTs.

All London PCTs have been invited to attend by London SHA.

Health Services: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution his Department has made to the Global Health Workforce Alliance's Health Worker Policy Initiative working group; and if he will make a statement. [213269]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department for International Development (DFID) takes the lead in the United Kingdom's support to the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA). DFID has provided £1 million to support GHWA from 2007-09, plus technical assistance in the early stages.

The Department of Health participated in the First Global Forum on Human Resources for Health convened by GHWA in Kampala in March 2008. The emerging UK Government's strategy, Health is Global, highlights the importance of GHWA.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is considering for implementing the March 2008 Global Health Workforce Alliance Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action; and if he will make a statement. [213270]

Dawn Primarolo: Health is Global: a United Kingdom Government-wide strategy will be published in the autumn. In it, we highlight the work of the Global Health Workforce Alliance and the Kampala Declaration.

Across Government, we will work with the Global Health Workforce Alliance and other partners for a comprehensive and coherent approach to tackling the global human resources for health crisis. The Government provides effective development assistance, is ensuring the national health service is increasingly self-sufficiency, and promulgates fair polices and codes of conducts for health worker migration in the UK and the rest of the world.

The Department has a responsibility in all three areas, all of which are key components of the Kampala declaration. First, we have worked with the NHS and others to make sure that the NHS is now much more self sufficient than previously. Second, the Government's response to Lord Crisp's report highlights how the Department will work with the NHS and others to support effective development assistance. Finally we have a code of conduct in the UK that ensures the NHS does not recruit from countries where we provide development assistance (unless there are specific agreements in place between the two governments). We are working with the Global Health Workforce Alliance on the development of a global code of conduct.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department took of the Better Regulation Executive's code of practice for consultation in the preparation of its consultation paper on amendments to regulations governing private and voluntary healthcare. [217537]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department took full account of the "Code of Practice on Consultation".

Health: Equality

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of health inequalities in urban communities between *(a)* white, *(b)* mixed race, *(c)* Asian and *(d)* Afro-Caribbean ethnic groups; and what steps he plans to take to reduce such inequalities. [216833]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts and local authorities assess levels of health inequalities between different ethnic groups in urban communities at local level to inform service planning. Nationally the Department has provided tools to aid this process such as joint strategic needs assessment and the health inequalities health poverty index.

The Department has also put in place specific programmes of work to tackle health inequalities between ethnic groups including race for health and delivering race equality in mental healthcare. Action to address ethnic health inequalities is an integral and vital part of our national drive to increase health overall and to reduce inequalities. In a fair society, everyone should have equal opportunity to have a healthy life and the Department is committed to facilitating equitable outcomes in the interest of all sections of the population.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital: Hospital Beds

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the number of beds in maternity facilities at Hemel Hempstead hospital since June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [217318]

Ann Keen: The Department's records show that we have received only one representation specifically on the number of beds in maternity facilities at Hemel Hempstead hospital, which was a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead in June 2008. However, from June 2005 to June 2008, we have received the following representations on the future of services at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, including maternity services:

three parliamentary questions;

one business question;

two ministerial meetings with hon. Members; and

one debate.

The Department has also received around 1,900 items of correspondence on the future of services at Hemel Hempstead hospital since June 2005. However, due to the way in which correspondence is logged, items concerned specifically with the number of beds in maternity facilities at the hospital could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS in-patients contracted *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile, *(c)* norovirus and *(d)* other healthcare-associated infections in each year since 2005; [216136]

(2) how many in-patients were treated by NHS hospitals for *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile and *(c)* norovirus in each year since 2005. [216137]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally and the best available data are from the mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). These and additional information on norovirus are given as follows.

All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

These data are only available by financial year.

April to March each year	*Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA*
2004-05	7,233
2005-06	7,096
2006-07	6,383

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection in people aged 65 years and over.

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

	Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over
2005	51,829
2006	55,636

In April 2007, mandatory surveillance was extended to include all patients aged two years and over. Annual data for patients aged less than 65 years are not yet available.

The HPA Centre for Infections (CfI) has a voluntary reporting system, General Surveillance of Outbreaks (GSURV) that collects data on outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness.

The following table gives the number of outbreaks that were reported to be due to norovirus and occurring in hospitals in England and the number of people affected (patients and staff). The reporter has recorded the pathogen as norovirus from positive laboratory specimens.

	Number of outbreaks	*Number of people affected*
2005	58	1,377
2006	50	719
2007	36	499

Note:
Many outbreaks that are suspected to be due to viral origin may not have laboratory diagnoses. The number of reported norovirus outbreaks and the number of people affected recorded will, therefore, be considerable underestimates.
Source:
HPA CfI GSURV

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptides-resistant enterococci.

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

These data are available from October to September; they are not available by calendar year.

October to September each year	*Number of cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptides-resistant enterococci*
2004-05	758
2005-06	903

The following data are collected from the mandatory surveillance of surgical site infections (SSIs) in orthopaedic categories in English NHS hospitals. Hospitals carrying out orthopaedic surgery have to participate in the surveillance of at least one category for at least one quarter of the year. All of the SSIs reported are identified during the in-patient period.

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Surgical category	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*
Hip prosthesis	16,765	211	21,046	190	25,397	181
Knee prosthesis	15,848	103	22,843	128	25,167	96
Open reduction of long bone fracture	3,277	66	2,774	44	3,678	69
Hip hemiarthroplasty	5,396	219	6,328	230	6,709	211

Human Papilloma Virus

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors underlay the decisions *(a)* to offer Cervarix and *(b)* not to offer Gardasil as part of the national immunisation programme against the human papilloma virus. [217533]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 943-44W, to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) and for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson).

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's June 2008 consultation on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, what is meant by the statement that a supplier of continence care products derives particular advantages from ownership of a dispensing appliance contractor; and if he will make a statement. [218493]

Dawn Primarolo: Dispensing appliance contractors, who dispense items that they manufacture, stand to benefit from the fact that in most cases a wholesaler will not be part of their supply chain. Hence, they are able to retain a greater proportion of the reimbursement they receive for items dispensed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's June 2008 consultation on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, for what reason the expensive prescription fee is not proposed to be extended to dispensing appliance contractors; and if he will make a statement. [218494]

Dawn Primarolo: The 'expensive prescription' fee is to reflect where pharmacies have had to purchase an expensive item to dispense yet they are not reimbursed the final total amount until more than two months after dispensing. Dispensing appliance contractors are reimbursed one month earlier than pharmacists. However, proposals relating to service and service payment regarding products in part IX of the Drug Tariff dispensed by pharmacies and appliance contractors, are subject to a consultation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with respect to his Department's June 2008 consultation on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, what estimate his Department has made of the remuneration that will be provided in respect of *(a)* stoma items and services and *(b)* urology items and services; and if he will make a statement. [218496]

Dawn Primarolo: Subject to the outcome of the consultation, it is estimated that the total reimbursement for stoma and urology appliances and remuneration for related services would be as follows. These figures are based on the number of items dispensed in 2007:

	£ million
Stoma appliances and related services	184.9
Urology appliances and related services	111.7

Maternity Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity units were closed in NHS hospitals in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [216835]

Ann Keen: That information is not collected centrally.

Medical Records: Lost Property

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures are followed to retrieve NHS patient information which is *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen; [218136]

(2) what safeguards are in place to prevent NHS patients' information being *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen. [218205]

Mr. Bradshaw: The security of patient records is a local responsibility and each national health service body is legally responsible for holding information securely. However, the Department provides comprehensive policy, guidance and supporting tools for security compliance to NHS bodies and has also made encryption software available to all NHS trusts through a central procurement. The 10 strategic health authorities hold local organisations to account for their performance.

The Department is also providing, through the National Programme for IT, electronic patient record systems that are protected by the highest levels of access controls and other security measures, a secure NHS network for exchanging information that is centrally monitored and strongly protected, and secure NHS e-mail facilities that encrypt all data in transit within the system.

Action taken to retrieve lost or stolen patient information is locally determined and will depend on the circumstances of each particular event, but will typically include involvement of the police where theft has occurred or is suspected, and an internal investigation into the circumstances, with disciplinary procedures invoked where necessary and appropriate.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients' records were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in (i) Leicester and (ii) England in the last 12 months. [218137]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 363W.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have been sent abroad for operations in the last three months; in which countries they have been treated; what the net effect on costs to the NHS was; and if he will make a statement. [216544]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently two routes that cover patients who choose to go to another European Economic Area (EEA) country for treatment: the E112 form and the Article 49 route. Information is held centrally on the former but not on the latter as the decision about reimbursement is the responsibility of the local commissioner. The Department also does not hold centrally information about patients referred to countries outside of the EEA.

Departmental data show that 275 E112 forms (used to refer national health service patients to other EEA countries) were issued between April and June 2008. The countries of treatment can be found in the following table. The Department is not able to tell what the cost saving (if any) will be for the NHS as, due to the nature of the claims process between member states, the United Kingdom may not receive the bill for the cost of this treatment for 18 months or more.

The Department recognises that in accordance with EC Regulation 1408/71 and Article 49, British citizens are entitled to go to another country for healthcare, subject to certain conditions.

Countries of treatment

	Number
Belgium	6
France	65
Greece	3
Italy	6
Poland	132
Sweden	7
Switzerland	3
Austria	6
Czech Republic	7
Finland	5
Germany	16
Hungary	3
Slovakia	8
Spain	6
Netherlands	2
Total	275

Medical Treatments: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many exceptional funding requests for treatment were *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined by primary care trusts in (i) Leeds West constituency, (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District and (iii) England in each year since 2000. [218024]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services on behalf of their populations and to make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all relevant circumstances and their statutory responsibilities and the principles of administrative law set out by the courts, particularly in relation to funding policies and whether to fund treatment in exceptional circumstances.

The draft "National Health Service Constitution" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) makes clear the patient's right to expect local decisions on funding for drugs, for which National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance is not available, to be made rationally following proper consideration of the evidence. To underpin this, the Government will require PCTs to put in place clear and transparent arrangements both for local decision-making on funding of new drugs and for considering exceptional funding requests, and to publish information on those arrangements. Where the local NHS decides not to fund a treatment, the patient and clinician can expect an explanation.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the resources available to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce commissioning guides. [218650]

Dawn Primarolo: No separate review is required. There will be significant new investment in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to enable it to take on the additional roles proposed in Lord Darzi's 'High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report' (CM 7432), published last month, copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider making compliance with clinical guidelines produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence mandatory upon all NHS healthcare trusts. [218649]

Dawn Primarolo: Clinical guidelines relate to a whole pathway of care and can make a large number of recommendations spanning all stages of care from the diagnosis to treatment of a condition. They are not mandatory or subject to the same performance management assessment as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE'S) technology appraisals in recognition of their complexity. Clinical guidelines published by NICE are developmental standards for the national health service and the Government expect them to be fully implemented over time.

NHS: Training

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for NHS bursaries were received from *(a)* medical and *(b)* dental students in each of the last five years; how many applicants were successful in each year; and how much was paid. [217106]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of NHS bursary awards assessed and the amounts paid for medical and dental students in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Number of NHS bursary awards assessed and amounts paid for medical and dental students by academic year

	Number of bursary holders			*Amount paid (£)*		
Academic year	*Medical*	*Dental*	*Total*	*Medical*	*Dental*	*Total*
2002-03	4,452	675	5,127	5,993,111	775,492	6,768,603
2003-04	6,447	535	6,982	9,939,850	900,697	10,840,547
2004-05	7,068	572	7,640	12,269,626	886,568	13,156,194
2005-06	8,385	528	8,913	14,787,446	843,334	15,630,780
2006-07	9,159	589	9,748	17,229,398	1,053,332	18,282,729

Note:
Number of Students for whom a NHS bursary award assessed is shown rather than number of applications because:
if an application is received and returned for more information / students signature etc. NHS Student Bursaries Unit do not hold the data on the number received and returned, which are then never returned with the additional information (due to the fact they decide in the interim period not to apply for NHS Bursary funding);
if an application is received, and rejected on residency eligibility grounds, NHS Student Bursaries receive that application, but do not assess their entitlement as they are rejected before that assessment is made;
if an application is received, but NHS Student Bursaries need more information to determine if they are eligible on residency grounds, they have received that application, but do not assess their entitlement until they provide the additional information;
NHS Student Bursaries have only been collating data about 'applications received' for internal service level agreement monitoring purposes since 2005-06 and therefore they do not have five years worth of data about 'applications received' and can not provide valid year on year comparative figures;
NHS Student Bursaries' database only holds details of the course that the student was actually funded for in that academic year, accordingly all medical and dental students who intercalated (undertook a one year BSc course part way through their medical/dental course) in any academic year have to be included with the figures for the medical students (because the vast majority of intercalating students are medical students) as they can not interrogate the data to clarify whether an intercalated student was a medical or dental student in previous or future academic years; and
Due to the way tuition fee payments were paid prior to 2005-06, NHS Student Bursaries only hold data in relation to tuition fee payments for the academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07, therefore to ensure that the figures for the last five years compare 'like with like' details for 'amounts paid' they do not include any amounts paid for tuition fees in any academic year.
Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

Obesity: Children

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* English region were obese in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216541]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

The national child measurement programme provides the most comprehensive data on obesity among children aged 4-5 and 10-11 years; now in its third year, it has produced one of the largest collections of data on children's height and weight in the world. The most recent available data, broken down by London local authority and strategic health authority (SHA) in England, can be found, respectively, in table C on pages 39 to 40 and table B on page 38, National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results, which was published on 21 February 21 2008. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

Further information on the percentage of children in England who are obese, for ages two to 15 years, broken down by Government Office Region and SHA in England, is collected in the Health Survey for England. The most recent available data for children can be found in Tables 2.3 and 2.11, pages 36 and 43, Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children, which was published on 31 January 2008. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

Organs: Donors

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the black market in human organs is stopped; and if he will make a statement. [219129]

Ann Keen: In the United Kingdom, it is unlawful under the Human Tissue Act 2004 and the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 to buy and sell organs for transplantation, or to attempt to buy and sell organs for transplantation.

The Human Tissue Authority also administers the approval system for all live organ donations across the UK, and includes a number of safeguards in their approval system to ensure that individuals are not being coerced, or receiving commercial gain.

Out-Patients: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many missed appointments there have been *(a)* at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, *(b)* in Luton Primary Care Trust and *(c)* in Luton Mental Health Trust in the last 12 months; and what the cost of missed appointments in each category was over that period. [217435]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table contains information about missed appointments ('did not attends' = DNAs) at Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Luton Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2007-08. Information is not collected centrally about DNAs for community-based services, and therefore information is not available for Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust.

Information about the cost of missed appointments is not collected centrally.

DNAs at Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Luton PCT in 2007-08

Organisation name	*First out-patient attendance DNAs*	*Subsequent out-patient attendances DNAs*	*In-patient DNAs*	*Total DNAs*
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	8,814	17,598	616	27,028
Luton PCT	61	227	0	288

Source:
Department of Health form Quarterly activity return provider-based.

Overseas Visitors

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department employs any overseas visitors' officers; and what their responsibilities are. [218058]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs two overseas visitors' officers. Their responsibilities involve the administration and management of visits from overseas to the Department, national health service and related bodies. They also develop links and partnerships with overseas ministries, foreign health industry and trade bodies along with United Kingdom organisations with international health interests. They are supervised by a third officer with a wider remit.

Pain: Health Services

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce a national framework for the management of chronic pain in England. [217061]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to introduce a national framework for the management of chronic pain in England.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services for people with pain, taking into account resources they have available, the needs of their wider population and available guidance on best practice. The quality of services should be monitored locally to ensure it is provided to meet the needs of the local population. The Department is supporting commissioning through the recent publication of an 18-week pathway for the management and treatment of chronic pain. NHS Choices has also provided information that will raise the awareness of chronic pain and treatments.

As part of the NHS Next Stage review lead by Lord Darzi, working groups of local clinicians in each strategic health authority have carried out a detailed review of clinical pathways across all areas of health care, and have identified what they believe to be the best models of care for local patients. The results have now been published and PCTs will now be responsible for working out in discussion with local partners, patients and the general public how best to commission the proposed improvements.

Prescription Drugs

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to alter the best practice guidance to primary care trusts on the funding of drug treatments in the absence of guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [218503]

Dawn Primarolo: In 'Good Practice Guidance on Managing the Introduction of New Healthcare Interventions and Links to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisal Guidance', published in December 2006 (copies of which have been placed in the Library), on medicines where no NICE guidance exists, the Department gave a commitment to undertake a review. We are planning to review and extend this guidance in 2009 and we will consult on draft guidance as part of this process.

Sex: Health Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include within the review of his Department's sexual health and HIV strategy consideration of the findings of the study commissioned by his Department on the economics of family planning and underage conceptions by Professor David Patton. [217724]

Dawn Primarolo: The review of the 2001 National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV is being undertaken by the Sexual Health Independent Advisory Group (SHIAG). This is an independent review and it is for SHIAG to consider what evidence and studies they include in the Review.

Smoking

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to help smokers stop smoking in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England. [215395]

Dawn Primarolo: Although smoking prevalence has declined in the North West over the past decade, it is still above the all-England average. The number of deaths from smoking among people aged 35 and over is also higher in the North West than the all-England average.

A £1.8 million programme to reduce smoking rates in the North West is now being implemented. Current activity includes supporting national smoke free campaigns,

making NHS Stop Smoking Services widely available, and partnership action to reducing the appeal and availability of illicit tobacco.

National action on reducing smoking prevalence over the past decade is set out in the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", published in May 2008. Copies of the Consultation have already been placed in the Library.

The Government have undertaken to develop a new National Tobacco Control Strategy to further reduce smoking rates in the future. The current consultation will inform the development of the strategy, and includes questions on protecting children and young people from smoking, and on helping smokers to quit.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce smoking rates in the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) socio-economic and (ii) ethnic group; what steps he plans to take further to reduce smoking rates; what funding his Department has allocated to the reduction of smoking rates in each of the last five years; what funding he intends to allocate over the current comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [216406]

Dawn Primarolo: In England, tobacco control activity has been guided by the Department's six-strand strategy, based on international evidence that a co-ordinated and multi-faceted response is required to effectively tackle tobacco use.

National action on reducing smoking prevalence over the past decade is set out in the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", published in May 2008 (copies of which have already been placed in the Library), and in the Department's annual reports over the period.

The Government have undertaken to develop a new national tobacco control strategy to further reduce smoking rates in the future. The current consultation will inform the development of the strategy, and includes questions on protecting children and young people from smoking, and on helping smokers to quit.

NHS Stop Smoking Services continue to provide vital support to smokers to quit. Local national health service bodies provide quit support that is tailored to the needs of local communities. A range of guidance has been published on the provision of smoking cessation services by the Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). In May, Communities and Local Government published "Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: A guide for Stop Smoking Service managers".

Smokers can also quit with free support from the NHS Smoking Helpline and 'Together' programme which provide information, advice and motivation by telephone, e-mail, post or by text message at key moments during the smoker's quitting process. The NHS Pregnancy Smoking Helpline and the Asian Tobacco Helpline are also in operation.

The Department has provided the following funding to support the Government's national tobacco strategies set out as follows:

The following table shows advertising expenditure on the dangers of smoking from 2003-04 to2007-08.

Expenditure on education campaigns financial year	*Tobacco control (£ million)*
2003-04	17.76
2004-05	25.00
2005-06	23.00
2006-07	13.50
2007-08	11.39

The Department awarded a grant of £2.67 million to Cancer Research UK (CRUK) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to fund the charity's Light and Mild campaign in 2003-04. A further grant of £3 million grant was made in 2006-07 for CRUK's media campaign on the harmful constituents of second-hand smoke.

The Department awarded a grant of £5 million to British Heart Foundation (BHF) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to fund the charity's media campaign in 2004-05 on heart disease caused by smoking. A further grant of £4 million was made in 2005-06 to BHF for a media campaign highlighting the dangers of smoking and heart disease.

In each year since 2003, £2 million has been funding allocated to the nationwide system of local tobacco alliances and the regional tobacco policy managers.

Financial year	*Financial allocations to the national health service for stop smoking services (£ million)*
2003-04	41
2004-05	46
2005-06	51
2006-07	56
2007-08	56

The Department's grants to Action on Smoking Health under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Grants (£)*
2003-04	164,000
2004-05	168,000
2005-06	180,000
2006-07	185,400
2007-08	191,000

The Department's grants to the No Smoking Day organisation are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Grants (£)*
2003-04	250,000
2004-05	250,000
2005-06	250,000
2006-07	250,000
2007-08	250,000

The Department's grants to QUIT (an organisation that provides support to smokers who want to quit smoking) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Grants (£)*
2003-04	20,000
2004-05	25,000

Future funding for national tobacco control will be subject to the outcomes of the new national tobacco control strategy.

Smoking: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who have ceased smoking in the London Borough of Bexley since the introduction of the smoking ban. [218221]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is collected quarterly at primary care trust level on people accessing the NHS Stop Smoking Services who set a quit date and those who successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow up. However, information is not available about people who have ceased smoking independently.

The smoke-free law was introduced in England on 1 July 2007, and the latest data available are for quarter three of 2007-08. The following table shows the number of people in Bexley care trust area accessing the NHS Stop Smoking Services who set a quit date and those who successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow up, for quarter two and quarter three of 2007-08 and the total for July 2007 to December 2007.

Number of people setting a quit date and number of successful quitters in Bexley care trust in 2007-08

Period	Number setting a quit date	Number of successful quitters
Quarter two (July to September 2007)	483	328
Quarter three (October to December 2007)	446	238
Total for July to December 2007	929	566

Notes:
1. A client is counted as having successfully quit smoking if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date. The four-week follow-up (based on self report) must be completed within six weeks of the quit date. Persons not contacted within this time are treated as lost to follow-up for evaluation purposes.
2. Figures published in Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, July to December 2007 (quarter two and three bulletin) are provisional. Provisional results from the Stop Smoking Services are published on a quarterly basis. An annual bulletin will be published in August 2008 that represents finalised figures for the year April 2007 to March 2008.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care: Lifestyle Statistics, Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England.

Smoking: Young People

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated smoking prevalence rates were amongst *(a)* 11 to 15, *(b)* 16 to 19 and *(c)* 20 to 24 year-olds in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement on the trends. [218369]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Smoking prevalence rates among 11 to 15, 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year-olds in each year since 1998 are set out in the following table. There has been a decrease in prevalence of cigarette smoking among all three age groups since 1998, particularly among those aged 16 or over.

Prevalence of cigarette smoking by age band, England

Percentage

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Age								
11 to 15[1]	11	10	10	10	9	9	9	9
16 to 19[2]	31	30	28	25	25	26	25	20
20 to 24[2]	40	36	37	38	36	33	32	31

[1] Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England 2006, Information Centre for health and social care.
[2] General Household Survey 2006, Office for National Statistics.

Note:
Data are not available for 1999.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the main predictors of regular smoking among young people; and what steps he is taking to tackle them. [218402]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government remain concerned about youth uptake of smoking. Around two-thirds of smokers say they started to regularly smoke before they turned 18.

Protecting children and young people is one of the key areas within the Government's recently published 'Consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control', and includes references to the predictors of regular smoking by young people. Copies of the consultation have already been placed in the Library.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the influence of smoking imagery on young people. [218849]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received a report from the British Medical Association entitled 'Forever cool: the influence of smoking imagery on young people'. The report calls for a range of measures to reduce young people's exposure to positive images of smoking.

The Department has recently published 'A Consultation on the Future of tobacco control'. Copies of the consultation have already been placed in the Library. The consultation seeks views on protecting children and young people from smoking. The paper includes the evidence on the influence of tobacco promotion on young people and seeks views on banning the display of tobacco products in retail outlets.

JUSTICE

Young People: Reoffending

13. **Mr. Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to

prevent young people convicted of knife and gun crime from reoffending. [218571]

Mr. Straw: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary yesterday gave further details to this House of the new national knife crime programme in the eight police areas where knife crime is most prevalent. The courts have made clear their increasingly tough approach. Sir Igor Judge, now Lord Chief Designate said in the case of Povey

> "Even if the offender does no more than carry the weapon, even when the weapon is not used to threaten or cause fear, when considering the seriousness of the offence courts should bear in mind the harm which the weapon might foreseeably have caused. So the message is stark. This is a serious offence and it should be treated with the seriousness it deserves".

Circuit Judges

14. **Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the provision of circuit judges for child care cases in north and mid Wales; and if he will make a statement. [218572]

Bridget Prentice: One, in a letter from the hon. Gentleman on 8 July 2008. The complement of circuit judges has been reduced by the unfortunate illness of His Honour Judge Dafydd Hughes and the delay in securing a district judge replacement at Rhyl. However, no judicial time has been lost, and replacement judges have been found to cover all existing cases listed in the North Wales courts.

Voting Rights

15. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to extend voting rights to sentenced prisoners in England and Wales. [218573]

Bridget Prentice: Following the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Hirst *v.* UK requires the Government to reconsider their policy of a blanket ban on the voting rights of convicted prisoners. That requirement is a consequence of a judgment in the European Court of Human Rights and is something that would need to be implemented in the UK even if the Human Rights Act was not in place.

In response, we undertook a first stage consultation which concluded in March 2007. However, since that point the context for the debate about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and in particular the exercise of the franchise, in the United Kingdom has changed significantly following the launch of the Governance of Britain Green Paper and publication of the Goldsmith Review.

I can confirm that the Government remain committed to carrying out a second, more detailed public consultation on how voting rights might be granted to serving prisoners, and how far those rights should be extended. But we consider it essential that any changes to the law to extend the franchise to those held in custody are considered in the context of the wider development of policy on the franchise and the rights that attach to British citizenship.

During April 2008 we provided the Committee of Ministers with a detailed note about implementing the Hirst judgment and we have undertaken to submit further information in due course on the form and timing of a further consultation in the light of the wider debate which is now taking place. Following consideration of the outcome of consultation, legislation to implement the Government's final approach will be brought forward as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Reoffending

16. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce reoffending. [218574]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to reducing reoffending in England and Wales. In the last 10 years the Government have invested in a wide range of programmes to tackle the root causes of offending behaviour and punish and reform offenders. This is reflected in the Government's commitment to reduce the volume of reoffending and address the level of serious re-offences in the new 'Make Communities Safer' PSA 23. To provide strategic direction for this work and to promote an effective cross-government partnership response, I co-chair a Reducing Re-Offending Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) which includes Ministers from 14 Government Departments.

Community Sentences

17. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to tailor community sentences to women offenders. [218575]

Maria Eagle: The Government recognise that women offenders have specific needs which are being addressed in the design of community sentences in order to reducing their reoffending. The Community Order introduced in 2005 enables courts to tailor community sentences to the needs of all offenders. Both nationally and at probation area levels, we are looking to increase the provision of community-based sentences for women including the availability of women-only settings for their delivery. We are also looking to increase the skills and knowledge within the probation service to enable staff to deliver appropriate interventions that will enable more women to complete their sentence successfully.

Foreign Prisoners: Deportation

18. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the deportation of foreign prisoners on their release from prison. [218576]

Mr. Hanson: I regularly have meetings and discussions with Home Office Ministers on a range of issues, including the deportation of foreign national prisoners.

Restraint: Secure Accommodation

19. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the report on the use of restraint in secure accommodation facilities for young people. [218577]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are giving careful consideration to the recommendations of the chairs of the independent review of restraint in juvenile secure settings, Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge. We intend to publish the chairs' full report alongside our response to its recommendations by the end of October.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

20. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures he has put in place to increase co-operation with other Government Departments to improve the rehabilitation of offenders. [218578]

Mr. Hanson: The new suite of public service agreements (PSAs), and in particular the Home Office led 'Make Communities Safer' and Cabinet Office led 'Socially Excluded Adults' PSAs, provide important levers to support a cross-government focus on offender rehabilitation and reducing re-offending. To provide strategic direction for this work and to promote an effective cross-government partnership response, I co-chair a Reducing Re-Offending Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) which includes Ministers from 14 Government Departments. We have recently completed a formal consultation that builds on our partnership work to date and informs us in moving forward.

Sharia Law

21. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Lord Chief Justice on the use of sharia law in the arbitration of some disputes. [218579]

Bridget Prentice: The Lord Chief Justice and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor meet on a regular basis. The Lord Chief Justice set out his views on sharia law in a lecture on 2 July 2008 at the East London Muslim Centre.

Community Justice

22. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress is being made on implementing his policy on community justice; and if he will make a statement. [218580]

Maria Eagle: The Government want to work towards making community justice the norm. Therefore, we have set up 13 community justice courts across England and Wales with a view to testing the concept fully before extending out to all courts.

We are taking the lessons learned from these projects and will be working during 2008 to help the magistrates courts improve engagement and involvement with the communities they serve.

Restorative Justice

23. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent consideration he has given to the use of restorative justice practices in the criminal justice system. [218581]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are considering any encouragement they can provide to support continued growth of adult restorative justice, taking account of the research report published on 16 June on its impact on reoffending. Restorative justice is embedded in youth justice. Pilots of a new out of court disposal started in April 2008.

Knife Crime

24. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of sentencing options for those persons convicted of a knife crime. [218582]

Mr. Hanson: We have announced that anyone carrying a knife can expect to be prosecuted; and that a tough community penalty or custodial sentence will result.

Electoral Systems

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on his Department's review of electoral systems. [218559]

Mr. Wills: We published the Review of Voting Systems earlier this year which considers the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997. The review forms part of the continuing debate on electoral reform. The White Paper on House of Lords reform, published yesterday, which includes a number of options on possible voting systems for elections to an elected second Chamber, contributes to this continuing debate.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that victims' personal statements are *(a)* encouraged, *(b)* drawn to courts' attention and *(c)* taken into account. [218657]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has been reviewing the use of the victim personal statement. We are currently updating guidance for victims and CJS practitioners with a view to running an awareness raising campaign later this year.

One example of the way in which use of the VPS in court has developed is via the CPS Victim Focus Scheme where (since October 2007) in cases of murder, manslaughter and qualifying cases involving road traffic fatalities the prosecutor will offer to read out in court a VPS made by a family member of the victim.

Crimes of Violence: Pregnant Women

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what statutory offences there are of causing a miscarriage through violence against a pregnant woman; and how many prosecutions there have been for such offences in the last 12 months. [217712]

Mr. Straw: Causing a miscarriage is an offence under section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Causing a child to die if the child is capable of being born alive is an offence under section 1 of the Infant

Life Preservation Act 1929. Both are subject to the Abortion Act 1967, which makes the medical termination of pregnancy lawful in certain circumstances. Offences under these Acts do not differentiate between miscarriages caused by violence and other miscarriages.

If a miscarriage is caused by violence, it would normally be dealt with as an offence of violence against the mother, such as assault causing actual bodily harm. In this case, the circumstances of the offence are not recorded separately.

The information reported to the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings shows one prosecution for child destruction under section 1 of the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929 and no prosecutions under section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in 2006, the latest year for which data have been published. Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the change has been in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies since July 2006. [217065]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and parts of the Home Office, namely the National Offender Management Service, which includes HM Prison Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The following figures show the number of employees for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs for the period mentioned, and for the first year of the new Ministry of Justice. The machinery of government change creating the new Ministry brought together several organisations from the Home Office, contributing to the significant increase against those figures for the former DCA. The new organisations account for 99 per cent. of the overall increase in the number of staff, most of whom work for HM Prison Service. Staff within the Probation Service are paid through a number of different arrangements with local authorities and are not included in these figures.

Ministry of Justice: Staff numbers

Full-time equivalents (FTEs)

		March		
	Staff	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs	Permanent	24,069	24,567	24,594
	Casual	498	710	1,074
Ministry of Justice	Permanent HM Prison Service	—	—	47,626
	Casual HM Prison Service	—	—	1,714
	Permanent NOMS and OCJR	—	—	1,751
	Casual NOMS and OCJR	—	—	303
Total		24,567	25,277	77,062
Increase		—	710	391

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the victims of trafficking discovered by Pentameter II have been provided with legal representation. [217967]

Maria Eagle: All the victims that were referred to the UK Border Agency and the Poppy project will have had access to independent legal advice relating to immigration issues.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to establish more refuges for victims of trafficking throughout the UK. [217974]

Maria Eagle: This year we are investing a further £1.3 million into the Poppy project to support women trafficked into sexual exploitation. This covers the core bespoke support services, the outreach service and the continuation of the capacity building work that started during Operation Pentameter II which resulted in service level agreements being put in place with other women's refuges across the country.

The Government have given their commitment to ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of the year. This will require us to enhance our existing arrangements by continuing to build capacity to support these victims and to develop support arrangements for victims trafficked into forced labour.

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many claims for redress and compensation the Legal Services Commission received in respect of *(a)* the unified contract, *(b)* online services provided by the Commission and *(c)* late payments by the Commission in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09; what action the Commission has taken in response; and which claims remain outstanding; [217287]

(2) how the Legal Services Commission records complaints under its complaints procedures; what complaints databases it maintains; what classes of information are recorded on such databases; which departments in the Commission maintain records of complaints; and what grade of official is responsible for the *(a)* entry, *(b)* verification and accuracy, *(c)* audit and *(d)* security of the data of such information; [217293]

(3) how many complaints handlers there are within the Legal Services Commission to handle complaints made to the Commission; and where each is located; [217296]

(4) how many complaints were received about information relating to account holders' payments held by the Legal Services Commission being *(a)* sent to the wrong suppliers and *(b)* sent in a unusable format since 1April 2008; [217298]

(5) how many payments have not been made by the Legal Services Commission on the due date to suppliers since 1 April 2008; [217299]

(6) how many of the complaints under the Legal Services Commission's complaints procedures have been made by *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* those seeking legal services funded by the Legal Services Commission and *(c)* providers of services funded by the Legal Services Commission in each year since 2004-05; [217301]

(7) how many telephone complaints have been made to (a) the Chief Executive's Office, *(b)* the Central Customer Service Unit and *(c)* the North of England Regional Office of the Legal Services Commission on (i) non-compliance with the Commission's complaints procedure guarantee and (ii) failures to respond to complaints about the Commission's non-compliance with its complaint procedure guarantee; and in what form such complaints were recorded; [217303]

(8) how much in due payments was not processed by the date due by the Legal Services Commission since 1 April 2008; [217304]

(9) what *(a)* interest, *(b)* compensation and *(c)* other costs have been paid by the Legal Services Commission to suppliers to whom the Commission failed to make due payments by the due date since 1 April 2008. [217305]

Maria Eagle: Seven members of staff work in the Legal Services Commission's Central Customer Service Unit in London, which is responsible for handling complaints. Many other staff deal with a wide range of telephone, email and written inquiries from both providers and clients in the LSCs other offices including the regions and Wales. The information is not held centrally in the format requested and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 15 May 2008, on prisoners' pay (Reference: 201584). [217782]

Mr. Hanson: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. A letter has been issued today.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the fraudulent registration of vehicles in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [218916]

Maria Eagle: Data collected centrally combine all the offences within the offence group "Fraud, forgery etc. associated with registration and licensing documents". As a result we are unable to identify separately prosecutions involving fraud for offences under ss. 44 and 45 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994.

Parole

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were dealt with by the Parole Board's *(a)* oral hearings team and *(b)* paper hearings team in each of the last five years. [217630]

Mr. Hanson: Information from the Parole Board about the number of cases dealt with by their oral hearings team and paper hearings team in each of the last five years is provided in the following table.

	(a) Number of oral hearings	*(b) Number of paper hearings*
2003-04	2,372	15,069
2004-05	2,317	16,617
2005-06	2,982	16,824
2006-07	3,402	22,526
2007-08	4,518	26,654

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* minimum period was between prisoners becoming eligible for a Parole Board (i) oral hearing and (ii) paper hearing and the hearing taking place in the latest period for which figures are available. [217631]

Mr. Hanson: The Parole Board does not hold this information and it is not available from any other source.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are awaiting a decision letter following a Parole Board *(a)* oral hearing and *(b)* paper hearing. [217632]

Mr. Hanson: The Parole Board has a target of issuing oral hearing decisions within five working days and paper hearing decisions within two working days. Information from the Board is that on 9 July 2008, 13 oral hearing cases and 18 paper hearing cases were awaiting the issue of a decision letter.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are awaiting a Parole Board oral hearing. [217633]

Mr. Hanson: I am advised by the Parole Board that there were 949 prisoners awaiting an oral hearing at the end of June 2008.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements the Parole Board has made to protect the security and confidentiality of communications between its staff and prisoners' solicitors. [217634]

Mr. Hanson: In response to Government initiatives at the beginning of this year, the Parole Board carried out a general review of security matters throughout their organisation including the way in which communication is conducted with prisoners' representatives. A new security policy and manual for staff was issued in April 2008.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Parole Board dossiers were destroyed in each of the last 12 months; and on what criteria the decisions to authorise their destruction were based. [217638]

Mr. Hanson: I am advised by the Parole Board that for the period between June 2007 and June 2008, 323 files were destroyed. It is normal practice for files for oral hearing cases to be destroyed after nine months from the date of the hearing unless further action has been initiated.

Parole Board: Civil Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions legal proceedings were brought against the Parole Board for alleged failure to release prisoners in a timely fashion in each of the last five years; in how many of these cases the proceedings were successful; and how much compensation was paid in respect of each. [217643]

Mr. Hanson: The Parole Board does not hold records of all claims for compensation, only those where a payment is made. In some cases, payment may have been ex-gratia and not necessarily as a result of successful legal proceedings. Records of payments made in compensation for unacceptable delays in conducting a hearing have been kept by the Parole Board since April 2006. There have been 29 payments made since then and the amounts of each of these are contained in the following table:

	£
1	7,500
2	500
3	1,500
4	4,000
5	600
6	807.50
7	4,000
8	2,231.55
9	2,000
10	1,750
11	1,500
12	3,000
13	2,000
14	6,000
15	5,000
16	1,500
17	1,750
18	4,500
19	3,000
20	1,500
21	3,000
22	1,500
23	10,000
24	10,000
25	5,000
26	3,000
27	2,000
28	12,000
29	2,000
Total	103,139.05

Parole Board: Correspondence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements the Parole Board has for sorting incoming mail; whether there have been changes to the arrangements in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [217639]

Mr. Hanson: I am informed by the Parole Board that their incoming mail is initially scanned centrally for suspect devices, as is all mail for secure Government buildings in London. It is then delivered by Government messenger service to the board's London offices. The mail is not opened until it has been received by individual teams within the board who then open and action the mail. Following a recent review a new central services team will be set up to handle incoming mail once it arrives with the board and will be supported by a new post database that has been developed for that purpose.

Parole Board: Lost Property

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Parole Board dossiers have been lost in the last 12 months. [217640]

Mr. Hanson: The Parole Board is not aware of any dossiers being lost during this period.

Parole Board: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many caseworkers were employed by the Parole Board to deal with *(a)* oral hearings and *(b)* paper hearings in each of the last five years. [217629]

Mr. Hanson: Information from the Parole Board on the numbers of caseworkers employed to deal with oral and paper hearings is contained in the following tables.

(a) Number of caseworkers on oral hearings

	Permanent	*Templagency*
2004-05	23	2
2005-06	27	4
2006-07	29	1
2007-08	29	5
2008-09	24	7

(b) Number of caseworkers on paper hearings

	Permanent	*Templagency*
2004-05	16	1
2005-06	13	5
2006-07	11	8
2007-08	15	6
2008-09	13	4

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* permanent non-civil service employees and *(c)* temporary or agency workers were employed at the Parole Board in each month since January 2007. [217637]

Mr. Hanson: Information from the Parole Board about the number of staff they employed in each month since January 2007 is contained in the following table.

	(a) Civil servants	*(b) Non civil-servants*	*(c) Temporary or agency workers*
January 2007	27	41	8
February 2007	27	41	12
March 2007	26	40	15
April 2007	26	45	9
May 2007	26	46	13
June 2007	26	45	14
July 2007	26	45	22
August 2007	26	43	24
September 2007	26	41	24
October 2007	26	40	19
November 2007	26	41	21
December 2007	26	41	22
January 2008	26	41	24
February 2008	26	41	24
March 2008	26	41	24
April 2008	25	41	22
May 2008	24	40	25
June 2008	24	40	27
July 2008	22	40	29

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the last Home Department guidance that was produced on election expense triggering under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983, prior to the Political Parties and Elections Act 2000. [215328]

Bridget Prentice: Officials have looked through departmental archives and have been unable to find a copy of such guidance. The fundamental provisions were of long standing and there were a number of publications relating to the operation of triggering for candidates and prospective candidates to consider. It is intended that, when legislation is brought forward to implement the proposals to regulate candidate expenditure outlined in the recent White Paper "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom" (Cm 7329), the Electoral Commission will be given a specific power to provide guidance in this area.

Prisoners Release: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been released on end of custody licence from prison in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside in each year since the scheme began. [218012]

Mr. Straw: The available information on numbers released by establishments is published monthly in Table 2 of the statistical bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls' available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The following table gives the available information on numbers of prisoners who were released under the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme from the date the scheme came into effect on 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008, by each prison in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

	Total releases[1]
Askham Grange	11
Everthorpe	401
Hull	220
Leeds	313
Lindholme	399
Moorland	214
Moorland Open	166
New Hall	359
Northallerton	473
Wealstun	226
Yorkshire and Humberside public prison establishments	2,782
Doncaster	924
Wolds	42
Contracted out prison establishments	966
Total	3,748

[1] 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Construction

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress the Government have made in their prison capacity building programme. [218567]

Mr. Hanson: The prison capacity programme will provide an additional 20,000 prison places and an increase overall capacity to just over 96,000 by 2014.

The programme has to date delivered 3,140 prison places and will provide a further 1,000 prison places this year.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of motorists *(a)* fined and *(b)* convicted of motoring offences while using a foreign licence in the latest period for which figures are available. [217616]

Maria Eagle: Driving without a valid licence is an offence under section 87 (1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. The Court Proceedings Database held by my Department identifies proceedings and convictions under section 87 (1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Information on the UK or foreign origin of those licences is not collected.

Womens Prisons: Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in custody aged 17 years old were placed on wings with adult female prisoners in each of the last 12 months, broken down by prison; how long each spent on those wings; and what the reasons were for those transfers or placements. [219122]

Mr. Hanson: The number of young women aged 17 years placed on wings with adult female prisoners in each of the last 12 months, is contained in the following table.

Number of young women aged 17 years placed on wings with adult female prisoners in each of the last 12 months

Establishment	*Number placed on adult wing/unit*	*Duration on wing/unit (Days)*	*Reason for transfer/placement*
Askham Grange	1	383	Planned moved to mother and baby unit
New Hall	1	86	Planned move due to medical reasons
Low Newton	1	3	Population management
Peterborough	1	2	Population management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in custody aged 17 years have been placed in adult prison detoxification units in the last 12 months, broken down by prison; and how long each stayed in those units. [219124]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the number of women aged 17 years placed in adult detoxification units in the last 12 months are not held centrally. Establishments are unable to provide the figures within the time allocated for answer. Figures can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Arabic Language: Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local authority area offered Arabic teaching at the latest date for which figures are available. [217716]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on subjects offered by schools at GCSE or A level.

Figures relating to schools that entered pupils into Arabic can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to each school under the Building Schools for the Future programme to date. [217532]

Jim Knight: The following table details the projected funding which Partnerships for Schools plans to allocate to Building Schools for the Future projects which have reached Outline Business Case (OBC). Funding is provided to local authorities as an 'envelope' based on formulaic allocations. It is the responsibility of local authorities to allocate resources to individual schools in accordance with local priorities. As projects develop, the funding allocations are updated, so it is likely that these figures will change.

Funding levels are not allocated for projects in BSF until they have reached OBC.

	Funding (£ million)	
Local authority	*Non PFI*	*PFI*
Bradford	20	311
Bristol	32	157
Greenwich	57	184
Knowsley	4	250
Lancashire	49	252
Leeds	150	186
Leicester	165	151
Lewisham	86	230
Manchester	202	0
Newcastle	107	132
Newham	97	65
Sheffield	76	89
Solihull	30	87
STaG	157	69
Sunderland	119	0
Waltham Forest	62	54
Birmingham	261	102
Hackney	152	0
Haringey	184	0
Islington	85	113
Lambeth	87	0
Liverpool	153	0
Middlesbrough	114	0
Nottingham	146	76
Tower Hamlets	88	0
Barnsley	28	324
Derbyshire	60	65
Durham	75	79
Kent	179	99
Luton	108	34
North Lincs	89	0
Salford	34	192
Sandwell	137	63
Southwark	134	85
Tameside	82	128
Westminster	159	0
Blackburn	85	119
Cambridgeshire	87	62
Rochdale	117	132

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding has been allocated from the Building Schools for the Future programme to National Challenge schools *(a)* in the last and *(b)* for the next three financial years. [217554]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding is provided to local authorities as an 'envelope'

to allow allocation of resources to individual schools reflecting the local view on priorities and needs. Details of allocations to BSF local authorities are included in the answer to the hon. Member's question 217532.

Fifteen secondary schools, where in 2007 fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils attained five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics, are expected to open in new or remodelled BSF buildings this financial year. A further 256 will benefit from funding as part of current Building Schools for the Future projects, either through Local Education Partnerships, the Partnerships for Schools National Framework or as One School Pathfinders. An additional 73 are included in pre-BSF private finance initiative projects, and 29 are being, or have been built under the DCSF Academies programme.

Children in Care: Young Offenders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on collaborative measures to improve the performance of local authorities' care systems in *(a)* preventing offending and *(b)* reducing re-offending by looked-after children. [218804]

Beverley Hughes: There have been substantial discussions between the Secretaries of State on how to improve resettlement of young offenders during the development of the Youth Crime Action Plan which signals our intention to develop a comprehensive package of support for children leaving custody.

A range of current legislation and guidance imposes duties on local authorities and professionals to ensure that looked-after children leaving custody are provided with the support and accommodation they need on release. Measures in the Children and Young Persons Bill will enable us to revise Children Act Guidance setting out how we expect local authorities to exercise their statutory duties to continue to plan for looked-after children throughout any period in custody which would necessarily include planning for their support in the community to minimise the risk of re-offending. Clause 16 of the Bill provides for power to be given to the Secretary of State to require the local authority to visit children who were provided with voluntary accommodation by the authority but who then loses their looked after status because they received a custodial sentence. The purpose of these visits will be to assess the support that the child may need on release from custody. It will be essential that children's and youth justice services coordinate any support needed to prevent re-offending.

Children: Disadvantaged

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of children eligible for free school meals in Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997. [218014]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is given in the table.

Primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals—position in January each year: 1997 to 2008—Leeds, West parliamentary constituency

	Primary schools			Secondary schools		
	Number of pupils[2]	*Number or pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils[2]*	*Number or pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
1997	8,984	2,349	26.1	3,635	1,029	28.3
1998	8,796	2,295	26.1	3,725	964	25.9
1999	8,609	2,182	25.3	3,834	1,026	26.8
2000	8,313	2,062	24.8	3,993	1,047	26.2
2001	8,152	2,059	25.3	4,042	1,075	26.6
2002	7,932	1,999	25.2	4,093	1,007	24.6
2003	7,690	2,004	26.1	4,137	1,027	24.8
2004	7,391	1,929	26.1	4,190	1,088	26.0
2005	7,159	1,885	26.3	4,157	1,079	26.0
2006	6,949	1,730	24.9	4,040	1,005	24.9
2007	6,872	1,729	25.2	3,937	986	25.0
2008	6,776	1,652	24.4	3,850	982	25.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Also includes nursery schools, CTCs and academies (although none of these school types in Leeds, West).
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration.
[3] Pupils who are eligible and are claiming their free school meal entitlement.
Source:
School Census

Class Sizes: Primary Education

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in primary schools in England and Wales was in each of the last five years; what effect the personalised learning initiative is expected to have on class sizes; and if he will make a statement. [218998]

Jim Knight: The average class size in local authority maintained primary schools in England, including middle schools as deemed, has remained constant at 26.2 from 2004 to 2008, except in 2006 when it was 26.3. The figure for 2008 is based on provisional data: figures for other years are based on final data. The Department does not collect information for Wales.

Rather than being a discrete initiative, 'personalised learning' means taking a highly structured and responsive approach to each child's and young person's learning, enabling all to progress, achieve and participate. Individual schools and teachers are best placed to tailor teaching to their pupils' needs. This may include teaching in

different sized pupil groupings on different occasions, or using in-class grouping to allow pupils with a range of needs to work at an appropriate level. However, there is no expectation that by using personalised approaches to teaching and learning, schools will experience any change to their overall average class size as indicated.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department and its predecessors in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213721]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not completed any new builds within the years requested. Since 2006 a total of three major refurbishments, with a value in excess of £0.5 million, have been completed. This is broken down as follows; in 2005-06 nil, in 2006-07 two and in 2007-08 one.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of staff of his Department did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them since the Department was established. [217371]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. For the 2007/08 performance year 74 per cent. of senior civil servants did not receive the maximum bonus that was paid. The pay settlement for Grade 6s and below has yet to be agreed.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218033]

Kevin Brennan: Cabinet Office has recently introduced a revised format for reporting sickness absence statistics across the civil service. The new format was introduced at the end of March 2008 and the reports now cover the period up to 31 March 2008. The figure for annual average working days lost due to sickness in my Department up to that date is 9.6 per staff member. The annual number of days lost 20,021.2.

The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. Sickness absence data for the Department's predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, for 2006/07, 2005 and 2004, including the average number of days taken as sick leave is published on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

along with data for other Departments and agencies.

Earlier sickness data are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215882]

Kevin Brennan: In 2005-06 a comprehensive waste management system was implemented across the Department for Education and Skills, the predecessor to the Department for Children Schools and Families. The aim of the system was to segregate as many waste streams as possible for reuse and recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to the lowest possible level.

Between 2004-05 and 2006-07 the Department reduced the total amount of waste produced by 13.1 per cent. and recycled 55.8 per cent. of all waste. In 2006/07, 38.6 per cent. of waste produced was sent to landfill compared to 51.5 per cent. in 2005/06.

The use of disposable products and packaging is kept to a minimum and as much of this is recycled as possible. Examples of the waste streams that are segregated and recycled include plastic and metal beverage and food containers as well as glass bottles and jars.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who gained level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests in *(a)* reading, *(b)* writing and *(c)* mathematics in 2004 did not gain level 5 or above in the corresponding key stage 3 tests in 2007. [217614]

Jim Knight: The figures required can be found in the following table:

Number of pupils

	Achieving level 4 or above in KS2 in 2004, and not achieving level 5 or above in KS3 in 2007	*Achieving level 4 or above in KS2 in 2004 and with eligible results for KS3 in 2007*	*With eligible results for both KS2 in 2004 and KS3 in 2007*
English	47,994	441,736	572,283
Mathematics	27,723	424,518	574,850

Figures for reading and writing separately can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* the Schools Minister has met (i) ETS, (ii) the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and (iii) the National Assessment Agency to discuss the administration and marking of the key stage tests in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [217696]

Jim Knight: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State have met ETS. We do, however, regularly meet with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, of which the National Assessment Agency is a division. Recent meetings have included discussions on the administration and marking of key stage tests in 2008, which are now the subject of an independent inquiry being chaired by Lord Sutherland.

Extended Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria he used to select the areas which will pilot the extended schools subsidy. [219228]

Beverley Hughes: DCSF selected local authorities to participate in the extended schools subsidy pathfinder on the basis of Government office nominations. DCSF asked each Government office to nominate two local authorities and two reserves to participate in the extended schools subsidy pathfinder.

DCSF asked Government offices to consider the following issues in making their nominations:

The need for the 18 pathfinder local authorities to reflect a representative national range of characteristics. For example, urban/rural, high deprivation across the authority/pockets of deprivation in a more affluent authority.

To nominate authorities whose schools are well on the way to meeting the extended school core offer.

To nominate authorities according to the Government office's judgment of LA's capacity to deliver the pathfinders.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase in his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; what value of Fairtrade produce was purchased in his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage this represented of total revenue. [208709]

Kevin Brennan: Fairtrade products that are available for purchase within the Department for Children, Schools and Families include: coffee, tea, fruit juices, confectionery, snack bars and fresh fruit. Proceeds from the sale of bottled water are used by the charity ONEWATER to fund the provision of clean water projects in Africa. All tea and coffee supplied for official internal departmental meetings and engagements is Fairtrade.

Information on breakdown of sales in respect of fair-trade products is not held by the Department and would incur disproportionate costs to obtain from the commercial supplier.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214888]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families catering service is contracted out and the information requested could only be provided at disproportionate costs. A report was produced by DEFRA and issued to Parliament on the proportion of domestically produced food used in Government Departments during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. DEFRA proposes to publish data on the value of contracts let for food and catering contracts (including the value of food provided under the catering contracts) by the end of 2008 which will allow calculations to be made.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools for pupils aged 11 to 18 years old do not offer an A-level physics course; [217186]

(2) how many schools for 11 to 18 years olds do not offer an A-level course in a modern language. [217187]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on schools that offer particular subjects at A level.

The number and percentage of secondary schools that entered pupils into physics and a modern foreign language in 2006-07 are given in the following table.

	Number of secondary schools with sixth forms that entered pupils into subject	*Percentage of secondary schools with sixth forms that entered pupils into subject*
Physics	1,994	85.0
French	1,677	71.5
German	1,207	51.4
Spanish	904	38.5
Other modern language	990	42.2
Any modern language	2,001	85.3

Notes:
1. The figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006) in secondary schools that entered pupils into GCEA levels.
2. Other Modern Languages' include 'Arabic', 'Bengali', 'Chinese', 'Dutch', 'Gujarati', 'Italian', 'Japanese', 'Panjabi', 'Persian', 'Polish', 'Portuguese', 'Russian', 'Turkish' and 'Urdu'

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils did not obtain a C grade or above at GCSE, excluding equivalents, in 2007. [217175]

Jim Knight: This question has been answered in the reply to PQ 187634 on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1276W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who gained five GCSEs at A*-C in 2007 gained a good GCSE in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science, *(d)* a modern foreign language and *(e)* either history or geography. [217613]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 402,411 pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalent. Of these, the numbers and percentages of pupils gaining an A*-C GCSE in the subjects listed is given in the following table.

	Number	*Percentage*
English	388,198	96.5
Mathematics	352,909	87.7
Science	331,114	82.3
Modern Foreign Language	198,382	49.3
Either Geography or History	221,131	55.0

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils eligible to sit *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* science GCSEs in 2007 were not entered for an examination in each subject; [217619]

(2) how many pupils did not gain a GCSE in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in the last period for which figures are available. [217623]

Jim Knight: The following table shows how many pupils at the end of key stage 4 were eligible to sit GCSEs in English, mathematics and science in 2007, and of these pupils how many were not entered for the exams or did not gain a GCSE in these exams.

Subject	*Number of eligible pupils*	*Number of eligible pupils not entered for an examination*	*Number of eligible pupils attempting examination but not achieving an A*-G grade*
English	649,200	29,700	9,000
Mathematics	649,200	32,300	18,900
Science	649,200	49,500	13,500

These figures can be derived from figures in tables 1 and 10 of the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect he expects the introduction of functional skills to have on GCSE results compared with previous years; and if he will make a statement. [218228]

Jim Knight: Functional skills qualifications are currently being piloted and our intention is that, for GCSEs awarded from 2012, students taking mathematics, English or ICT should have to achieve the relevant FS qualification at L2 in order to obtain a grade C or above at GCSE. Level 2 functional skills qualifications are designed to be of a similar level of challenge to GCSE grade A*-C. As they assess different skills the pilot will test the potential effect on GCSE attainment, through analysis of results in the pilot assessments.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals gained 10 good GCSEs in 2007. [217617]

Jim Knight: 77,776 pupils gained 10 or more GCSE grades A*-C in 2006/07. This was 13.1 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools.

2,533 pupils eligible to receive free school meals gained 10 or more GCSE grades A*-C in 2006/07. This was 3.3 per cent. of eligible pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools.

Mathematics: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sitting GCSEs in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* English in 2007 received a grade (i) D, (ii) E, (iii) F, (iv) G and (v) U. [217622]

Jim Knight: Table 13 of the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006-07 (Revised)' shows GCSE results of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in schools, by subject and grade. This SFR is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of key stage *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 pupils received specialist instrumental and vocal tuition within maintained schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [218757]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 November, *Official Report*, column 637W. While this information is not routinely collected by the Department, the Institute of Education, University of London, was commissioned in 2007 to collect data on local authority music services provision. The 2007 survey built on previous surveys and there was a 90 per cent. response rate.

The following tables provided in my reply last November have now been updated with the 2007 data.

Academic year	*Percentage of KS1 pupils reported as receiving specialist instrumental or vocal tuition*	*Percentage of KS2 pupils reported as receiving specialist instrumental or vocal tuition*
2001/02	[1]—	12
2004/05	2	13
2006/07	4.5	13

[1] Data not available for KS1

Note:
Figures do not take account of music tuition provided by those operating outside of local authority arrangements.

Specific national funding to support the widening of opportunities for primary children to access instrumental and vocal provision began in 2003. Data from the surveys on participation in these programmes, which largely involve specialist music teachers, are reported in the following table.

Academic year	*Percentage of KS1 pupils reported as being involved in wider opportunities activities*	*Percentage of KS2 pupils reported as being involved in wider opportunities activities*
2003/04	[1]—	8
2004/05	[1]—	10
2005/06	5	22
2006/07	7.7	32.6

[1] Data not available

The survey data predicted that the average percentage of children expected to be involved in a widening opportunities programme during the whole school year 2007/08 would rise to 12.5 per cent. for key stage 1 and 50.6 per cent. in key stage 2.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications were received for funding from the fund established for the professional development of music teachers; how many have completed programmes funded as a result of such applications; and what the cost of the scheme has been to date. [218765]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* After a tender exercise in 2006, the contract to develop and deliver a programme of professional development for practitioners involved in music in primary schools was agreed with the Open university and Trinity college London. The £2 million funding for the programme has been for both the development and delivery of a national CPD programme, which is free for participants.

Initial applications were received from just over 1,300 teachers and this resulted in 915 practitioners actively engaging with the programme. Of those who did not end up engaging with the programme, most withdrew before starting, due to change of circumstances and/or time constraints. Every practitioner has a mentor and an individualised training programme. A total of 312 mentors have been appointed and trained. Practitioners have been completing their portfolios for moderation and certification, and 132 completed portfolios have been received so far.

The announcement of £332 million for music education over the next three years which was made last November includes £1 million a year for continued support for the programme of professional development for practitioners involved in music in primary schools: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0216 We expect to train at least a further 3,000 key stage 2 practitioners during that time.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the £2 million fund for professional development of music teachers on instrumental and vocal tuition in maintained schools; and if he will make a statement. [218766]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Evaluation of the programme of professional development for practitioners involved in music in primary schools is ongoing and extensive. Processes which support review and evaluation are integral to the programme and are crucial to ensuring the best possible outcomes in terms of impact of professional practice and the continuing development of the programme for the next three years.

Formal evaluation is central to all aspects of the programme and includes: mentor's observations of practitioner's lessons; practitioner's evaluations of all the workshops they attend as well as online evaluation at the end of their programme; online forums for workshop leaders to inform and support each other; and the regular observation of workshops and visits to practitioners in schools to evaluate the impact of the programme on practice. The final report on the impact of the programme to 2008, including case studies, is expected to be provided to the Department in the autumn.

Primary Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W, on primary education: standards, how many and what proportion of children who received free school meals achieved the national standard in each Key Stage 1 examination in each year since 1995. [217566]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The following tables show how many and what proportion of children who receive free school meals achieved the national standard in the reading, writing, mathematics and science Key Stage 1 examinations in each year since 2002. These figures can only be provided from 2002 as this was the first year pupil level characteristics information was collected.

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in reading, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] coverage: England

	Number of pupils						*Level 2 and above*						
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006-07[2]*
Boys													
FSM	54,507	52,395	55,486	51,714	48,989	48,364	63	63	64	64	63	63	0.0
Non-FSM	241,474	239,104	240,697	235,426	236,738	229,350	84	84	85	85	84	83	-1.0
Unclassified	1,349	1,127	1,348	1,260	1,360	1,253	50	45	49	45	44	42	-2.0
All pupils	297,330	292,626	297,531	288,400	287,087	278,967	80	80	81	81	80	80	0.0
Girls													
FSM	51,645	50,398	53,240	49,558	47,025	45,857	74	75	76	76	76	75	-1.0
Non-FSM	229,715	226,544	229,181	223,051	224,461	218,827	91	91	92	92	91	91	0.0
Unclassified	1,292	1,131	1,192	1,196	1,205	1,213	56	56	55	54	51	49	-2.0
All pupils	282,652	278,073	283,613	273,805	272,691	265,897	88	88	89	89	89	88	-1.0
Total													
FSM	106,152	102,793	108,726	101,272	96,014	94,221	69	69	70	70	69	69	0.0
Non-FSM	471,189	465,648	469,878	458,477	461,199	448,177	88	88	88	89	88	87	-1.0
Unclassified	2,641	2,258	2,540	2,456	2,565	2,466	53	51	52	49	47	45	-2.0
All pupils	579,982	570,699	581,144	562,205	559,778	544,864	84	84	85	85	84	84	0.0
Non-FSM/FSM gap													
Boys	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.0	21.0	20.6	21.0	21.0	20.0	-1.0

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in reading, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] coverage: England

	Number of pupils						Level 2 and above						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006-07[2]
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.0	16.0	15.8	16.0	15.0	16.0	1.0
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	19.0	19.0	18.3	19.0	19.0	18.0	-1.0

[1] Figures from 2002 are final, figures from 2003 and 2007 are provisional and figures from 2004, 2005 and 2006 are revised.
[2] Difference.

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in writing, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] coverage: England

	Number of pupils						Level 2 and above						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006-07[2]
Boys													
FSM	54,507	52,395	55,488	51,721	48,989	48,363	65	57	58	59	57	56	-1.0
Non-FSM	241,474	239,109	240,697	235,428	236,738	229,353	86	80	80	81	80	79	-1.0
Unclassified	1,349	1,127	1,348	1,261	1,360	1,253	50	39	43	41	38	36	-2.0
All pupils	297,330	292,631	297,533	288,410	287,087	278,969	82	76	76	77	76	75	-1.0
Girls													
FSM	51,646	50,399	53,240	49,560	47,025	45,858	78	72	74	74	73	71	-2.0
Non-FSM	229,717	226,548	229,182	223,043	224,461	218,829	93	90	91	91	90	89	-1.0
Unclassified	1,292	1,131	1,192	1,196	1,205	1,213	57	54	53	50	47	47	0.0
All pupils	282,655	278,078	283,614	273,799	272,691	265,900	90	86	87	88	87	86	-1.0
Total													
FSM	106,153	102,794	108,728	101,281	96,014	94,221	72	64	66	66	65	63	-2.0
Non-FSM	471,191	465,657	469,879	458,471	461,199	448,182	89	85	85	86	85	84	-1.0
Unclassified	2,641	2,258	2,540	2,457	2,565	2,466	53	46	48	45	42	42	0.0
All pupils	579,985	570,709	581,147	562,209	559,778	544,869	86	81	82	82	81	80	-1.0
Non-FSM/FSM gap													
Boys	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.0	23.0	22.5	22.0	23.0	23.0	0.0
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	15.0	18.0	16.9	17.0	17.0	18.0	1.0
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.0	21.0	19.7	20.0	20.0	21.0	1.0

[1] Figures from 2002 are final, figures from 2003 and 2007 are provisional and figures from 2004, 2005 and 2006 are revised.
[2] Difference.

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in mathematics, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] coverage: England

	Number of pupils						Level 2 and above						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2006-07[2]
Boys													
FSM	54,507	52,395	55,488	51,726	48,989	48,364	79	79	78	79	78	78	0.0
Non-FSM	241,474	239,108	240,697	235,442	236,738	229,349	92	92	91	92	91	91	0.0
Unclassified	1,349	1,127	1,348	1,261	1,360	1,254	63	59	61	60	58	57	-1.0
All pupils	297,330	292,630	297,533	288,429	287,087	278,967	89	89	89	90	89	88	-1.0
Girls													
FSM	51,645	50,399	53,240	49,571	47,025	45,857	82	82	82	83	82	82	0.0
Non-FSM	229,717	226,548	229,182	223,061	224,461	218,828	94	94	94	94	94	93	-1.0
Unclassified	1,292	1,131	1,192	1,196	1,205	1,213	64	64	64	63	61	61	0.0
All pupils	282,654	278,078	283,614	273,828	272,691	265,898	91	91	91	92	92	91	-1.0
Total													
FSM	106,152	102,794	108,728	101,297	96,014	94,221	81	80	80	81	80	80	0.0
Non-FSM	471,191	465,656	469,879	458,503	461,199	448,177	93	93	93	93	92	92	0.0
Unclassified	2,641	2,258	2,540	2,457	2,565	2,467	63	62	63	62	60	59	-1.0
All pupils	579,984	570,708	581,147	562,257	559,778	544,865	90	90	90	91	90	90	0.0
Non-FSM/FSM gap													
Boys	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	0.0
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	-1.0

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in mathematics, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] — coverage: England

	Number of pupils						Level 2 and above						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006-07[2]
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0	13.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	0.0

[1] Figures from 2002 are final, figures from 2003 and 2007 are provisional and figures from 2004, 2005 and 2006 are revised.
[2] Difference

Achievements at Key Stage 1 in science, by free school meal eligibility and gender, years: 2002-07[1] — coverage: England

	Number of pupils						Level 2 and above						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006-07[2]
Boys													
FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	51,724	48,989	48,361	n/a	n/a	n/a	76	75	75	0.0
Non-FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	235,439	236,738	229,343	n/a	n/a	n/a	91	90	90	0.0
Unclassified	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,258	1,360	1,254	n/a	n/a	n/a	51	49	49	0.0
All pupils	n/a	n/a	n/a	288,421	287,087	278,958	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	88	87	-1.0
Girls													
FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	49,578	47,025	45,857	n/a	n/a	n/a	81	80	79	-1.0
Non-FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	223,069	224,461	218,820	n/a	n/a	n/a	94	93	93	0.0
Unclassified	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,194	1,205	1,213	n/a	n/a	n/a	55	51	53	2.0
All pupils	n/a	n/a	n/a	273,841	272,691	265,890	n/a	n/a	n/a	91	91	90	-1.0
Total													
FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	101,302	96,014	94,218	n/a	n/a	n/a	78	78	77	-1.0
Non-FSM	n/a	n/a	n/a	458,508	461,199	448,163	n/a	n/a	n/a	92	92	91	-1.0
Unclassified	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,452	2,565	2,467	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	50	51	1.0
All pupils	n/a	n/a	n/a	562,262	559,778	544,848	n/a	n/a	n/a	90	89	89	0.0
Non-FSM/FSM gap													
Boys	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.0	15.0	15.0	0.0
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.0	13.0	14.0	1.0
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.0	14.0	14.0	0.0

n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures from 2002 are final, figures from 2003 and 2007 are provisional and figures from 2004, 2005 and 2006 are revised.
[2] Difference

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils who received a permanent exclusion were *(a)* placed in a mainstream school and *(b)* placed in a pupil referral unit in each of the last 10 years. [217615]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of permanently excluded pupils who are placed in a mainstream school can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of permanently excluded pupils who are placed in a pupil referral unit is not available.

Pupil Referral Units: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals are attending pupil referral units. [217618]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is given in the following table:

All schools, excluding independent schools: Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, as at January 2008, England

	Number of pupils[1]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[2]	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	Percentage of all pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals[4]
Mainstream schools[5]	7,422,420	1,074,630	14.5	96.8
Special schools[6]	91,830	28,680	31.2	2.6
Pupil referral units	25,290	6,790	26.8	0.6
Total	7,539,530	1,110,090	14.7	100.0

[1] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration. Also includes pupils with other providers in pupil referral units.
[2] Pupils who are eligible for and are claiming their free school meal entitlement.
[3] Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils in the same type of school.
[4] Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals.
[5] Includes maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, CTCs and academies.
[6] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools received a per pupil funding increase of below the minimum funding guarantee in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [218229]

Jim Knight: The minimum funding guarantee was introduced to the school funding system for the 2004-05 financial year. A schools forum may approve variations to the minimum funding guarantee proposed by the local authority that together affect no more than 50 per cent. of pupils in the authority's schools. The purpose of this provision is to allow local authorities and their schools forums to handle anomalies that may arise from the operation of the minimum funding guarantee, since the rules set down in the regulations are unable to cover all local circumstances. Where local authorities propose a variation to the minimum funding guarantee that will affect more than 50 per cent. of pupils, the Secretary of State's approval must be sought.

The earliest available data are for 2004-05. Data have not been collected for all years, but figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are:

2004-05

Primary: 436 from 18,031 schools received a per pupil increase below the MFG level of 3.4 per cent. (data are unavailable for 737 from the 18,031 schools).

Secondary: one school from 3,431 schools received a per pupil increase below the MFG level of 3.4 per cent. (data are unavailable for 71 from the 3,431 schools).

2005-06

Primary: 478 from 17,087 schools received a per pupil increase below the MFG level of 4.9 per cent.

Secondary: three schools from 3,341 schools received a per pupil increase below the MFG level of 3.9 per cent.

We do not hold information for 05-06 on the number of schools where data are unavailable.

Schools: Cadets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on expanding cadet forces within state schools. [217497]

Jim Knight: The independent National Recognition of the Armed Forces study by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) recommended expanding cadet forces within state schools. Lord Adonis and my hon. Friend the Member for Hatton (Derek Twigg), the Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State with policy responsibility for this area, have met twice in recent months to discuss the expansion of cadet forces in state schools, and our Departments will continue work closely together on this issue.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will hold discussions with teachers' professional bodies on access to cadet force provision in maintained schools. [217508]

Jim Knight: Access to cadet force provision is a matter for individual schools in discussion with the Ministry of Defence. We have no plans to hold discussions with the teachers' professional bodies on these matters at this stage.

Schools: International Cooperation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools are not twinned with a school overseas; and if he will make a statement. [217844]

Jim Knight: These data are not collected centrally.

Schools: Safety

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has provided to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools on road safety issues, with particular reference to the importance of wearing seat belts correctly; and if he will make a statement. [217902]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has not issued guidelines to schools on how children should wear seat belts correctly. In 2001 we issued "Safety Education: Guidance for Schools", which includes general guidance on how road safety education may be provided. This guidance can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/3111/Safety%20Education.pdf

The Department also works with the Department for Transport and other stakeholders on road safety issues for children and young people.

Schools: Sanitation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of toilets in English schools; and if he will make a statement; [217677]

(2) how many schools in England only have outside toilets; and if he will make a statement; [217678]

(3) what survey records his Department holds on the provision of school toilets; and if he will make a statement; [217679]

(4) if he will review the adequacy of the standard of toilets in English schools; and if he will make a statement. [217681]

Jim Knight: Schools should put as much effort into designing and managing toilets as they do in building and managing other facilities. They should be clean, safe, well equipped and accessible. Children and young people themselves cite the state of school toilets as a top priority. It is unacceptable that they are put off using toilets at schools because they are badly designed, vandalised dirty or hang-outs for bullies. We want pupils to be healthy by drinking plenty of water throughout the day and they cannot do that without feeling safe to use the toilets.

That is why last year for the first time we laid down clear guidance in the form of a specification for design so that schools can use the record amounts of investment in school buildings and facilities to provide the highest quality pupils' toilets. The guidance sets out specific design features to combat antisocial behaviour; suggests how floor space can be designed effectively and encourages local education authorities and schools to involve pupils in the design and management of the facilities to foster a sense of pride and ownership.

The required number of toilets in schools in England is set out in the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. Responsibility for applying the requirements of these regulations rests with local education authorities.

Schools and local education authorities should comply with the requirements of the School Premises Regulations and the HSE Workplace Regulations regarding hygiene and cleanliness then school toilet accommodation will be adequate. But these are minimum requirements and we want more than that which is why we issued the guidance last year.

In the first term of Government, the last 450 primary schools with outside toilets had them replaced. We are not aware of any remaining schools in England which only have access to outside toilets.

We do not hold survey records on the provision of school toilets but we are confident that local education authorities will have assessed their toilet accommodation as part of asset management planning and together with the schools will have remedied most inadequacies by now.

The bulk of schools capital is allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local asset management planning priorities, including the upgrading of toilet and washroom facilities. Research on the use of devolved formula capital shows that around a fifth of schools have improved toilets each year from 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-09 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to upgrade toilets.

At present we are reviewing the School Premises Regulations and will consult on them in due course.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the Steering Group for the PE, School Sport and Club Links Strategy last met; and what future meetings are planned; [217524]

(2) if he will make his policy to involve the Association for Physical Education in the delivery of the National School Sport Strategy. [217573]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Through their membership of the consortium contracted to deliver the PE and Sport Professional Development Programme, AfPE continue to be involved in delivering the national PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. The programme manager also has bi-lateral meetings with AfPE on a regular basis.

The last meeting of the PE, School Sport and Club Links Delivery Board was held on 18 January. Since then, new governance arrangements for overseeing the delivery of the new PE and Sport Strategy for Young People have been introduced. Within these new arrangements, the last monthly Management Board was held on 17 June.

Secondary Education: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which National Challenge schools are *(a)* academies, *(b)* foundation schools and *(c)* Fresh Start schools. [217628]

Jim Knight: Information about schools with published results where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved at least five good GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007 is in the following tables:

(a) Academies

The Barnsley Academy	Barnsley
The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley
Capital City Academy	Brent
The City Academy Bristol	Bristol, City of
West London Academy	Ealing
Greig City Academy	Haringey
Stockley Academy	Hillingdon
The Leigh Technology Academy[1]	Kent
The Marlowe Academy	Kent
David Young Community Academy	Leeds
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Lewisham
North Liverpool Academy	Liverpool
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	Liverpool
Manchester Academy	Manchester
St. Marks Church of England Academy	Merton
Harris Academy Merton	Merton
Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough
Northampton Academy	Northamptonshire
John Madejski Academy	Reading
Sheffield Park Academy	Sheffield
Sheffield Springs Academy	Sheffield
Grace Academy	Solihull
The Academy at Peckham	Southwark
The Gateway Academy	Thurrock
Walthamstow Academy	Waltham Forest
Westminster Academy	Westminster
Paddington Academy	Westminster

[1] Leigh Technology Academy was a City Technology College at the time of the 2007 results.

(b) Foundation Schools

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College	Birmingham
Baverstock Foundation School and Specialist Sports College	Birmingham
George Tomlinson School	Bolton
Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College	Bradford
John Kelly Boys' Technology College	Brent
Kelsey Park Sports College	Bromley
Coleridge Community College	Cambridgeshire
St. Peter's School	Cambridgeshire
Haling Manor High School	Croydon
North Cumbria Technology College	Cumbria
Morton School	Cumbria

(b) Foundation Schools	
Merrill College	Derby
Noel-Baker Community School and Language College	Derby
Albany School	Enfield
Barstable School	Essex
Alderman Blaxill School	Essex
King Harold School	Essex
Sir Charles Lucas Arts College	Essex
Chalvedon School	Essex
Colbayns High School	Essex
The Rickstones School	Essex
Furtherwick Park School	Essex
Sawyers Hall College	Essex
Central Technology College	Gloucestershire
Beaufort Community School	Gloucestershire
Pittville School	Gloucestershire
Maidenhill School	Gloucestershire
Cheltenham Kingsmead	Gloucestershire
Dyke House Comprehensive School	Hartlepool
Bushey Hall School	Hertfordshire
Cheshunt School	Hertfordshire
Harlington Community School	Hillingdon
Mellow Lane School	Hillingdon
King Ethelbert School	Kent
Aylesford School—Sports College	Kent
Pent Valley School	Kent
Minster College	Kent
The Wildernesse School	Kent
Thamesview School	Kent
Northfleet Technology College	Kent
The Malling School	Kent
St. George's Church of England Foundation School	Kent
The Canterbury High School	Kent
Chaucer Technology School	Kent
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	Kent
The Charles Dickens School	Kent
Coombe Boys' School	Kingston upon Thames
Joseph Ruston Technology College	Lincolnshire
The Castle Hills Community Arts College	Lincolnshire
John Spendluffe Foundation Technology College	Lincolnshire
St. Hugh's C of E Mathematics and Computing College	Lincolnshire
The Giles School	Lincolnshire
New Brompton College	Medway
The Robert Napier School	Medway
The Radcliffe School	Milton Keynes
Costessey High School	Norfolk
George Pindar Community Sports College	North Yorkshire
Weavers School	Northamptonshire
The Kingswood School	Northamptonshire
Magnus C of E School	Nottinghamshire
Banbury School	Oxfordshire
The City of Portsmouth Boys' School	Portsmouth
Manor Foundation Business and Sports College	Sandwell

(b) Foundation Schools	
The Heathfield Foundation Technology College	Sandwell
Abbeydale Grange School	Sheffield
Brymore School	Somerset
Belfairs High School	Southend-on-Sea
Kingsdale Secondary School	Southwark
Stafford Sports College	Staffordshire
Jubilee High School	Surrey
de Stafford School	Surrey
Abraham Darby Specialist School for Performing Arts	Telford and Wrekin
The Grays School Media Arts College	Thurrock
Sale High School	Trafford
Ash Green School	Warwickshire
Hartshill School	Warwickshire
Salisbury High School	Wiltshire
Ridgeway High School	Wirral
Moseley Park School	Wolverhampton

(c) Fresh Start Schools	
Blakewater College	Blackburn with Darwen
Ladybridge High School	Bolton
Kings High School	Bournemouth
Highcrest Community School	Buckinghamshire
da Vinci Community College	Derby
Islington Arts and Media School	Islington
Kingswood College of Arts	Kingston upon Hull, City of
New College Leicester	Leicester
St. Clements College	Lincolnshire
Bishopsford Community School	Merton
All Saints College	Newcastle upon Tyne
Corby Community College	Northamptonshire
The River Leen School	Nottingham
Hadden Park High School	Nottingham
Parkwood High School	Sheffield
Chase High School	Southend-on-Sea
Jubilee High School	Surrey

Teachers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W, on teachers, what information his Department holds on the number of newly qualified teachers teaching in secondary schools as a proportion of all teachers in each of the last 10 years. [217494]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service in local authority maintained secondary schools in England as a proportion of all teachers in similar service in each year from 1997 to 2006, the latest information available.

Newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service as a percentage of all full-time qualified teachers in service: Coverage local authority maintained secondary schools in England—Years March 1997 to 2006

	Newly qualified teachers (Percentage)
1997	4.6
1998	4.9

Newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service as a percentage of all full-time qualified teachers in service: Coverage local authority maintained secondary schools in England—Years March 1997 to 2006

	Newly qualified teachers (Percentage)
1999	4.6
2000	4.6
2001	4.7
2002	5.1
2003	6.0
2004	6.7
2005[1]	6.7
2006[1]	7.1

[1] Provisional.

Note:
Newly qualified teachers are those who are recorded as acquiring qualified teacher status in the calendar year prior to that where they are recorded in service.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Age

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average age of a teacher was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; [217998]

(2) what the average length of time was that a teacher had spent in the profession *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [218002]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average age and length of service of full-time regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in England in March 1997 and 2006, the latest information available.

Average age and length of service[1], in years, of full-time regular qualified teachers: Coverage local authority maintained sector schools in England—March 1997 and 2006

	Age	Length of service
1997	41.0	14.3
2006[2]	40.9	13.5

[1] Length of service is the total length of teachers service recorded in the source data and may include service completed outside of the English maintained sector.
[2] Provisional.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Vacancies

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher vacancies there were in (i) Leeds West constituency, (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [218029]

Jim Knight: Information is available for teacher vacancies for individual local authorities but not by constituency. The following table provides the number of full-time vacancies in Leeds local authority and England for each year from 2003 to 2008 where available. Vacancy numbers and rates for 2008 by local authority, including Leeds, are expected to be published in September.

Full-time vacancies[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January of each year: Coverage—England and Leeds local authority years 2003-08

	Leeds LA		England	
	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary
2003	9	23	1,114	2,050
2004	5	34	778	1,627
2005	2	20	743	1,553
2006	6	8	709	1,340
2007	0	0	658	1,214
2008[2]	[3]—	[3]—	872	1,471

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one terms duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis by a teacher with a contract of less than one term.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Not available.

Note:
Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g

Truancy: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the percentage was of pupils in secondary education in Gloucestershire was classed as persistent absentees in each year for which figures are available, broken down by school. [217715]

Kevin Brennan: The first year for which information on persistent absentees is available relates to 2005/06 and covers secondary schools only. In 2006/07 the scope of collection also extended to primary and special schools.

Local level information on the percentage of persistent absentees in secondary schools in 2005/06 and 2006/07 has been published in Table 7.2 of the Statistical First Release: Pupil Absence in Schools in England at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

School level absence data are published as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables, which can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/.

However, the inclusion of a persistence absence rate is a new indicator that will be available in 2008 tables.

The requested information for 2005/06 and 2006/07 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Writing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on the teaching of handwriting in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217686]

Jim Knight: Through the National Strategies this Department has produced the following guidance on handwriting for schools in the last five years:

Support materials—Developing Early Writing May 2001—have been provided to schools. Additional materials will be provided in January 2009 to schools which link spelling and handwriting.

Primary Framework October 2006: A strand of the Primary Framework for Literacy is dedicated to presentation skills, including handwriting. This provides objectives for every year group from Reception to Year 6.

Letters and Sounds April 2007: Our phonics resource, Letters and Sounds, contains general guidance on the teaching of handwriting to young children.

The primary framework assessment section—January 2008—also contains exemplification of writing through Levels 2-5.

These materials are for guidance and how to teach handwriting, including when to introduce a joined-up script, remains a school based decision. There is no nationally prescribed scheme and no requirement to teach a particular style or script.

Youth Services: Advisory Bodies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the protocol for joint working on the Youth Board, developed by his Department and the Ministry of Justice. [217056]

Beverley Hughes: The Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 gave the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice joint responsibility for youth justice. The Management Statement and Financial Memorandum, which sets out the framework within which the Youth Justice Board and the Departments will operate, is being redrafted. A copy will be placed in the House Library when it is available.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 16 July 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Publications

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many consultation or issues papers the Electoral Commission published in *(a)* March, *(b)* April and *(c)* May 2008. [219064]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it published three consultation papers in March:

The registration of party descriptions (deadline for responses: 13 June 2008);

Performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain (deadline for responses: 26 June 2008);

Structure of Electoral Administration in the UK (deadline for responses: 23 May 2008).

The Commission published no consultation or issue papers in April or May.

Elections: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which local authority election counts the Chairman of the Electoral Commission visited in May 2008. [219145]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Chairman of the Commission attended two counts of the May 2008 elections: at West Oxfordshire district council and at London Olympia. In total, representatives of the Commission attended 46 counts.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Electronic Publications

Dan Rogerson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what consideration has been given to publishing electronic versions of Bill amendment papers in PDF format. [219192]

Nick Harvey: Material is placed on the parliamentary website primarily in HTML format, which is the preferred format for the web. PDF versions of documents are made available on the parliamentary website when it has not been possible or cost-effective to produce HTML versions; or in addition to HTML versions in response to particular and substantial demand and after consideration of any cost implications of doing so.

Bill amendment papers are currently available in HTML format and to date there has been no substantial demand for PDF versions.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217875]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system. The Office does not maintain records of devices left on overnight. However, the recent introduction of new software on SCOTS will ensure that desktop personal computers are automatically shut down each night and staff have been reminded of the need to switch off printers etc.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff have access to his Department's IT infrastructure at their home. [216386]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has five security devices for use with laptops that are available to staff and which provide access to the corporate IT network.

WALES

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many recorded deaths from road traffic accidents there have been in Wales in each of the last five years. [218735]

Mr. Paul Murphy: While any road deaths are regrettable the number of fatalities in 2007, at 161, is 25 per cent. lower than the 1994-98 average of 213.

A table showing the last five years data is as follows:

Number of recorded road deaths in Wales 2003-07

	Fatalities
2003	173
2004	201
2005	180
2006	163
2007	161

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps the Government plan to take to encourage children and young people in the West Midlands to participate in events that are part of the London 2012 Olympics. [218598]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) are working to ensure that the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work. Further details about the NRG can be found at

http://www.london2012.com/about/the-people-delivering-the-games/the-nations-and-regions-group/index.php

The West Midlands Leadership Group for the 2012 games is represented on the Nations and Regions Group and leads the work of the region in delivering legacy benefits across sport, culture, volunteering, business and tourism. The Group is committed to encouraging young people to participate and since pre-bid has included among its members a representative from their Youth Parliament. (The NRG co-ordinator for the West Midlands is Tim Bryan, who can be contacted at Culture West Midlands, The Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward St., Birmingham B1 2RA).

In the West Midlands, schools have already started using material from LOCOG's London 2012 education programme, which all schools, colleges and local authorities will have the opportunity to participate in. 20 primary schools from Stoke on Trent prepared flags, mascots and banners for an opening ceremony festival, and children from the region competed in a series of sporting and cultural events at Stafford Sports college.

35 cultural events will be taking place in the West Midlands over the Handover and Cultural Olympiad launch weekends in September. In addition, the West Midlands Legacy Trust has developed a programme of dance and community events aimed at young people who will develop new skills by staging and taking part in their own community-based games. Young people from the West Midlands will also have the opportunity to be among the 70,000 volunteers needed to help run the games in London.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213299]

Mr. Woodward: The Department operates two types of bonus scheme—special bonus (to reward staff for additional contribution, e.g. innovation and improvement, project work), and end of year bonus (to reward staff for performance and delivery throughout the year).

Figures for the last five years are set out in the following table.

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Special bonuses					
Number of staff	779	575	713	685	891
Proportion	44.5	31.6	37.3	32.9	42.9
Total amount (£)	98,705	112,150	153,443	151,558	174,882
Largest payment (£)	600	600	750	1,000	1,100
End of year bonuses					
Number of staff	30	1,670	1,731	292	324
Proportion	1.7	91.9	90.7	14.0	15.6
Total amount (£)	132,300	362,930	476,299	502,667	557,000
Largest payment (£)	10,400	10,080	12,000	11,000	20,000

The Northern Ireland Office pays end-year bonuses for SCS staff in accordance with the Cabinet Office framework. In respect of 2002-03, only SCS staff received non- consolidated bonuses. Grade A and below received fully consolidated rises in this year. The Department established an end-year non-consolidated bonus scheme for Grade A and below in the 2003-04 reporting year, rewarding three levels of performance. From the 2005-06 reporting year this scheme was amended and is now targeted at exceptional performance. The figures relate to the reporting year but bonuses are paid in the following financial year.

In a previous answer given to the hon. Gentleman on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2050W, in respect of the number of bonuses paid and the value of the bonus pot in 2005-06, the number of individuals who received a bonus is lower (staff may receive more than one bonus in a year). The bonus pot in 2005-06 was not fully utilised so the figures have been amended accordingly.

For clarity, the special bonus figures and end year bonuses have been separated.

Young Offenders: Prisons

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children under the age of 18 years are detained in adult prisons in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [218597]

Paul Goggins: All males under 18 years are held in the separate Young Offenders Centre.

Females under 18 years have been held with females over 18 years, initially in Mourne House at Maghaberry and then since 20 June 2004 at Ash House in Hydebank Wood prison. Precise figures prior to June 2004 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of females committed to Hydebank Wood prison is as follows:

	Number
2008 (to 11 July)	2
2007	3
2006	8
2005	10
2004	6

Following an amendment to the Criminal Justice (Children) NI Order 1998, since 7 June 2008 all females aged 17 or under are detained at Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* re-offending rate and *(b)* breach of condition rate of young offenders participating in youth justice conferences was in each of the last three years. [218588]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows:

(a) The only re-offending information currently available relates to 2005 one-year re-offending rates. Youth conferencing had an overall re-offending rate of 38.4 per cent. For court ordered and diversionary youth conferences, the rates were 44.3 per cent. and 30.7 per cent. respectively.

(b) The proportion of young offenders who have had their youth conference orders revoked for non-compliance or their diversionary youth conference plans terminated due to non-compliance is as follows:

	Percentage
2005	8
2006	5
2007	5

Young Offenders: Reparation By Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time between a court recommending a youth justice conference, and the conference taking place, was in each of the last three years. [218589]

Paul Goggins: The average length of time between the court recommending a youth conference and the conference taking place in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Days
2005	26
2006	29
2007	36

The figures provided are calendar days and not working days.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff have access to the Government Equality Office's IT infrastructure at their home. [216381]

Barbara Follett: As befits its policy agenda, the Government Equalities Office is keen to ensure that its staff can adopt flexible working patterns, providing business needs are met. Some 90 staff work in the GEO and its Ministers' Private Offices. All staff are, in theory, able to work from home and any request to do so is subject to agreement with managers on a case-by-case basis and to the availability of a limited number of laptops. In practice, 25 staff have been taking occasional advantage of this opportunity, usually for a day at a time. Staff use encrypted laptops when working from home and typically access the IT infrastructure by a broadband connection. Six staff in GEO have Blackberries and can use these for e-mail when they are at home.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Cryptography: Zimbabwe

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many export licences were granted by his Department for the export of cryptography equipment including cryptography software to Zimbabwe in 2007; to which company each was granted; what the value of goods permitted to be exported under each such licence was; and who the end-user was in each case. [217000]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2007, two export licences, with a total value of £836,870, were granted for the export to Zimbabwe of cryptography equipment and software on the Dual Use list.

Export licence applications are made to the Government in confidence. The information they contain, including the name of the company to whom the licence was granted, the identity of the end-user, and the value of goods permitted for export under each individual licence, cannot therefore be disclosed.

Data Protection: Internet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent action the Government has taken to ensure that internet users are not sharing personal information to online companies and third parties without their consent. [206174]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister asked Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, and Dr. Mark Walport to conduct a consultation on the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors as part of their independent Data Sharing Review.

The review team is now analysing the results from the consultation exercise and the report will consider whether there should be any changes to the way the Data Protection Act 1998 operates in the UK and the options for implementing any such changes. The report will include recommendations on the powers and sanctions available to the regulator and courts in the legislation governing data sharing and data protection. It will also make recommendations how data sharing policy should be developed in a way that ensures proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice will publish the report later in the year.

The Data Protection Act gives citizens the right to know what information is held about them and sets rules to make sure organisations handle their personal information properly. The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations set out rules for people who wish to send electronic direct marketing, for example e-mails and text messages. The Government and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) keep legislation under review in the light of ever-increasing technological changes in the field of data protection.

For example on the matter of Phorm, the ICO made a statement on 3 March that it was in discussion with Phorm about the nature of its service and the way it uses information about Internet Service Provider customers. My noble Friend the Minister for Business and Competitiveness has met BT which intends to run a trial using Phorm's service involving around 10,000 broadband users in the near future. The ICO has discussed the trial with the relevant parties and BT has made it clear that, unless customers positively opt in to the trial, their web browsing will not be monitored for subsequent delivery of advertisements. The ICO will maintain close contact with Phorm and BT throughout the trial. It is important that people's privacy is protected, and the ICO, Phorm and BT are all committed to ensuring that any use of Phorm is compatible with the relevant privacy legislation.

Fuel Poverty

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on measures to alleviate fuel poverty since 2000, broken down by *(a)* initiative and *(b)* vulnerable group as defined in the Fuel Poverty Strategy. [218591]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Funding within Government for fuel poverty measures principally lies with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. BERR has provided £2 million to fund a pilot project to test the scope for community-based schemes to address fuel poverty in partnership with the Regional Development Agencies in North-East England and Yorkshire and Humberside. This will provide high value measures to 4,000 households in 20 communities in each region. I recently announced funding of £3 million for a further pilot project under the Low Carbon Buildings programme. This will provide microgeneration technologies to deprived households on a community basis. Both of these projects, which focus only on communities with high levels of multiple deprivation, are designed to assist low-income households, including vulnerable fuel poor households.

Internet: Security

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with internet service providers on internet tracking services and security online. [200292]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has regular meetings with internet service providers (ISPs) at which a wide range of topics are raised and discussed. On internet tracking services, Ministers have had discussions with one provider on this matter.

The statement of 18 April from the Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) notes that the Information Commissioner has been approached by a number of individuals and organisations for a view on Phorm's Webwise and Open Internet Exchange (OIX) products. The statement is at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/Home/about_us/news_and_views/current_topics/phorm_webwise_and_oie.aspx

It is important that people's privacy is protected, and the ICO are committed to ensuring that any use of Phorm is compatible with the relevant privacy legislation.

Members: Constituents

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will investigate the delay in payment of compensation to the constituent of the hon. Member for Swansea East, Mr Alan Thorpe, ref. T.J.R. 30599/3/SC. [218306]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is confidential to the constituent. However, I will write separately to my hon. Friend with an update in respect of her constituent's coal health compensation claim.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will investigate the delay in compensation for respiratory disease for the constituent of the hon. Member for Swansea East, Mr Hywel Jones, in relation to the late David Morris Jones, claim no. 755731. [218307]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is confidential to the constituent. However, I will write separately to my hon. Friend with an update in respect of her constituent's coal health compensation claim.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which nuclear power stations have been *(a)* out of commission and *(b)* stopped for repairs since January 2007. [217580]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not publish data on the operational status of individual nuclear stations. Data on recent historic nuclear generation unavailability are published in the "National Grid Winter Consultation Report" which is available at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/4B475A5CD41A4039908930B282276577/26306/WinterOutlookConsultationReportJune2.pdf

Nuclear Power Stations: Investment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expenditure his Department incurred in organising and hosting the investor conference for new nuclear build held on 12 June 2008. [210736]

Malcolm Wicks: The budget for organising and hosting the Nuclear Investors' Conference was £194,123. I expect final expenditure to be slightly below this.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most commonly used model of aircraft for domestic flight routes in the UK is. [218509]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most commonly used model of aircraft for domestic flight routes in the UK in 2007 was the Airbus A319.

Airports: Security

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions apply to liquids carried in carry-on hand baggage prior to passing security checkpoints at *(a)* Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick and *(b)* all other UK airports. [218830]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Passengers may carry small quantities of liquids, but only within separate containers each of which with a capacity not greater than 100 ml. These containers must be contained in a single, transparent, re-sealable plastic bag which itself must not exceed 1 litre in capacity (approximately 20 cm x 20 cm). The contents of the plastic bag must fit comfortably and the bag sealed. Each passenger may carry only one such bag of liquids. These regulations are applicable at all UK airports.

Aviation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many commercial passenger flights there were between London Heathrow Airport and *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Edinburgh and *(d)* Glasgow in each of the last three years. [217770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of commercial passenger flights between London Heathrow airport and Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow in each of the last three years.

Commercial passenger flights between London Heathrow and Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester

Thousand

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Birmingham[1]	—	—	—
Edinburgh	14.1	13.0	12.8
Glasgow	13.1	11.9	11.6
Manchester	12.5	11.2	10.3

[1] There are no flights between London Heathrow and Birmingham.

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average load factor was for domestic flights in each year since 1997. [218359]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The following table shows the average load factor for domestic flights in each year since 1997.

Average load factor for domestic flights[1] 1997-2007

	Passenger seat occupancy (percentage)
1997	64.2
1998	62.1
1999	60.7
2000	64.9
2001	61.8
2002	65.9
2003	70.4
2004	67.9
2005	65.0
2006	65.9
2007	65.1

[1] Major UK airlines, excluding sub-charter operations performed on behalf of UK airlines.

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) UK airline statistics

Aviation: Luggage

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 564-65W, on aviation: luggage, which airports have received permission to relax the one bag rule. [218850]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The airports which have received permission to lift the restriction are Aberdeen, Belfast International, Benbecula, Biggin Hill, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Blackpool, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, City of Derry, Coventry, Dundee, Durham Tees Valley, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Exeter, Farnborough, Filton, Gatwick, George Best Belfast City, Glasgow, Gloucestershire, Guernsey, Hawarden, Heathrow, Humberside, Inverness, Islay, Isle of Man, Jersey, Kent International, Kirkwall, Leeds Bradford, London City, Manchester, Newcastle, Newquay Cornwall, Norwich, Plymouth, Prestwick, Robin Hood, Southampton, Southend, Stansted, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree, Warton and Wick.

Aviation: Passengers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers took flights from London Heathrow Airport to *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Edinburgh and *(d)* Glasgow in each of the last three years. [217771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of passengers who took flights from London Heathrow airport to Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow in each of the last three years.

Passengers from London Heathrow to Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester

Thousand

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Birmingham[1]	—	—	—
Edinburgh	834	752	724
Glasgow	715	642	603
Manchester	642	555	494

[1] There are no flights between London Heathrow and Birmingham.

Source:
DFT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the 10 highest payments made by her Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by her Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last 12 months, the 10 highest payments made by the Highways Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, were:

	£
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	3,330,000.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	1,640,419.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	1,614,666.60
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	1,350,000.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	1,296,360.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	859,851.63
Acquisition following service of a blight notice	783,250.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	683,156.10
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	675,000.00
Acquisition under compulsory purchase order	495,000.00

All payments arise out of claims for compensation for the acquisition or temporary use of land required for the construction of a new or altered highway. The amount of each payment was determined in accordance with the 'Compensation Code' (made up of statute, case law and established practice) and agreed with the affected landowner following negotiations with the Highways Agency's independent valuer. None of the claims were contested in the Lands Tribunal.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change in the number of employees in her Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following change between July 2006 and July 2008:

	Total
July 2006	18840.31
July 2008	18650.36
Change	-189.95

The Vehicle Certification Agency were unable to provide this data without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which make and model of car is provided for the Leader of the House of Lords by the Government Car and Despatch Agency; [217749]

(2) what car the Government Car and Despatch Agency provides for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip; [217763]

(3) which make and model of car she has chosen as her Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217765]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Prime Minister sets the criteria for cars for use by Ministers. Currently, Cabinet Ministers may choose either a diesel powered Jaguar XJ or a Toyota Prius hybrid. Other Ministers may also choose from a Toyota Prius, a Honda Civic hybrid or any other suitable car with a CO_2 emission of 185 g/km or less.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of staff of her Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217373]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following proportion of employees who did not receive the maximum bonus applicable through their individual bonus schemes:

Financial period	*Percentage of employees receiving less than maximum bonus*
2006-07	80.46
2007-08	96.16

2007-08 figures do not include the Driving Standards Agency because their group incentive bonus has not yet been paid.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the standard retirement age in her Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214124]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The standard retirement age in the Department for Transport is 65. Prior to 2006 the standard retirement age was 60. The numbers of staff that worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Standard retirement age	*Staff working beyond standard retirement age*
2008	65	141
2007	65	155
2006	65	145
2005	60	771
2004	60	[1]358

[1] The figure for staff working beyond the standard retirement age in 2004 excludes staff working in the Driving Standards Agency. Due to a change of system in the agency in that year a reliable figure is not available.

Departmental Travel

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many miles of car travel staff in her Department claimed expenses in each of the past three years. [217608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and six of its agencies recorded staff car mileage as contained in the following table:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
VCA	337,063	285,566	325,107
MCA	776,622	863,488	652,072
HA	2,689,030	2,415,254	2,040,147
DSA	—	5,585,147	5,545,335
VOSA	6,800,000	6,200,000	5,800,000
DVLA	1,214,625	1,416,763	1,885,215
DfT	299,996	473,298	230,499
Total	12,117,336	17,239,516	16,489,863

The information for GCDA could only be provided at disproportionate cost. DSA only began recording mileage figures in 2006-07. Information for the previous year could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Government Car and Dispatch Agency: Tolls

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Dispatch Agency has spent on the London congestion charge in the last financial year. [217774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency paid a total of £109,538 in congestion charges in 2007-08.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters and other representations were received by her Department in the course of the consultation process Adding Value at Heathrow; and what proportion of the reply letters sent out by the Heathrow Consultation Team stated that it would not be possible to provide the answers to the individual issues raised. [212756]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* Over 65,000 responses have been received to the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation. These included responses received as letters, emails, postcards and response forms, sent either direct to the Department or to the designated freepost address of our response handling agents.

A number of the responses received by the Department asked questions relating to the consultation issues and we replied to 229 stating that "it will not be possible to provide you with answers to the individual issues raised". However, all responses have been carefully analysed and the report on this will be made available alongside ministerial decisions, which are expected later this year. These decisions will take account of all the evidence, including responses to the consultation.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet, on Heathrow airport: security, how many times her Department has conducted *(a)* announced and *(b)* unannounced security inspections and audits (i) prior to and (ii) since the opening of Heathrow Terminal 5; and what the date was of each inspection and audit. [217522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department monitors the level of compliance through its programme of regular inspections and audits. This activity is predominantly unannounced inspectors seek corrective action from industry where appropriate. We worked closely with Heathrow airport in the lead up to the opening of T5, and have undertaken regular monitoring activity since passenger flights commenced. However, it would not be appropriate to discuss the details of this activity.

Motor Vehicles: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars were registered in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [219057]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the numbers of licensed cars registered in each London borough in each of the last 10 years has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers in England are using a foreign licence. [217606]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information is not held.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the highest 10 payments made by her Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216678]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The highest 10 payments made by the Department for Transport in settlement of personal injury claims over the last 12 months were as follows:

Nature of incident	*Contested Yes/No*	*Settlement amount (£000)*
Trip/fall injury to employee while at work	Yes	135
Road traffic accident injury due to flooding	Yes	125
Road traffic accident injury due to flooding	Yes	105
Fall injury to employee	Yes	57
Asbestos related injury. Exposure occurred in 1965 to 1975	Yes	50

Nature of incident	Contested Yes/No	Settlement amount (£000)
Mechanical handling injury to employee	Yes	23
Slip injury to employee	Yes	22.5
Mechanical failure injury to employee	Yes	21
Road traffic accident – collision	Yes	15
Work place injury	Yes	12

Notes:
1. These figures exclude the costs reimbursed to the claimants.
2. No claim was paid without first obtaining relevant evidence and negotiating a settlement figure.

Ports: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government funding has been allocated to each port in Wales in each of the last five years. [218734]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. In general, ports in England and Wales operate in a competitive market without need for Government funding.

Road Traffic Offences: Cameras

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on traffic offences: cameras, if she will issue guidance to local authorities; and what her policy is on footage being made available on the internet. [219394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Making traffic camera footage available over the internet is a matter for the relevant local authority. The Department for Transport has no plans to issue guidance to local authorities on this subject.

Roads: Safety Measures

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will urge local authorities to stop the introduction of shared surfaces schemes until the completion of her Department's research in this area. [218856]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 July 2008]*: We neither encourage nor discourage shared surfaces. We will reconsider this position in the light of evidence from wide-ranging research, which will take into account the work of others in this area. Our aim is to use the research findings to inform the preparation of a comprehensive guidance document on the design of shared surfaces.

Taxis: Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements there are for taxi licensing authorities to perform Criminal Records Bureau checks on applicants for taxi licences. [219043]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer to the answer I gave on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 169W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the necessity of acute toxicity studies in animals to ensure the safety of medicines prior to first clinical trials on humans; what plans she has to amend the conditions under which licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are issued; and if she will make a statement. [218604]

Meg Hillier: We have received representation from the Dr. Hadwen Trust, and have taken note of the conclusions of the European pharmaceutical company initiative challenging the regulatory requirement for acute toxicity studies in pharmaceutical drug development reported in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 50 (2008) 345-352.

A recent review of the use of single dose acute toxicity studies in the UK confirms that single dose acute toxicity studies prior to first clinical use in humans is no longer routinely conducted. However, in some specific instances, it may be possible to justify such studies on a case-by-case basis; for example, prior to microdose studies in humans.

In view of this, and the fact that the conclusions of the European pharmaceutical company report largely reflects current UK practice, I see no need and have no plans to amend the conditions under which project licences for the purpose of conducting regulatory toxicology and safety evaluation studies have been granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce legislative proposals to prohibit the use of great apes for experimental and other scientific purposes, in the context of the revision of Directive 86/609 ECC; and if she will make a statement. [218151]

Meg Hillier: We have no plans to do so. It is too early to say what changes may be required to United Kingdom legislation before a proposal for a revised directive 86/609/EEC has been published and adopted. Great apes have never been used as laboratory animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and in 1997 we gave a commitment that we will not allow their use in the future. That remains our position.

Animal Experiments: Statistics

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 587W, on statistics of scientific procedures on living animals, what progress has been made on the project to make her Department's RDSD database searchable by the public. [218812]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office is continuing to look at ways to improve the search facility across the departmental website and this may provide additional

tools to improve the searchability of the abstracts database. For the longer term, work currently under way to improve the project licence application process under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 will also look at improvements to project licence abstracts. Other work in hand aimed at providing improved IT support for the licensing process will also provide an opportunity to seek ways to improve their searchability.

Criminal Records

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people whose details are recorded on the Criminal Records Bureau database have not been charged, convicted of or otherwise received a penalty or sanction in relation to a criminal offence; and how many such people are aged 16 years or under. [219037]

Meg Hillier: In processing disclosure applications the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) collates information which is held, owned and maintained by the police service, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department of Health respectively. Therefore, the CRB database does not hold the information requested.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many organisations submitted tenders to operate the Criminal Records Bureau contract when it was last renewed; and when the contract is next due to be renewed. [219163]

Meg Hillier: The contract with Capita Group plc to operate the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) information systems is next up for renewal on 11 March 2012.

In June 1999, following a tendering exercise, 95 organisations expressed an interest in joining a partnership arrangement with the CRB. In December 1999, it was announced that Capita Group plc, PricewaterhouseCoopers and eCRES were the short-listed bidders.

On 20 July 2000 the CRB announced that Capita Group plc had been selected as its private sector partner in the public private partnership to operate the Bureau, and the main agreement signed on 3 August 2000.

Criminal Records: Cooperation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of records of offences committed outside the United Kingdom held by the UK Central Authority were made available to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and used in CRB disclosures in the most recent period for which figures are available; whether there are data on categories of offences held by the UK Central Authority which may not be passed to the CRB for use in its disclosures; and whether she plans to introduce proposals to make all records of crimes and offences held by the UK Central Authority available to *(a)* the CRB and *(b)* other law agencies. [219152]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 72-73W.

Passports: Theft

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to prevent the sale of stolen passports. [217421]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service provides, on a regular basis, details of all processed reports of lost, stolen and destroyed British passports to Interpol and the UK Border Agency. It also offers a passport validation service (PVS) to approved organisations that are subject to UK money laundering legislation. PVS enables these organisations to confirm that a British passport, which is presented by the holder to support a transaction, is current and has not been reported lost, stolen or recovered. When applications for passport renewals are received by IPS, there is an automatic check that the expiring passport has not previously been reported lost or stolen. Steps such as these reduce the value of stolen British passports, because they are more likely to be identified should they be used to operate financial services to enable travel or to be used to obtain a new passport in a false identity. This reduces the value and hence demand/sales of lost and stolen British passports.

Schengen Agreement: ICT

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the UK's participation in the Schangen SISNet system is. [217984]

Meg Hillier: SISNet is the established communication infrastructure for the Schengen Information System (SIS), enabling communication between the member states and the central system (C-SIS). Although the UK is not connected to the current SIS, we have established access to SISNet, which provides the technical capacity to receive communication from other member states.

Vetting: Fees and Charges

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether payments are required for each Criminal Records Bureau check on an individual seeking to perform one or more roles during the same time period within the same geographical area; [219167]

(2) for what reasons the results of Criminal Records Bureau searches on individuals are not transferable between organisations in circumstances where the individual concerned has given consent. [219184]

Meg Hillier: Disclosures are primarily designed to be used by an employer at the point of recruitment for a particular position. Ultimately it is for each employer, and not the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), to decide whether a new disclosure should be applied for, bearing in mind their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements.

There are a number of reasons why an employer may not wish to accept a disclosure that has been processed for a previous employment position, including:

The disclosure may not be at the right level (there are two different levels of CRB check; standard and enhanced);

The older a disclosure is the less reliable the information is, because the information it contains may not be up to date;

Information revealed through a CRB check reflects the information that was available at the time of its issue—a person may have committed a crime in the intervening period;

The disclosure process may also include a search to establish whether an individual is subject to a direction under section 142 of the Education Act 2002, or a check against the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults PoCA and PoVA) lists.

Each disclosure is specific to the circumstances of a particular job application and any decision to disclose any non-conviction information held by individual police forces is unique to that position.

Payment is required for each CRB check, regardless of whether an individual has had a previous disclosure. The CRB charges £31.00 for a standard disclosure and £36.00 for an enhanced disclosure. The CRB continues to process disclosure applications for volunteers free of charge.

All applications are processed individually and the fee was last prescribed in 2006. This is in accordance with part V of the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 which states that a disclosure shall be issued to any individual who makes an application in the prescribed format and pays the prescribed fee.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of opium produced in Afghanistan in each of the last five years; and what proportion is estimated to have been produced in Helmand province in each such year. [218923]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts annual surveys of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. In the North and East of Afghanistan, where security, alternative livelihoods and governance are improving, poppy cultivation fell in 2007. The number of provinces free from poppy doubled from six to 13. In 2008, the Government of Afghanistan's target is for over half of all provinces to become poppy-free. While we remain concerned by sustained opium production figures in the insecure South, we welcome the UNODC's prediction that overall poppy cultivation will decrease slightly in 2008. We continue to work with the Afghan Government, donors and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to sustain success in the North and East and to target operations against the drugs trade in the South.

The data as follows are drawn from the UNODC surveys.

	Potential volume of opium produced in Afghanistan in the last five years (Tonnes)	*Potential volume of opium produced in Helmand province in the last five years*	
		Tonnes	*Percentage*
2007	8,200	4,399	54
2006	6,100	2,801	46
2005	4,100	1,004	24
2004	4,200	840	20
2003	3,600	684	19

Afghanistan: Stabilisation Unit

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the Stabilisation Unit are working in Afghanistan. [218915]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence agreed in June that the unit should take on responsibility for recruiting, training and deploying all civilians in delivery roles in the Helmand Integrated Civilian/Military Mission (formerly the Helmand provincial reconstruction team—PRT) except the head and one of the deputies. This currently represents 37 of the 55 civilian posts. Of these, 22 are filled: six by core staff from the unit and 16 on contract. The remaining 15 posts have only recently been established and are under recruitment. The unit also provides a contracted civilian expert to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-led International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command (South) headquarters in Kandahar.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214706]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's fixed asset register currently shows, for items categorised as information systems, a total purchase cost of £135.4 million and a current gross value, before depreciation, of £110.7 million.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216374]

Meg Munn: Approximately 370 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff currently have access to secure facilities enabling comprehensive remote connection to the FCO's information technology infrastructure. A further 140 have been provided with a system providing more limited access.

Embassies: Festivals and Special Occasions

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many embassies and other posts held events to celebrate *(a)* St George's Day, *(b)* St Andrew's Day and *(c)* St Patrick's Day in the last 12 months. [219003]

David Miliband: According to the latest information available, during the last year, the number of our embassies and subordinate posts that held national saint's day events was:

	Number
St. George's Day	5
St. Andrew's Day	7
St. Patrick's Day	4

In addition to this, during the last year, the number of our embassies and subordinate posts overseas that publicised the national saints' days via their website and media contacts was:

	Number
St. George's Day	11
St. Andrew's Day	18
St. Patrick's Day	9

Embassies: Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2309W, on embassies: manpower, how many UK-based staff his Department employs in each country overseas. [218646]

David Miliband: The number of UK-based civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in each country overseas is kept under constant review. It changes regularly as staff are redeployed to meet changing business priorities.

Some staff have regional roles and cover a number of countries in addition to the one in which they are based. Others are accredited to international organisations located in the country where they are based.

The figures in the table attached include all UK-based staff employed by, or seconded to, the FCO. The FCO's global network provides a platform to deliver for the whole of the Government. Staff serving other Government Departments, such as the Department for International Development or the Ministry of Defence in our Missions overseas, are not included.

Country	*UK based staff*	*Country*	*UK based staff*	*Country*	*UK based staff*
Afghanistan	74	Holy See	1	Romania	12
Albania	9	Hungary	15	Russian Federation	72
Algeria	11	Iceland	2	Rwanda	5
Angola	8	India	144	Saint Lucia	1
Argentina	15	Indonesia	29	Saudi Arabia	35
Armenia	4	Iran	22	Senegal	4
Australia	26	Iraq	42	Seychelles	2
Austria	39	Ireland	14	Serbia	14
Azerbaijan	9	Israel	16	Sierra Leone	11
Bahrain	11	Italy	20	Singapore	19
Bangladesh	35	Jamaica	24	Slovakia	9
Barbados	11	Japan	39	Slovenia	7
Belarus	5	Jerusalem	11	Solomon Islands	2
Belgium	125	Jordan	27	South Africa	38
Belize	2	Kazakhstan	10	Spain	26
Bolivia	4	Kenya	41	Sri Lanka	22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	Korea (North)	4	Sudan	19
Botswana	4	Korea (South)	19	Sweden	12
Brazil	26	Kosovo	8	Switzerland	44
Brunei	6	Kuwait	21	Syria	13
Bulgaria	11	Latvia	3	Taiwan	10
Cambodia	5	Lebanon	17	Tajikistan	3
Cameroon	6	Liberia	1	Tanzania	9
Canada	23	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	18	Thailand	33
Chile	9	Lithuania	6	Trinidad and Tobago	4
China	174	Luxembourg	3	Tunisia	8
Colombia	23	Macedonia	6	Turkey	44
Congo DR	8	Malawi	5	Turkmenistan	4
Costa Rica	3	Malaysia	18	Uganda	14
Cote d'Ivoire	1	Malta	7	Ukraine	17
Croatia	9	Mauritius	4	United Arab Emirates	42
Cuba	8	Mexico	19	USA	134
Cyprus	14	Moldova	3	Uruguay	2
Czech Republic	10	Mongolia	2	Uzbekistan	7
Denmark	11	Montenegro	1	Venezuela	10
Dominican Republic	2	Morocco	12	Vietnam	13
Ecuador	6	Mozambique	7	Yemen	13
Egypt	34	Myanmar	7	Zambia	9
Eritrea	2	Namibia	3	Zimbabwe	19
Estonia	7	Nepal	8	—	—
Ethiopia	18	Netherlands	17	Overseas Territories	—
Fiji	7	New Zealand	10	Anguilla	4
Finland	11	Nigeria	107	Ascension Island	1
France	54	Norway	11	Bermuda	3
Gambia	5	Oman	13	British Virgin Islands	4
Georgia	8	Pakistan	125	Cayman Islands	4

Country	UK based staff	Country	UK based staff	Country	UK based staff
Germany	37	Panama	3	Falkland Islands	4
Ghana	34	Papua New Guinea	2	Gibraltar	8
Greece	15	Peru	6	Montserrat	4
Guatemala	6	Philippines	22	Pitcairn	1
Guinea	1	Poland	22	Saint Helena	2
Guyana	5	Portugal	9	Tristan de Cunha	1
—	—	Qatar	14	Turks and Caicos Islands	4

EU: Foreign Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* entertainment budget of EU missions overseas is in 2008-09. [217979]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total budget allocated to our Diplomatic Missions in EU member states is £91.01 million for 2008-09, of which £1.93 million has been allocated for entertainment. This is a reduction in real terms from a budget of £86.28 million in 2007-08 but includes an increase of £11.5 million to compensate for exchange rate and inflationary pressures.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217883]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not categorise expenditure to that degree of detail. The information is therefore not obtainable. M&J Seafood has recently become the sole fish supplier to the FCO's catering contractor, Director's Table. M&J Seafood is committed to responsible sourcing from well-managed and sustainable fisheries and actively promotes the use of under utilised species. M&J Seafood does not supply any species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list of endangered species and was the first company within the UK's food industry to offer Marine Stewardship Council approved products such as New Zealand hoki, wild Alaskan salmon and Cornish line-caught mackerel.

Furthermore, M&J Seafood supplies the 'Natural Choice' Shetland salmon which is certified by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' farm assurance and food labelling scheme and fed with organic sustainable feed only.

Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what means his Department alerts embassies and high commissions overseas to the tabling of parliamentary Questions on human rights issues. [217501]

Meg Munn: Where a parliamentary question on human rights is country or region specific, the relevant Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) Office Desk, in consultation with our embassies and high commissions in the countries concerned, will provide a response. For parliamentary questions relating to human rights themes or the international human rights system more generally, the FCO's Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Group will provide a response consulting with relevant posts as necessary.

Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department took second language training in each of the last five years; and what the five languages in which training was most frequently undertaken were. [218922]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* During financial year 2004-05, 757 officers undertook language training. Information on which languages were studied is not available for this period.

During financial year 2005-06,754 officers undertook language training.

During financial year 2006-07, 567 officers undertook language training.

During financial year 2007-08, 441 officers undertook language training.

So far during financial year 2008-09, 135 officers are undertaking language training. The five languages most frequently studied so far this year, and in the previous three financial years, are French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Mandarin.

North Korea

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice given by the United Kingdom on the recent Group of 6 talks in Beijing on relations with North Korea. [217507]

Meg Munn: The UK is not a member of the Six party talks process and has not been asked to advise those countries that are. We do, however, strongly support the process as the best mechanism for achieving verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We welcome recent progress and stand ready to assist the Six parties.

North Korea: Forced Labour

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his North Korean counterpart on closing North Korea's forced labour camps. [217722]

Meg Munn: The Government are deeply concerned about reported serious, widespread and systematic human rights abuses in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Our ambassador in Pyongyang raised concerns about labour camps, as well as wider human rights issues, with Kim Young Nam (President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly) on 2 July. We will continue to take every appropriate opportunity, bilaterally and through the EU and the UN, to press the DPRK to engage with the international community on human rights and to improve its record in this area.

Raoul Wallenberg

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any evidence on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg has been supplied to the Government by *(a)* the government of Sweden and *(b)* the government of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [217919]

Mr. Jim Murphy: According to the Government's records, the only document supplied by the Swedish government related to the fate of Swedish citizen Raoul Wallenberg is the report by the Bilateral Swedish-Russian Commission published in 2000. The document is available on the internet at the following address:

www.fritzes.se.

Our records indicate that there is a public record file FO188/727, entitled 'Political relations between Sweden and the Soviet Union: Raoul Wallenberg, 1957', which is also available for inspection through the Public Records Office.

The Government have no record of receiving evidence from the Government of Israel relating to the death of Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will ask the Russian authorities to publish their records relating to Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement; [217918]

(2) if he will make representations to the government of Russia on the case of Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement; [217916]

(3) on what occasions the Prime Minister or his predecessors have raised the case of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg with the government of *(a)* Russia and *(b)* the former Soviet Union; and if he will make a statement. [217908]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have no plans to request the Russian authorities to publish any records relating to Swedish citizen Mr. Raoul Wallenberg or to make any representations to the Russian government on this case. The case of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg is a matter for the Swedish government.

We have no records to suggest that discussions between the Government and the Soviet or Russian governments relating to Mr. Raoul Wallenberg took place before or after 1991.

South Korea: Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the government of South Korea the involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in prisoner exchanges between South and North Korea. [217499]

Meg Munn: We are not aware of any prisoner exchanges between South and North Korea.

The few North Korean citizens who do enter South Korea directly are interviewed by the authorities to determine if they wish to defect or to return to North Korea. All North Korean citizens are entitled to South Korean citizenship and have no need to claim refugee status. Those who wish to return are normally repatriated under arrangements made between the North and South Korean Red Cross societies. There is, therefore, no involvement of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Tamils

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation of Tamils in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [218672]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The UK's view is that there must be inclusive political negotiations for a just settlement that could satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all communities in Sri Lanka and promote democracy, stability and the observance of internationally accepted human rights principles.

The Government have grave concerns about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. Issues of concern include the targeting of civilians, the recruitment of child soldiers in violation of international law, reports of mistreatment and of the intimidation of the media and continuing abductions and disappearances. Tamils are disproportionately affected.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, recently visited Sri Lanka to reiterate the UK's concerns to the Sri Lankan Government and to urge them and representatives of all communities to improve the human rights situation for all of its citizens.

Zimbabwe: Females

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government have put forward to seek to strengthen women's rights in Zimbabwe and their involvement in the political process. [217511]

Meg Munn: The Government continue to support the rights of women in Zimbabwe as part of the political process. We are pressing for a free, fair and transparent democratic process in Zimbabwe which meets international standards as well as the standards of the South African Development Community (SADC).

Our embassy in Harare has provided support to women's empowerment groups and the Department for International Development is also working closely with the UN, other donors and women's groups to support women's rights.

We will, with the EU and other international partners, support the African Union, SADC and the UN in encouraging a new government in Zimbabwe which permits full and equal humanitarian access and shows commitment to macroeconomic stabilisation, the rule of law, human rights and a democratic process which ensures the full involvement of women.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government has given to women's groups operating in Zimbabwe. [217512]

Meg Munn: The Government provide humanitarian assistance to a broad range of groups in Zimbabwe which include women's groups. Our assistance is saving the lives and livelihoods of Zimbabwe's poorest and most vulnerable—in the context of a failed harvest, hyperinflation and economic hardship, internal displacement and the ravages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We stand ready to make further contributions to Zimbabwe's recovery once appropriate conditions are in place.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding from the public purse was provided to *(a)* the Carbon Trust, *(b)* Envirowise and *(c)* the Energy Saving Trust in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [217965]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA provided funding to these organisations as follows:

(a) Total funding provided to the Carbon Trust in 2007-08 was £88 million to the nearest million. This figure is subject to audit.

(b) Total funding provided to Envirowise in England in 2007-08 was £22.19 including VAT.

(c) Total funding provided to the Energy Saving Trust in 2007-08 was £29 million in 2007-08 for the valuable work which they undertake to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

Construction: Waste Disposal

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to eliminate the illegal landfilling of construction waste, as part of its strategy to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the construction industry, with particular reference to plastic foam insulation. [218700]

Joan Ruddock: Construction waste was identified as a priority waste stream for action in DEFRA's waste strategy for England 2007. As part of this, in April 2008, we introduced site waste management plans on a mandatory basis in England for all construction projects worth over £300,000. One objective of these plans is to encourage the legal handling and disposal of construction waste.

On the specific issue of plastic foam insulation, DEFRA officials have had a number of meetings with industry representatives over the last six months to discuss key issues around the practicality of identification, segregation and destruction of ozone-depleting substances in such foams.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the waste and resources action programme has given to waste collection authorities on the size of bins for residual household rubbish. [219016]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities. Local authorities are free to choose how they fulfil their waste collection duties including the frequency of the collections, the priority, degree of effort and resources required.

The authority can specify the number, size, construction and maintenance of receptacles, what can be placed in each, where and when they are to be placed for collection and can require the waste to be treated prior to placing it in a receptacle (usually washing or rinsing containers).

Alternate weekly collection systems use more than one receptacle, so the guidance published by the waste and resources action programme (WRAP) in July 2007 offers some consideration of specific issues associated with the containers for residual waste.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many householders have been issued with fixed penalties for putting household waste out for collection at a time other than that specified by a local authority waste collection service in the latest period for which figures are available. [219080]

Joan Ruddock: My Department collates the number of fixed penalty notices for offences relating to 'waste receptacles', but the information cannot be disaggregated in the way requested. Data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for offences in relation to waste receptacles (Section 47ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) are available on the DEFRA website.

Fertilisers: Seas and Oceans

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the merits of proposals to sell carbon offsets from the first generation of commercial scale ocean iron fertilisation experiments. [217667]

Mr. Woolas: The Government supports the precautionary approach towards ocean iron fertilisation decided upon recently at the ninth conference of the parties of the UN convention on biological diversity. In line with this decision, our position is that commercial ocean iron fertilisation should not take place until there is a sufficient scientific basis on which to justify such activities.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential environmental effects of ocean fertilisation. [217671]

Mr. Woolas: The Government acknowledges the concerns over the risks posed by ocean fertilisation to biodiversity and supports the precautionary approach decided upon recently at the ninth conference of the parties of the UN convention on biological diversity. DEFRA currently has no plans to fund research into this technology. However, we do not want to rule out possible climate mitigation options at an early stage, and would wish to maintain the option of appropriate and strictly controlled scientific research where it could provide further information to help understand the impact of such technologies. We will continue to keep abreast of research underway in the global community.

According to the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPPC), iron fertilisation of the oceans may offer a potential strategy for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by stimulating the growth of phytoplankton and thereby sequestering the carbon dioxide in the form of particulate organic carbon. However, the IPCC also stated that ocean iron fertilisation remains largely speculative, and many of the environmental side effects have yet to be assessed.

Flood Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on flood prevention measures in each county in England in each year since 2005. [216516]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency allocates funding to stretches of river and areas at risk of flooding rather than to counties.

The following table shows expenditure by Regional Flood Defence Committee and provides the total amount in capital grant to local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards.

Regional Flood Defence Committee	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Anglian—Central	20.3	34.1	23.4
Anglian—Eastern	43.1	49.7	52.8
Anglian—Northern	42.9	38.6	34.9
Midlands	57.1	63.7	58.0
North East—Northumbria	14.5	12.6	12.3
North East—Yorkshire	47.3	39.5	41.2
North West	47.7	47.6	57.9
Southern	68.4	52.4	60.4
South West—South West	15.2	23.2	27.6
South West—Wessex	33.4	28.5	31.6
Thames	121.9	113.9	118.0
Total	511.8	503.8	518.1
Local authority and Internal Drainage Boards	13	13	19

Floods: Insurance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with insurers on areas adversely affected by the 2007 floods. [218783]

Mr. Woolas: Ministerial colleagues and I have held several meetings with the Association of British Insurers and their members since the flooding last summer. At our most recent meeting on 10 July the insurers reported that, of their customers, they expected that fewer than 300 households would still be out of their homes by the end of July. At this meeting we also finalised an agreement to ensure that flood insurance remains widely available now and in the long term. I have placed a copy of the joint statement and supporting documents in the Libraries of the House.

Fly Tipping

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on fly-tipping of the review of inert waste regulation. [219079]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not made an assessment of the effect that the review of inert waste regulation has had on fly-tipping. The inert waste review considered a number of issues concerning inert waste recovery and disposal mainly linked to the implementation of the landfill directive. A consultation on inert waste regulation which sought views on possible improvements to address these issues closed in March 2008.

Forests

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in identifying and engaging owners of undermanaged woodland since the publication of the England Woodfuel Strategy. [218127]

Joan Ruddock: This work is being led by the Forestry Commission, which has taken on four new staff to co-ordinate activities at national and regional levels. The Forestry Commission is running regional pilot schemes to identify and engage woodland owners through its woodfuel initiative. The information gathered will be used to complete the England woodfuel strategy implementation plan within the next six months.

In addition the Forestry Commission is facilitating the formation of a supplier association and, with the Renewable Energy Association, is identifying and recording the location of wood fuelled boilers to help with the development of fuel supply from existing woodland in private ownership.

The Forestry Commission is also working with the Regional Development Agencies to deliver grants to the forestry sector under the Rural Development programme for England to support infrastructure for woodfuel supply.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to regulate the activities of the Warm Front scheme to protect the consumer. [218180]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* DEFRA employs independent quality assessors who provide two audit reports per year on scheme performance. These

reports include large scale surveying of Warm Front clients to provide feedback on the standards of service provided, along with recommendations for Scheme improvements.

In addition, a second consumer representative has been appointed to the Warm Front Scheme Management Board, to provide greater input and feedback on the scheme from a consumer's perspective.

Incinerators: Waste Disposal

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what requirements his Department imposes on the management of ash residues arising from pyrolysis of *(a)* biodegradable municipal waste and *(b)* other waste streams; [218592]

(2) what requirements his Department imposes on the management of solid residues arising from the pyrolysis of waste in circumstances where such residues may enter sewage systems; [218593]

(3) on how many occasions solid residues arising from the pyrolysis of municipal waste were flushed into the sewage system in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [218594]

(4) what classification his Department gives to each of the by-products arising from pyrolysis for waste management purposes. [218595]

Joan Ruddock: Incinerators, whether based on pyrolysis or other techniques, produce two main residues called Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) and Air Pollution Control (APC) residues. These waste residues may be recovered or disposed of in an appropriately permitted site or one that benefits from an exemption from the need for an environmental permit in a manner that prevents pollution of the environment or harm to human health. Management of waste residues is also subject to the Duty of Care and where appropriate the Hazardous Waste Regulations and must be transported by a registered waste carrier. Municipal waste incinerators, whether based on pyrolysis or otherwise, do not discharge their residues to sewage systems. Therefore, there are no figures on occasions when the residues were flushed into sewage systems in the last five years.

Sewerage companies have powers to control and reduce discharges of trade effluent into sewers. If they consider a discharge to constitute trade effluent, their consent is required under the provisions of the Water Industry Act 1991. The consent may set conditions and require the elimination or diminution of any specified constituent of the trade effluent before it enters the sewer. Such a discharge without the company's agreement is a criminal offence.

If the sewerage company does not classify the discharge as trade effluent, it is still an offence under section 111 of the 1991 Act, for a person to empty into a public sewer, any matter which is likely to injure the sewer, to interfere with the free flow of its contents or prejudice the treatment and disposal of its contents. Any person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

In general, APC residues are classed as hazardous waste. Most IBA is likely to be non-hazardous waste. However, IBA is listed in the European Waste Catalogue as a 'mirror entry'. This means that IBA can be either hazardous or non-hazardous waste. IBA that possesses any one of the 14 hazardous properties (H1-H14) is classified as a hazardous waste and hence subject to Hazardous Waste Regulations.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* accessibility and *(b)* capacity of facilities to destroy through incineration products containing ozone-depleting substances, with particular reference to those contained within plastic foam insulation. [218702]

Mr. Woolas: There are two high temperature incinerators that can destroy ozone-depleting substances from plastic foam insulation and they are located in Ellesmere Port and Southampton.

DEFRA officials have met with industry representatives to discuss the recovery for destruction of ozone-depleting substances from plastic foam insulation in buildings but further work is needed to scope the practicality of recovery, likely volumes of waste and the necessary destruction capacity.

Landfill: Contamination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landfill sites have been investigated as a result of suspected contamination with chemical waste by Monsanto. [216360]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency grants landfill permits, subject to conditions, authorising the types and quantities of waste that may be received. The permits do not normally authorise individual and specific sources of waste. The Environment Agency is therefore not able to state categorically which of 1,500-plus permitted operational and closed landfill sites in England and Wales have received waste from Monsanto.

The lead regulatory authorities for contaminated land in England and Wales under part 2A of Environmental Protection Act are local authorities. Local authorities inspect their areas for the presence of contaminated land, including former landfills, under part 2A. DEFRA does not hold data on how many former landfills have been subject to local authority inspection to date or particular companies that may have been involved.

Under the part 2A regime, the Environment Agency undertakes the inspection of a specific subset of sites known as 'special sites' on behalf of the local authorities. The Environment Agency has so far been involved with the investigation of over 30 former landfill sites. This includes Brofiscin in South Wales, where it is alleged Monsanto historically disposed of hazardous chemical waste.

Manure

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations his Department has received on the effects on horticulture of Aminopyralid in manure; [217528]

(2) how many incidents the Pesticides Safety Directorate has recorded regarding manure contaminated by Aminopyralid in the last 12 months. [218325]

Mr. Woolas: The first inquiry relating to the potential effects of Aminopyralid in manure was received by the Pesticides Safety Directorate's helpline on 12 March 2008. Around 70 inquiries had been received up to 9 July 2008, primarily from amateur gardeners and allotment holders. It is not known how many reports of damage to crops are attributable to Aminopyralid.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects on agricultural production of the use of manure containing Aminopyralid; [217529]

(2) what guidelines his Department has issued on the use of manure containing Aminopyralid; and how and to whom such guidance has been disseminated. [217530]

Mr. Woolas: Aminopyralid has been granted provisional authorisation for use as a herbicide on grassland, following an evaluation of relevant data by the Pesticides Safety Directorate. These data indicated that Aminopyralid may remain in plant material from treated land and pass into the manure of livestock which eat such material. Susceptible crops may be adversely affected by the residues in the plant material.

Labels of products which contain Aminopyralid therefore include warnings not to use manure from livestock which have eaten grass from treated land, or fodder derived from such grass, on susceptible crops or on land intended for growing such crops, until all plant material has fully decomposed. As with all plant protection products, users should always read and follow the label instructions; this is a statutory requirement. Some cases of damage to susceptible crops appear to have arisen because the label precautions on the use of manure may not always have been followed when manure has been supplied to allotment holders and gardeners.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the risk to *(a)* human and *(b)* animal health of consuming vegetables grown in manure which contains Aminopyralid. [217531]

Mr. Woolas: Aminopyralid is a herbicide designed for selective broad-leaved weed control in grassland. It is of low toxicity to mammals. Damage to vegetables from Aminopyralid residues in manure has arisen in part because the substance can persist in grass, hay or silage, and passes through the mammalian digestive system largely unaffected into the resultant manure, rather than being broken down.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) authorised the use of Aminopyralid on grassland on the basis of data which showed that there would be no unacceptable effects on animals fed on that grass, or on their meat or milk. PSD has now assessed additional information from the manufacturer that confirms that using manure which may contain residues of Aminopyralid in ground used to grow vegetables does not have implications for human or animal health. Even if manure were derived from animals fed only grass, or silage made from grass treated with Aminopyralid and plants took up all the aminopyralid present in that manure, the highest residues would not give rise to consumer health concerns and the vegetables should be safe to eat.

Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Waste and Resources Action Programme document, "Management of green waste at civic amenity sites: a good practice guide". [218883]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for copies of the document requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Regional Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Big Lottery Fund provides to each regional equality and diversity partnership. [219065]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has advised that it has received no applications from regional organisations called equality and diversity partnerships.

Broadcasting Reception

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households which cannot receive *(a)* television transmission, *(b)* the internet and *(c)* a mobile phone signal. [202155]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

(a) Ofcom estimate that less than 1.5 per cent. of UK homes are unable to receive the main four television services (BBC1, BBC2, ITV1 and Channel 4) in analogue form. Channel 5's analogue service is available to approximately 80 per cent. of the UK population. While classed as 'unserved' according to the broadcasters' technical criteria for television coverage planning, many viewers in this 1.5 per cent. of homes can actually receive some of the analogue television services with a good level of quality, or can receive all services with a poorer level of quality. The same services are available in digital form today to over 50 per cent. of homes by means of cable networks, to approximately 98 per cent. of homes by means of satellite transmission, and to over 80 per cent. of homes by means of digital terrestrial television. When digital switchover is complete, these public service television services will be available to 98.5 per cent. of homes via digital terrestrial transmission.

(b) The availability of fixed line telephony services to all of the UK under BT and Kingston Communications' universal service obligation means that all UK households are able to receive narrowband internet services. Ofcom data show that almost all UK households (over 99.9 per cent.) are connected to a DSL broadband-enabled local exchange, however a small proportion of lines in these areas will not be suitable for the delivery of broadband services, or will only be able to do so only at very low speeds, due to local technicalities such as line length or poor network quality. According to BT, 99.6 per cent. of its network is able to support broadband speeds of 512 kbit/s or above, although it is not possible to translate this into a proportion of households.

(c) Ofcom estimates that around 0.2 per cent. of the UK population live in an area where they are unable to receive second generation (2G) phone services. 99.8 per cent. of the UK population live within postal districts that have one or more operators with a network footprint that covers at least 95 per cent. of the postcode area. The remaining 0.2 per cent. of the population are generally located in deep rural locations with very small populations and topography that often presents physical barriers to radio waves.

Casinos

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timetable for the review of the effect of the new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005 is. [219062]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An assessment of the social and economic impact of the eight large and eight small casinos permitted under the Gambling Act will be conducted when the first of the new casinos has been trading for at least three years. The new casinos are not likely to be trading before 2010 or 2011 at the earliest. We do not expect the assessment to be completed before 2014.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's accommodation costs were in each year since 1997. [218389]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's accommodations costs were as follows:

	£
1997-98	5,287,565.22
1998-99	4,653,525.96
1999-2000	4,691,917.98
2000-01	5,504,705.10
2001-02	6,779,078.85
2002-03	7,039,742.89
2003-04	7,487,127.69
2004-05	7,320,765.68
2005-06	8,117,154.80
2006-07	9,225,464.97
2007-08	8,858,113.28

Accommodation costs include rent, business rates, service charges, utilities, maintenance and accommodation management charges.

European Union: Citizenship

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Europe for Citizens programmes are operating in the UK. [217986]

Margaret Hodge: Projects receiving funding under the Europe for Citizens programme in the UK include town-twinning co-operation projects, structural support for public research, civil society organisations and projects promoting European remembrance of the victims of Nazism and Stalinism.

Holocaust Memorial Day: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in each of the last five years. [218530]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Heritage Memorial Day Trust is responsible for the annual, national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. This is not a Government initiative and, therefore, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no budget for its promotion.

The trust raises awareness, informs and educates about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance, especially to issues of racism, prejudice and discrimination. It prompts action in the UK in favour of diversity, equality and harmony between communities. We believe that it is important to learn the lessons of the past to build a better future.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219010]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None.

Licensing laws

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1810-12W, on licensing, if he will publish an updated list of local authorities with a designated cumulative impact area as of 2008. [219181]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is currently collecting data on the number of cumulative impact areas on 31 March 2008 for the next statistical bulletin which we anticipate will be made publicly available in autumn 2008.

Orchestras: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the *(a)* Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, *(b)* Hallé Orchestra and *(c)* City of Birmingham Orchestra has received from Arts Council England in each of the last five years. [218854]

Margaret Hodge: These orchestras are three of Arts Council England's regularly funded organisations. According to the Arts Council, they have received funding as set out in the following table. All of this funding has been from the Arts Council's grant in aid.

£

Organisation	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	412,319	662,317	888,186	912,611	937,708
Hallé Concerts Society	1,718,090	1,841,681	1,955,496	2,009,300	2,064,600
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	1,735,962	1,840,120	1,955,496	2,009,272	2,064,527

Public Houses: Closures

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of closures of establishments in the public house sector in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007. [218583]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not at any time made an estimate of the number of closures of establishments in the public house sector.

St. David's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department took to celebrate St. David's Day in 2008. [218532]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport took no steps to celebrate St. David's Day in 2008.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on promoting St. David's Day in each of the last five years. [218533]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport did not spend anything on promoting St. David's Day in each of the last five years.

Theatres

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* seating capacity, *(b)* occupancy rate, *(c)* salary of the Chief Executive and *(d)* amount of support provided from the public purse for each theatre supported by funds from the public purse was in the latest year for which figures are available. [214429]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not recorded centrally, apart from the amount of support provided from the public purse for each theatre supported by funds from the public purse. This information, provided by Arts Council England, is set out in the following table.

Arts Council England support for theatres

£

Organisation	Region	2007-08	2008-09
Colchester Mercury Theatre Limited	East	770,262	791,059
Eastern Angles Theatre Company	East	218,244	115,000
Hoipolloi Theatre Company	East	112,977	116,028
New International Encounters	East	—	150,000
New Wolsey Theatre	East	603,927	723,927
Theatre Is	East	170,494	175,097
Theatre Resource	East	56,039	57,552
Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds	East	127,155	130,588
Trestle Theatre Company	East	262,183	262,183
Watford Palace Theatre	East	717,651	737,028
Derby City Council - Produced work	EM	—	742,810
First Movement	EM	117,775	140,955
High Peak Theatre Trust	EM	44,370	45,570
Leicester Theatre Trust	EM	1,705,505	1,751,555
Louth Playgoers	EM	44,370	45,570
Metro-Boulot-Dodo	EM	—	60,000
New Perspectives Theatre Co	EM	261,720	268,785
Northampton Theatres Trust	EM	697,134	715,960
Nottingham Theatre Trust	EM	1,342,165	1,378,405
Reckless Sleepers	EM	49,440	90,000
Theatre Writing Partnership	EM	49,910	84,850
Actors Touring Company (ATC)	L	205,872	211,431
Albert & Friends Instant Circus	L	25,000	90,000
Almeida Theatre Company Ltd	L	976,575	1,002,943
Alternative Theatre Company (The Bush)	L	490,748	503,998
Arcola Theatre Production Company	L	97,500	150,000
Artichoke	L	—	500,000
Battersea Arts Centre (BAC)	L	506,763	635,000
Bill Gee	L	—	25,000
Box Clever Theatre Company	L	62,185	63,864
Broadway Theatre, Barking	L	40,000	40,000
Cardboard Citizens	L	158,891	163,181
Cheek by Jowl	L	—	250,000
Circus Space	L	298,880	323,880
Clean Break Theatre Company	L	196,988	220,000
Collective Artistes	L	—	110,000
Company FZ	L	25,000	90,000
Company of Angels	L	120,000	140,000
Deafinitely Theatre	L	68,624	120,000
Donmar Warehouse Projects Ltd	L	500,000	513,500
Duckie	L	68,624	145,000
Emergency Exit Arts	L	68,624	120,000
English Stage Company (Royal Court Theatre)	L	2,132,062	2,189,628
English Touring Theatre (ETT)	L	755,921	691,758
Extant	L	—	85,000
Fevered Sleep	L	—	85,000
Frantic Theatre Company Ltd	L	147,806	170,000
Fuel	L	—	60,000
Gate Theatre	L	282,582	290,212
Graeae Theatre Company	L	549,267	564,097
Hackney Empire Ltd	L	274,114	375,000
Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre	L	200,594	206,010
Hampstead Theatre	L	665,126	890,000
Headlong Theatre Ltd	L	673,572	691,758
Improbable	L	147,806	200,000
Independent Street Arts Network	L	30,000	90,000
Julie McNamara	L	—	60,000
Kali Theatre Company	L	150,000	200,000
Kazzum Arts Project	L	68,624	90,000
London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT)	L	659,848	350,000
London International Mime Festival (LIMF)	L	165,791	170,267
Lyric Theatre Hammersmith	L	938,210	963,542

Arts Council England support for theatres

Organisation	*Region*	*2007-08* £	*2008-09* £
Marisa Carnesky	L	—	85,000
Millfield Arts Centre	L	30,000	40,000
Mimbre	L	25,000	90,000
National Youth Theatre of Great Britain	L	211,151	311,151
New Peckham Varieties	L	84,988	110,000
Nitro	L	253,382	260,223
Nutkhut	L	100,000	102,700
Ockham's Razor	L	—	60,000
Oily Cart Company	L	232,934	239,223
Orange Tree Theatre	L	361,828	371,597
Out of Joint	L	521,544	535,626
Oval House Theatre	L	336,429	376,429
Pacitti Company	L	68,624	145,000
Paines Plough	L	248,103	270,000
Peoples Palace Project	L	—	60,000
Polka Theatre for Children	L	565,000	580,255
Project Phakarma	L	—	60,000
Punchdrunk	L	—	85,000
Queens Theatre	L	274,497	281,908
Quicksilver Theatre	L	250,126	120,000
Red Room	L	68,624	70,477
Redbridge Drama Centre	L	40,000	40,000
Ridiculusmus Theatre Company	L	68,624	70,477
Royal National Theatre	L	18,223,400	18,715,432
Shared Experience Theatre	L	366,037	375,920
Shunt	L	68,624	145,000
Soho Theatre Company	L	645,536	662,965
Spare Tyre Theatre Company	L	84,460	120,000
Stratford Circus	L	40,000	40,000
Talawa Theatre Company	L	420,000	431,340
Tamasha Theatre Company Ltd	L	291,670	320,000
Tara Arts Group Ltd	L	341,266	170,000
Theatre Centre	L	388,222	398,704
Theatre de Complicite (Education) Ltd	L	360,294	370,022
Theatre Rites	L	184,757	189,745
Theatre Royal Stratford East	L	831,624	854,078
Tiata Fahodzi	L	147,527	151,510
Told by an Idiot	L	90,000	120,000
Tricycle Theatre Company	L	722,841	742,358
Unicorn Theatre for Children	L	994,694	1,021,551
Upswing Aerial	L	—	60,000
Vayu Naidu	L	143,345	65,000
Webplay	L	—	41,080
Yellow Earth Theatre	L	150,000	154,050
Young Vic Company	L	1,471,368	1,511,095
Eclipse Touring Grants	NAT	125,000	128,375
National Touring Contracts	NAT	690,000	708,630
Alnwick Playhouse Trust	NE	36,935	37,932
Arc	NE	238,000	244,426
Ctc Theatre	NE	150,000	154,050
Darlington Arts Centre	NE	121,120	124,390
Dodgy Clutch Staged Presentations	NE	144,195	148,088
Lawnmowers	NE	33,275	34,173
Live Theatre (Nett) Ltd	NE	540,250	554,837
Monster Productions	NE	66,550	68,347
National Association Of Youth Theatres	NE	137,250	140,956
Newcastle Theatre Royal Trust Ltd	NE	47,040	47,040
Northern Stage	NE	1,245,000	1,277,993
Ntc Touring Theatre Company Ltd	NE	312,300	320,732

Arts Council England support for theatres

Organisation	*Region*	*2007-08* £	*2008-09* £
Theatre Sans Frontieres	NE	210,700	216,389
Wansbeck DC	NE	30,531	30,531
Action Factory	NW	107,000	109,889
Action Transport Theatre Company	NW	142,600	146,450
Ashton Group Theatre, The	NW	33,300	34,199
Bolton Octagon Theatre	NW	571,300	586,725
Burnley Youth Theatre	NW	51,000	52,377
Chester Performs	NW	170,000	150,000
Collective Encounters	NW	—	45,000
Contact Theatre	NW	863,200	886,506
Dukes Playhouse	NW	521,400	260,700
Fittings Multimedia	NW	75,700	77,744
FUSE	NW	89,600	109,312
Horse And Bamboo Theatre Company	NW	122,500	125,808
Lip Service Theatre Company	NW	39,200	40,258
Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse	NW	1,530,000	1,571,310
M6 Theatre Company	NW	137,700	165,240
North West Playwrights	NW	55,300	56,793
Nuffield Theatre	NW	82,200	84,419
Oldham Coliseum Theatre	NW	472,700	485,463
Peshkar Productions	NW	75,100	77,128
Quarantine	NW	70,000	80,500
Quondam arts Trust	NW	44,400	45,599
Rasa Productions	NW	46,300	47,550
Rosehill Theatre	NW	41,100	49,320
Royal Exchange Theatre	NW	2,310,700	2,373,089
Spike Theatre	NW	34,400	35,329
Theatre by the Lake	NW	436,700	448,491
Tipp Centre	NW	27,200	27,934
Unity Theatre Company	NW	241,500	248,021
Walk The Plank	NW	56,700	58,231
Chichester Festival Theatre	SE	1,530,847	1,572,180
Forest Forge Theatre Company	SE	116,799	119,953
New Theatre Royal Trustees (Portsmouth) Ltd	SE	34,840	56,126
Nuffield Theatre	SE	575,566	591,106
Oxford Playhouse	SE	277,966	285,472
Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company	SE	188,010	193,086
Pegasus Theatre	SE	225,000	231,075
Rifco Arts	SE	123,345	126,676
Watermill Theatre Ltd	SE	310,621	319,008
Yvonne Arnaud Theatre	SE	436,026	447,799
Bristol Old Vic	SW	1,156,001	578,000
Circomedia	SW	105,576	108,427
Forkbeard Fantasy	SW	232,266	238,537
Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre	SW	374,090	384,190
Kneehigh Theatre	SW	205,369	360,914
Miracle Theatre	SW	94,282	96,828
Natural Theatre Company	SW	144,196	148,089
Northcott Theatre	SW	547,236	547,236
Producing Theatre in Bristol	SW	—	672,000
Roses Theatre Trust Ltd	SW	52,788	54,213
Salisbury Playhouse	SW	836,561	859,148
Sixth Sense Theatre Company	SW	87,496	89,858
Theatre Alibi	SW	166,935	171,442
Theatre Royal Plymouth	SW	1,174,558	1,206,271
Travelling Light Theatre Company	SW	128,448	131,916
Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Ltd	WM	975,701	1,002,045

Arts Council England support for theatres

Organisation	*Region*	*2007-08*	*£ 2008-09*
Big Brum Theatre in Education Company	WM	80,715	82,894
Birmingham Repertory Theatre Limited	WM	1,678,434	1,723,752
BME producer	WM	127,559	72,466
C & T	WM	70,730	72,640
Foursight Theatre Company	WM	161,583	165,946
Geese Theatre Company	WM	27,729	28,478
Lichfield Garrick	WM	33,276	34,000
Malvern Theatres Trust Ltd	WM	55,460	56,957
New Vic Theatre	WM	903,629	948,810
Open Theatre Company	WM	100,804	103,525
Pentabus Theatre	WM	185,617	190,628
Rideout (Creative Arts For Rehabilitation)	WM	27,729	28,478
Royal Shakespeare Company	WM	14,780,600	15,179,676
Script	WM	44,800	46,010
Stan's Cafe	WM	50,913	103,063
Talking Birds Theatre Company Ltd	WM	50,913	58,550
Theatre Absolute	WM	56,791	58,325
Blaize	Y	45,710	46,944
Chol Theatre	Y	48,830	50,148
Faceless	Y	20,000	20,540
Faulty Optic	Y	84,460	86,740
Forced Entertainment Ltd	Y	264,470	271,611
Freedom Studios (formerly Asian Theatre School)	Y	—	86,000
Freehand Theatre	Y	20,000	20,540
Full Body And The Voice	Y	20,590	40,000
Georgian Theatre Royal	Y	21,120	30,000
Greentop Community Circus Centre	Y	20,000	20,540
Harrogate Theatre	Y	408,890	150,000
Hull Truck Theatre Company	Y	470,000	532,690
Interplay Theatre Company	Y	100,580	103,296
IOU Theatre	Y	167,490	172,012
Mind The Gap	Y	143,850	147,734
National Student Drama Festival	Y	52,790	54,215
North Country Theatre	Y	38,850	39,899
Northern Broadsides	Y	264,360	271,498
Pilot Theatre Company	Y	265,370	272,535
Proper Job Theatre	Y	87,340	89,698
Red Ladder Theatre Company	Y	235,150	241,499
Sheffield Theatres	Y	1,266,910	1,301,117
Stephen Joseph Theatre	Y	660,380	678,210
The Old Meeting House Trust (Helmsley Arts Centre)	Y	20,000	25,540
Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah	Y	77,810	79,911
Third Angel	Y	33,260	34,158
Tutti Frutti Productions	Y	34,310	86,750
Unlimited Theatre Company	Y	30,830	86,750
West Yorkshire Playhouse	Y	1,492,840	1,533,147
York Theatre Royal	Y	564,830	580,080

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are limitations on the quantity of fuel which can be transported by each of the military lorries operating in Afghanistan. [218584]

Des Browne: There are no Afghanistan-specific limitations placed on the quantity of fuel which the current in-service fuel tankers can transport when operating in that theatre.

Armed Forces: Food

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many operational ration packs his Department has purchased in each of the last five years. [218128]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last five years the MOD has purchased 9.8 million 24 Hr Operational Ration Packs.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* content and *(b)* (i) nutritional and (ii) calorific value is of an operational ration pack. [218129]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The General Purpose (GP) 24 Hr Operational Ration Packs (ORP) consists of 10 menus containing meat. In addition there are Sikh/Hindu, Halal and Vegetarian variants each of which has five menus. Each individual menu contains a hot breakfast, snack lunch and hot meal as well as common items such as oatmeal blocks, fruit and brown biscuits, chocolate, boiled sweets, yeast extract, coffee and tea sachets, sugar and whitener, Tabasco sauce, chewing gum, waterproof matches, purification tablets and tissues. All ORP variants also contain an isotonic lemon or orange drink, hot chocolate powder and a dessert such as chocolate sponge pudding. The meals are packed into foil pouches, are menu specific and can be eaten hot or cold.

Nutritionally, the 24 Hr ORP provides a soldier with the necessary balanced diet to sustain him/her for 24 hours. Each menu in the 24 Hr ORP is measured against this and meets the required values as shown:

	Gm	*Percentage daily energy intake*
Protein	90-108	10-12
Fat	120	30
Carbohydrate	500	55
Fibre	18	—

The ORP is designed for use in a temperate climate for which the recommended calorific intake in adult males and females aged 19-50 is 3,600 kcals, and currently contains a calorific range between 3,660-4,200 kcals, depending on the chosen menu.

Data relating to the recently launched multi climate ration due for introduction next year are not yet available; each menu is currently being analysed by a state registered dietician at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown by region of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of properties rented as substitute service family accommodation and substitute single living accommodation in (i) Scotland and (ii) Northern Ireland. [218438]

Derek Twigg: Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) are not used in Northern Ireland. Details of SSFA and SSSA rented in Scotland, as at July 2008, are given in the following table:

Location	*Number of SSSA*	*£ per calendar month*	*Number of SSFA*	*£ per calendar month*
Aberdeen	24	14,554.00	1	800.00
Alexandria	1	695.00	2	2,450.00
Alloa	3	1,715.00	0	0
Alva	0	0	1	1,286.25
Arbroath	0	0	2	2,235.90
Aviemore	2	1,300.00	0	0
Ayr	16	10,721.41	0	0
Ballachulish	2	1,400.85	0	0
Banchory	1	510.00	0	0
Bathgate	2	1,095.00	0	0
Bridge of Allan	1	550.00	0	0
Causewayhead	1	560.00	0	0
Cambus Barron	0	0	1	1,725.00
Cupar	1	755.00	0	0
Danestone	0	0	1	1,550.00
Dingwall	2	1,350.00	0	0
Dollar	0	0	1	785.00
Dumfries	2	737.40	0	0
Dunblane	1	575.00	0	0
Dundee	24	14,513.34	0	0
Dunfermline	4	2,030.30	0	0
Dunoon	1	595.00	0	0
Edinburgh	48	34,038.65	0	0
Elgin	1	475.00	0	0
Ellon	0	0	1	950.00
Falkirk	1	475.00	0	0
Galashiels	1	470.00	1	625.00
Glasgow	228	36,824.18	1	1,671.00
Gourock	2	962.47	0	0
Grantown-on-Spey	6	3,275.70	0	0
Greenock	2	1,120.00	0	0
Halkirk	1	525.00	0	0
Helensburgh	7	7,720.00	0	0
Hyndland	2	1,323.75	0	0
Inverkeithing	1	575	0	0
Inverness	11	7,255.00	0	0
Keith	1	475.00	0	0
Kirkcaldy	3	2,263.50	0	0
Maybole	1	600.00	0	0
Menstrie	1	500.00	0	0
Montrose	0	0	1	1,050.00
Paisley	3	1,724.40	0	0
Peebles	0	0	1	925.00
Perth	8	4,608.20	0	0
Port Glasgow	0	0	1	775.00
Prestwick	15	9,721.39	0	0
Renfrew	3	1,820.00	0	0
Shetland	1	520.00	0	0
Stirling	13	7,712.18	3	3,086.10
Stranraer	2	1,030.00	0	0
Tain	2	1,040.00	0	0
Thurso	1	525.00	0	0
Troon	10	5,640.00	0	0
Uddingston	1	613.00	0	0
Westhill	0	0	1	526.03
Wick	1	450.00	0	0

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been allocated to urgent operational requirement spending on vehicles since 1997. [218490]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which armoured vehicles procured since 1997 have been paid for out of *(a)* planned budgetary provision and *(b)* urgent operational requirements provision. [218489]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1997 Viking, Panther, Vector, Titan, Trojan, Beach Recovery Vehicle, Challenger II and Challenger II Driver Training tanks have been paid for out of planned budgetary provision. Mastiff vehicles and ambulances and Vector ambulances were procured as Urgent Operational Requirements.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184322]

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many universal serial bus flash memory data storage devices used to store *(a)* restricted, *(b)* confidential, *(c)* secret and *(d)* top secret data have been lost by or stolen from his Department in each year since 2001. [186051]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of the recent theft of a laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen electronic media since 2003. This investigation involves the collation and examination of reports from across the Department including final disposal action, where available. While every effort is being made to gather the information as quickly and accurately as possible, not all the details are currently available. In addition, it should be noted that details of such incidents were not collated centrally before 2003 and therefore will not be available.

I will write to the hon. Members when the information has been collated and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Sarah Teather and Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 18 February 2008, (Official Report, column 95W) about universal serial bus (USB) flash memory data storage devices lost or stolen in each year since 2001. No centralised records were maintained before 2003 and it has therefore not been possible to provide the information for earlier years. The figures below continue to be adjusted as a result of additional thefts and losses along with subsequent clarification of historic incidents. As a result of the investigation into details of electronic media lost/stolen since 2003 which I announced on 31 March 2008, (Official Report, column 517W), details on the number of USB data storage devices reported as lost or stolen from the Department since 2003 are set out in the following table.

	Unclassified/none	Restricted	Confidential	Secret	Top secret	Not determined	Total
2003							
Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004							
Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen	24	1	0	0	0	2	27
2005							
Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2006							
Loss	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Stolen	2	52	0	0	0	2	56
2007							
Loss	0	6	0	1	0	0	7
Stolen	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2008[1]							
Loss	1	19	0	3	0	0	23
Stolen	1	2	0	0	0	0	3

[1] Up to 25 June 2008.

In some instances it has not been possible to determine the level of Protective Marking (classification) as it was not established when the incident was reported.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185276]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of the recent theft of a laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen electronic media, including PDAs, since 2003. This process involves examining and collating reports from across the Ministry of Defence including final disposal action.

While every effort is being made to gather the information expeditiously, not all the details are presently available.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Mark Hoban:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 18 February 2008, (Official Report, column 95W), about lost and stolen personal digital assistants (PDAs) in each of the last five years. The following table shows the number of official issue PDAs centrally reported as lost or stolen from the Department since 2003. These figures are derived from the data collated as a result of the investigation into details of computer and other electronic media lost/stolen since 2003 and provided to Sir Edmund Burton as part of his review.

	PDAs	
	Lost	Stolen
2003	0	1
2004	1	2
2005	1	1
2006	1	1
2007	1	2
2008 (up to 25 June 2008)	0	1
Total value (£)	3,000	

The value is based on an approximate replacement cost of £250.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on EU defence policy, how many of the UK military staff worked *(a)* exclusively on European Union matters and *(b)* on both NATO and UK military staff European Union matters in each month since September 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the full description of each post identified. [217488]

Des Browne: All UK military personnel seconded to the EU Military Staff work exclusively on European Union matters.

Job titles and descriptions for the posts currently filled by UK military personnel and MOD civilian staff attached to the European Union Military Staff (EUMS), European Union Military Committee (EUMC) and other EU institutions are as follows:

EU military staff

Director General of the EU Military Staff (DGEUMS): Responsible for leading the efficient functioning of the Military Staff in accordance with the agreed EUMS terms of reference. Responsible for the provision of early warning, situation assessment

and strategic planning for missions and tasks foreseen in the treaty on European Union (TEU), including those identified in the European Security Strategy.

Personal Staff Officer (PSO) to DGEUMS: Supports DGEUMS in all external relations issues, including the preparation of background information, in particular with regard to public relations correspondence.

Concepts and Capabilities Division—Chief of Concepts Branch: Directs, co-ordinates and supervises all branch work.

Civilian-Military Cell—Chief of Civilian/Military Strategic Planning Branch: Directs, co-ordinates and supervises all branch work.

Policy and Plans Division, Doctrine and Concepts Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the elaboration of the doctrinal and conceptual aspects of the EUMS contribution to the development of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Operations and Exercises Division, Crisis Response Planning/ Current Operations Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the development of operational policy and conceptual documents.

Logistics and Resources Division, Resources Support Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes input and assessment concerning all movement and transportation (M and T) aspects, including Strategic Lift, to military strategic planning.

Intelligence Division, Production Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the analysis of documentation received and the production of intelligence reports and information for current intelligence and early warning.

Intelligence Division, Requirements Branch—Staff Officer: Handles and administrates the outflow of information in the Data Management Cell and is responsible for advice on Intelligence collation and dissemination.

Executive Office of the Deputy Director General/Chief of Staff EUMS—Staff Officer: Contributes to the co-ordination of EUMS external interface with military delegations of EU member states and third nations, other EU bodies, NATO, UN and other international bodies.

EU Cell (SHAPE)—Staff Officer: Contributes to matters concerning the EU-NATO strategic partnership, military strategic planning aspects and EU politico-military matters.

Civilian-Military Cell, Civilian/Military Strategic Planning Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the military input to strategic civilian/military contingency planning, the development of concepts and doctrines for civilian/military operations and the process of strategic crisis response planning for EU-led crisis management operations.

Civilian-Military Cell, Military Assessment and Planning (MAP) Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the military assessment of potential or emerging crisis situations and military strategic advance and crisis response planning.

Communication and Information Systems (CIS) Division, Policy and Requirements Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the formulation of CIS policy, plans and requirements in co-ordination with member states, NATO and other international organisations.

Communication and Information Systems Division, Policy and Requirements Branch—Staff Officer: Contributes to the formulation of all geographic aspects, planning, requirements, procedures and support for military strategic options envisaged for EU-led operations and exercises.

Communication and Information System Division, Information Technology and Security (ITS) Branch—Staff Officer: Administrator of the secure networks and links in close co-ordination with the INFOSEC office of the General Secretariat of the Council, and a member of the Security Accreditation Team for EUMS secure systems.

DGEUMS' Personal Staff—Adjoint Assistant: Responsible for providing personal administrative assistance to DGEUMS in his daily work.

DGEUMS' Personal Staff—Personal Staff Co-ordinator: Responsible for assisting DGEUMS in his daily work.

EU Military Committee

Military Assistant to the Chairman of the EU Military Committee (CEUMC): Responsible for the provision of written/oral briefings and advice to CEUMC.

European Defence Agency

Capabilities Director: Responsible for the leading of agency work in ESDP activities related to capabilities development, from goal definition to project design, and including capability harmonisation, assessment and evaluation.

Head of Capabilities Development Support Unit: Supports the Capabilities Director in the co-ordination of the Directorate's work, and in managing external interfaces (with member states, EUMS and other key stakeholders).

Research and Technology (R and T) Assistant Director: Responsible for preparing strategies and policies for increasing co-operation and strengthening of defence R and T and the European defence technological and industrial base.

Principal Officer for Armaments Co-operation: Responsible for supporting the Armaments Director in his relations with OCCAR (Organisation conjointe de coopération en matière d'armement) and member states regarding the management of co-operative programs.

Senior Officer for Defence Market: Responsible for assessing and analysing the European Defence Equipment Market including collecting, comparing and reporting quantitative and qualitative data, and ensuring close relations with the Commission, industry and others regarding industrial issues.

Principal Officer for Defence Industry: Responsible for contributing to assessing and analysing the European defence technological and industrial base (DTIB), preparing strategies and policies regarding DTIB and developing measures for enhanced security of supply of Defence goods between European nations.

Other EU institutions

European Council General Secretariat—Seconded National Expert: Desk officer in DG E VIII—External Relations, responsible for providing advice and briefings on EUFOR ALTHEA (EU military mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina).

European Commission—Seconded National Expert: Desk officer in DG Environment.

European Global Navigation Satellite System Supervisory Authority (GSA)—Seconded National Expert: Security advisor and project officer for the Galileo project.

Iraq: Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the protection strategy for the dependants of Iraqi former UK interpreters. [218889]

Des Browne: We have various procedures in place to minimise the risk of interpreters or their dependants being identified as working with British forces. All employees are also advised on fundamental security precautions for their and their families' safety outside working hours. On leaving our employ, those eligible for the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme can choose to apply for resettlement in the UK with those financially dependent upon them. Alternatively, a financial package is offered to assist their relocation within Iraq or elsewhere in the region. All of these measures are kept under continuous review to ensure they are appropriate for the prevailing security situation.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217590]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of the courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

Financial year	*Armed forces personnel*
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

The figures exclude the 'road shows' training delivered by STS staff away from RAF Halton, as no nominal rolls are taken at these events.

Warships

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of each Type 42 Destroyer was; [218220]

(2) what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of (i) HMS Albion and (ii) HMS Bulwark was; [218234]

(3) what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of each Type 22 frigate was. [218239]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The hon. Member may find it useful to view the answer given by the then Under-Secretary of State, Defence Procurement to the then hon. Member for Glasgow Govan (Jim Sillars) on 23 October 1989, *Official Report*, column 358 as it includes information about build costs of various Royal Navy and RFA vessels including the costs for all Type 42 Destroyers and most of the Type 22 Frigates.

Due to the age of the Type 42 Destroyers and the first two batches of Type 22 Frigates, records that would enable a ready estimate today of their cost are no longer held centrally, and to establish those now would incur a disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the original hull costs of the third batch of Type 22 Frigates when they were commissioned—they do not include other costs, such as those for Government Furnished Equipment (GFE)—as they are not held centrally for each ship and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ship	*Original cost (£ million)*
HMS Cornwall	131.05
HMS Cumberland	141.17
HMS Campbeltown	161.97
HMS Chatham	175.28

The build contract costs, as at 1 June 2004, for the Landing Platform Dock (LPD) vessels HM Ships Albion and Bulwark are shown in the following table and do not include other costs such as GFE.

Ship	*Build cost (£ million)*
HMS Albion	277.33
HMS Bulwark	188.86

The commissioning dates of each of the Type 42 Destroyers, Type 22 Frigates and HM Ships Albion and Bulwark are shown in the following table.

Ship	*Date commissioned*
Type 42 Destroyer	
HMS Sheffield	16 February 1975
HMS Coventry	10 November 1978
HMS Birmingham	3 December 1976
HMS Newcastle	23 March 1978
HMS Glasgow	24 May 1979
HMS Cardiff	24 September 1979
HMS Exeter	19 September 1980
HMS Southampton	31 October 1981
HMS Nottingham	14 April 1983
HMS Liverpool	1 July 1982
HMS Manchester	16 December 1982
HMS Gloucester	11 September 1985
HMS Edinburgh	17 December 1985
HMS York	9 August 1985
Type 22 Frigate	
HMS Cornwall	23 April 1988
HMS Cumberland	10 June 1989
HMS Campbeltown	27 May 1989
HMS Chatham	4 May 1990
HMS Boxer	22 December 1983
HMS Beaver	13 December 1984
HMS Brave	4 July 1986
HMS London	5 June 1987
HMS Sheffield	26 July 1988
HMS Coventry	14 October 1988
HMS Broadsword	4 May 1979
HMS Battleaxe	28 March 1980
HMS Brilliant	15 May 1981
HMS Brazen	2 July 1982
Landing Platform Dock	
HMS Albion	19 June 2003
HMS Bulwark	28 April 2005

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Childbirth

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of *(a)* the percentage of children living in one parent families, *(b)* the number of live births per thousand teenage women and *(c)* the percentage of children born outside marriage in the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) social class, (ii) income, (iii) race and (iv) geographic location. [216783]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 July 2008:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about what estimates are available for (a) the percentage of children living in one parent families, (b) the number of live births per 1,000 teenage women and (c) the percentage of children born outside marriage in the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) social class, (ii) income, (iii) race and (iv) geographic location. (216783)

Part (a)—One parent families

The percentage of dependent children living in lone parent families in the United Kingdom can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Table 1 (below) shows UK estimates. Estimates broken down by (i) social class, (ii) income, (iii) race and (iv) geographic location are not readily available to answer the question fully for all years and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Dependent children in the UK

	Proportion of dependent children living in lone parent families (percentage)
1998	22
1999	22
2000	22
2001	22
2002	23
2003	23
2004	23
2005	24
2006	24
2007	24

Source:
LFS quarterly data (average of Spring and Autumn seasonal quarters for all years except for 2006 and 2007 where data are for the calendar quarter April to June only).

There are two existing pieces of information that provide partial answers to part (a). For social class, data are available for 2001 only.

The proportion of dependent children in households in England and Wales by number of birth parents and the NS-SEC (National Statistics Socio-economic Classification) of the household reference person, according to the 2001 Census are available in the response to a recent parliamentary question by David Laws MP (Hansard 187143: 22 Feb 2008 : Column 1107W). For ethnicity, data are available for 2007 only. Estimates of the proportion of dependent children living in lone parent families in United Kingdom by ethnicity are available for 2007 using the LFS in the response to a parliamentary question by David Laws MP (Hansard 201194: 24th April 2008: Column 2204W).

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) contains information on both family type and income. This is available in the annual FRS report: Family Resources Survey 2006-07 (published by DWP [link below] see: Table 3.5: Households by composition and total weekly household income). Information is also available in the report: Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994/95-2006/07 (published by DWP [link below] see: Table 4.1 (BHC): Quintile distribution of income for children by various family and household characteristics, United Kingdom).

Family Resources Survey 2006-07

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2006_07/

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2006_07/chapter3.pdf

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994/95-2006/07

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2007/contents.asp

httD://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2007/pdf_files/full_hbai08.pdf

Part (b)—The number of live births per 1,000 teenage women

Figures on live births are available from birth registration. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006.

(i) social class

Since 2001, NS-SEC has been used to provide a socio-economic classification for all official statistics. The number of live births per 1,000 teenage women broken down by NS-SEC would require population estimates broken down by age, sex and NS-SEC. This information is not routinely available and for teenage women NS-SEC is likely to be unreliable. Consequently it is not possible to provide these figures.

(ii) and (iii) income and ethnicity

Information on income and ethnicity is not collected at birth registration hence it is not possible to provide the number of live births to teenage women broken down by these variables.

(iv) geographical location

Births are assigned to an area according to the usual residence of the mother, as stated at registration.

Table 2: Number of live births per 1,000 teenage women by unitary authority and local authority, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Part (c)—The percentage of children born outside marriage

The percentage of children born outside marriage is also derived using figures on live births available from birth registration.

(i) social class

The classification used for social class prior to 2001 is not directly comparable with NS-SEC. For this reason figures broken down by NS-SEC are only provided back to 2001. Information on mother's occupation and employment, from which NS-SEC is derived, is only coded for a sample of one in ten births. The figures provided broken down by NS-SEC are therefore estimates based on a ten per cent sample.

Table 3: Percentage of children born outside marriage for each National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) of the mother, England and Wales, 2001 to 2006

(ii) and (iii) income and ethnicity

For reasons stated in part (b) it is not possible to produce these figures broken down by income and ethnicity.

(iv) geographical location

The percentage of children born outside marriage by area of usual residence of mother is published annually in Key Population and Vital Statistics (KPVS), table 4.2. These figures have been collated in table 4, for the years 1998 to 2006. It is not possible to provide figures for 1997 because births data for 1997 were revised after the publication of the 1997 KPVS volume.

Table 4: Percentage of children born outside marriage by area, United Kingdom, 1998 to 2006

For more detail on data collated and the individual footnotes associated with each year please refer to the individual volumes available on the web at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=539

Copies of the tables are available in the House of Commons Library.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Office for National Statistics will classify the Community Infrastructure Levy as a tax. [217938]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will classify the Community Infrastructure Levy as a tax. (217938)

It is not standard practice for ONS to be involved in the classification of policy proposals. The proposed Community Infrastructure Levy will only be referred to ONS for classification if the final arrangements, once agreed, are not covered by the classification guidance referred to below.

The ONS national accounts classification process is described within the Statistical Integration and Classification Protocol annex published on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NSCodeofPractice2.pdf

As noted in the protocol annex,

"Most of the financial information needed to produce the central government sector accounts is provided by government departments and agencies and routed through HM Treasury.

ONS and HM Treasury have produced guidelines to help government departments classify their activities for National Accounts purposes. These have been circulated to departments with the expectation that most cases in departments will be settled by reference to the guidelines without the need for any consultation.

For cases not clearly covered by this guidance, policy departments—including HM Treasury—will refer issues to HM Treasury's classification branch who act as technical experts and answer the straightforward queries on behalf of ONS. For those queries that are not straightforward, HM Treasury classification branch will ask ONS to interpret the guidance and to make a classification decision." The guidance for departments is published on the HM Treasury website. The relevant document relates to government receipts and can be found using the following link

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B/F/classification_receipts.pdf

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests to the Cabinet Office are being considered on grounds of a possible public interest exemption more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* 12 months after the initial request was made without a decision or refusal notice having been issued; [217348]

(2) what the average time taken by his Department to consider the application of a possible public interest exemption was in relation to a Freedom of Information *(a)* initial request and *(b)* internal review since the Act came into force. [217349]

Edward Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 123W.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many freedom of information requests the Cabinet Office received in 2007-08; what each request was for; and what action has been taken on each. [217400]

Edward Miliband: Statistical information on the requests received by the Cabinet Office in 2007 is available in the Ministry of Justice's third annual report on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in central Government. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and are also available on the Ministry of Justice's website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-report-2007-final-web.pdf

Information on the requests received by the department in 2008 will be published in the Ministry of Justice's fourth annual report. Information about the detail of individual requests and the action taken could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff have access to the Prime Minister's Office's IT infrastructure at their home. [216387]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

Within the Cabinet Office 442 staff have access to the corporate IT networks from their homes.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on economic and monetary union, if he will place a copy of the Central Office of Information's euro changeover plan in the Library when it is published. [217336]

Mr. Watson: A copy of the Central Office of Information's euro changeover plan will be placed in the Library of the House when it is published.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of the *Morning Star* are purchased each day by the Media Monitoring Unit. [217402]

Mr. Watson: No copies of the *Morning Star* are purchased by the Media Monitoring Unit.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to develop the capacity of the social enterprise sector to deliver public services; and if he will make a statement. [218719]

Phil Hope: In June 2008, I announced a new £6 million investment from Capacitybuilders for social enterprise support over the next three years.

This programme will help build the capacity of social enterprises to deliver public services by improving the support system through having more accredited advisers and programmes such as mentoring and developing emerging markets, depending on regional priorities.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had on social enterprise as part of the development of the proposals in the Enterprise White Paper. [218720]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Third Sector worked closely with BERR during the drafting of the enterprise White Paper to ensure the paper both recognised the important role of social enterprise, and that the measures included were both relevant to and inclusive of social enterprise. I met the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness to discuss the inclusion of social enterprise in the paper. The resulting White Paper is applicable to all types of enterprise and the measures proposed recognise social enterprise as a distinct form.

Non-profit Making Associations: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much he provided to the *(a)* social enterprise and *(b)* voluntary and community sector in each of the last five years. [218718]

Phil Hope: For breakdowns of Active Communities Directorate and Social Enterprise Unit spending from 1998-99 to 2005-06, prior to the creation of the Office of the Third Sector, I refer my hon. Friend to the

answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 4W.

Since May 2006 the OTS has run funding streams covering the whole of the third sector and some specifically targeted at certain parts of the sector. A breakdown of the figures for 2006-07 can be found online in the annual report and resource accounts 2006-07 via the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/annualreport/resourceaccounts0607%20pdf.ashx

Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

The figures for 2007-08 are to be published shortly in the annual report and resource accounts 2007-08. The report will be published on the Cabinet Office website and copies made available in the Libraries of the House.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state at the end of June 2008; and in respect of how many such children child benefit was being paid on that date. [219241]

Jane Kennedy: Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children. Out of that total, at the end of June 2008, around 0.3 per cent. (26,703) were ongoing child benefit awards to A8 nationals recorded as receiving child benefit for 44,008 children living in another EEA member state. These awards are made by virtue of EC social security co-ordinating regulations which the UK has administered since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973.

The estimated breakdown by nationality is as follows.

Country	*Number of children included in awards*	*Number of awards at 30 June 2008*
Czech Republic	266	160
Estonia	26	15
Hungary	90	54
Latvia	334	259
Lithuania	1,040	709
Poland	39,867	24,135
Slovakia	2,382	1,369
Slovenia	3	2
Total	44,008	26,703

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218693]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mapeley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether consideration was given to the status of Mapeley as a Guernsey-based company when choosing it as a strategic partner for HM Revenue and Customs. [218607]

Jane Kennedy: The contract to provide serviced accommodation followed an open competition which was in accordance with European Community and World Trade Organisation rules. The Mapeley bid provided the best value for money for the Departments and the taxpayer.

Non-domestic Rates: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1627W, on taxation, whether *(a)* the 2005 business rates revaluation and *(b)* the most recent council tax revaluation in Wales were revenue neutral. [218299]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The 2005 business rates and 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales were revenue-neutral. The overall increase in receipts in the year of revaluation arose from councils' decisions to increase council tax rates, and were broadly in line with increases in the previous years.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 966W, on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC): Chorley, what the evidential basis is for his assessment that the effects on Chorley residents of the vacating of the HMRC office there will be minimal. [218926]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* Further to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 966W, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has given a commitment to continue to provide inquiry centre services in locations where decisions have been made to withdraw, as is the case with Chorley. As a result, the services HMRC provides directly to the population of Chorley will remain unaffected.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Lingmell House, Chorley are *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time; how many and what proportion of HMRC staff at this office will be (i) relocated, (ii) made redundant and (iii) undergo some other change in employment conditions as a result of HMRC plans; and if he will make a statement. [218928]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* As at 1 July 2008, there were 54 full-time staff and 23 part-time staff working for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at Lingmell House Chorley.

Alternative locations for all staff in Chorley have been identified, although final decisions on which individuals can relocate to the proposed location for

their work within reasonable daily travel have not been reached for all staff at this stage. HMRC is committed to avoiding redundancies wherever possible and will seek to identify alternative solutions for anyone who cannot move with their work.

HMRC has no plans to change the employment conditions of staff who relocate as a result of Regional Review decisions for Chorley.

Tax Credits: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the possible effect on child poverty if fraud and error were eradicated from working tax credit payments; and if he will make a statement; [218671]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of the eradication of fraud and error in child tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [219568]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

The Government are keen to ensure that support goes to the right customers at the right time, and is committed to reducing error and fraud across tax credits. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS.

JUSTICE

Courts: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to minimise any harmful effects on children arising from their participation in court proceedings. [218745]

Bridget Prentice: In the criminal courts a series of measures are in place aimed at minimising the distress of court proceedings on young defendants as follows:

(i) A Practice Direction from the Lord Chief Justice provides among other things for familiarisation with the courtroom prior to the hearing, frequent breaks during the process, the ability of a very young defendant to sit with family members and the court to ensure an understanding by the young defendant of what is happening and what is being said throughout the process.

(ii) There is also provision within the criminal law to protect the anonymity of the young defendant.

(iii) There are also restrictions on public attendance at the youth court.

Children can apply for special measures to assist them in giving their best evidence in court. This includes giving evidence outside the courtroom through a televised link or screens around the witness box to shield the witness from the defendant.

Children involved in family proceedings do not normally attend court. Children who are subject to an application for care or supervision proceedings by social services (public law) are entitled to separate representation by a Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) Children's Guardian and a solicitor, and are made a party to proceedings. Children's Guardians are there to help achieve the best possible outcomes for the child they represent. The Government have consulted on the representation of children in private law proceedings, when families disagree about who children should live or spend time with. However, research has shown that bringing a child into proceedings could be stressful and put too much responsibility on the child. Therefore, party status and separate representation will only be ordered in private law cases which involve an issue of significant difficulty and consequently will occur only in a minority of cases.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to work with the third sector when supporting victims of crime. [218163]

Maria Eagle: Following a recent public consultation, the Ministry of Justice has published a Third Sector Strategy which sets out the Department's commitment to working with the Third Sector.

Victim Support, an independent charity, is the Government's main provider of services to victims and witnesses of crime across England and Wales. Over recent years annual Government funding to Victim Support has increased from £11.7 million to £30 million. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has provided additional investment in Victim Support to rollout Victim Support Plus nationally (£5.6 million in 2007-08 and £7 million in 2008-09).

In addition, the Government funds a number of specialist services for victims of individual crime types. The charity Support After Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) receives a grant of £140,000 a year to provide services to family and friends bereaved through murder and manslaughter.

Over the last four years, we have invested £6.5 million in specialist services for victims through the Victims Fund, with the majority going directly to Third Sector organisations. In 2008-09 a further £1.75 million has been invested into the fund. Specialist services that receive funding through the Victims Fund provide support to victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse, hate crime and homicide.

Since 2003 the Government has worked in partnership with Eaves Housing for Women to deliver bespoke specialist services for women trafficked into sexual exploitation, through the Poppy project. We are investing a further £1.3 million into the project this year, taking the total to £5.8 million since it opened.

In 2007-08 the Government provided £3 million for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs), trained specialists who provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm, to support victims as their cases progress through Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs).

The Youth Crime Action Plan, published on 15 July 2008 will include proposals to support young victims of crime.

Family Courts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to improve the procedures of family courts. [218744]

Bridget Prentice: The new Family Procedure Rules will make court procedures easier to use and understand. They will provide a modernised and simply expressed code of practice for all levels of court. A significant first segment, the Family Procedure (Adoption) Rules, was made in October 2005. The Department and the Family Procedure Rule Committee are now completing the task for all family proceedings.

Court procedures have also been recently improved in domestic violence and care proceedings cases. On 1 April 2008, the judicially led Public Law Outline came into force, streamlining the care proceedings process and contributing to a reduction in unnecessary delay. In May 2008 a new practice direction changed current procedures in private law proceedings to give better protection for children in cases where domestic violence has been raised as an issue.

Family Courts: Accountability

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to improve accountability in family courts. [218743]

Bridget Prentice: We have consulted twice on how we could improve transparency in family courts. It is important that the courts are more open and accountable and it is important that children's interests are protected. The right of the public to know what is happening needs to be balanced with a child's rights to privacy.

It is also important to help the public understand what happens in family courts and how the courts make these difficult decisions. That is why we have already announced that we will be piloting the publication of judgments for some family cases.

This is an important and complex area of policy about which people have strong views. We must ensure we get it right. We will be making an announcement to the House about the pilots, and our other proposals, after the summer.

Firearms: Sentencing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 8 July 2008, for what reasons individuals found in unlawful possession of a firearm were not given the mandatory sentence of five years, broken down by category of mitigating factors. [218537]

Mr. Hanson: Sentences are decided by sentencers. Data on mitigating factors at the time of sentencing are not collected on the courts proceedings database held by my Department.

Examples of exceptional circumstances might be where the holder of a firearms certificate inadvertently forgets to renew his authority or where a war trophy is discovered among a deceased person's effects. Rehman. R *v.* [2005] EWCA Crim 2056 (18 July 2005) considers the issue of "exceptional circumstances."

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* audit and *(b)* scrutiny of the recording of (i) complaints to the Legal Services Commission and (ii) responses to correspondence by (A) the Legal Services Commission and (B) his Department. [217288]

Bridget Prentice: It is well established practice throughout the public sector to ensure that there are robust systems in place to deal with correspondence and complaints handling. Proportionate auditing and scrutiny are a normal part of those systems. I also refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column. 411-12W.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints under the Legal Services Commission's complaints procedures were recorded by the Legal Services Commission in each year since 2004-05. [217300]

Bridget Prentice: The number of complaints received in the Legal Services Commission is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	2,541
2005-06	2,007
2006-07	1,701

The figures for 2007-08 will be published shortly in the 2007-08 annual report.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are used to process complaints on action by the Legal Services Commission in breach of its complaints procedures guarantee. [217302]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the answers to him on 4 June 2008, *Official Report* columns 1040-41W and 22 May 2008, *Official Report* columns 411-12W. If a complainant does not feel that their complaint has been dealt with in accordance with the LSC's complaints procedure, the parliamentary ombudsman can investigate. All complaints referred to the ombudsman must be done so through a Member of Parliament.

Legal Services Commission: Standards

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the Legal Services Commission's national customer service score is calculated. [217297]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission introduced a customer service single score from 2003-04 in its regional offices and throughout the organisation from 2004-05 to reinforce its commitment to improve all levels of customer service. The measures used in the score are tailored to each department and include: the time taken to perform key tasks; telephone handling skills; quality control; complaints handling and the ability to respond swiftly. In 2007-08, the LSC achieved 93 per cent. in its customer service score against a target of 90 per cent.

Magistrates: Personation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions since 2003 he has been informed of instances where individuals have claimed falsely to be a justice of the peace; and if he will make a statement. [218125]

Mr. Straw: Such instances are very rare and my Department does not keep a record. My hon. Friend is obviously aware of the matter regarding Ray Lewis, former Deputy Mayor for London for young people. He has not been appointed as a magistrate.

Members: E-mail

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 18 June 2008, Ref: 204969, on the transcript of an appeal proceedings. [218159]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice aims to reply to correspondence from hon. Members of both Houses within 20 working days of receipt. I replied on 15 July 2008.

Members: Mentally Ill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to bring forward proposals to remove the current provisions in common law which prevent a person with mental illness from standing or remaining as an hon. Member; and if he will make a statement. [218435]

Bridget Prentice: Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 we have already abolished the common law provisions which related to mental state for voters.

We will consider with our stakeholders whether a similar change should be made to remove the current provisions in common law which may be used to prevent a person who has experienced mental health problems from standing or remaining as an hon. Member.

Offensive Weapons: Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1620W, on offensive weapons: young people, what sentence was imposed in each case in each year; and, where fines were imposed, what the *(a)* smallest, *(b)* largest and *(c)* average fine imposed was in each year. [219119]

Mr. Straw: Statistics on the number of persons sentenced for the offence of selling knives to persons under 18 by result are contained in the following table.

Number of persons sentenced[1] by result for the offence of selling a knife to a person under 18 years, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

Number of persons

Offence description	*Year*	*Total proceeded against[2]*	*Absolutel conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immrdiate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*
Selling to a person under the age of 18 years a knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe or any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person	2002	4	—	3	—	—	—	—
	2003	9	2	6	—	—	—	1
	2004	6	2	2	—	—	—	1
	2005	19	1	18	—	—	—	—
	2006	43	5	27	1	—	—	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Will include cases that were withdrawn or dismissed.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

Statistics on the numbers fined by amount of fine is contained in the following table:

Number of persons given fines by amount for the offence of selling a knife to a person under 18 years, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

Number of persons

Offence description	*Year*	*Over £50 and up to £100*	*Over £100 and up to £150*	*Over £150 and up to £200*	*Over £200 and up to £250*	*Over £250 and up to £300*	*Over £300 and up to £500*	*Over £500 and up to £750*	*Over £750 and up to £1000*	*Over £1000*
Selling to a person under the age of 18 years a knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe or any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person	2002	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	2003	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
	2004	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	2005	2	1	—	1	2	6	3	1	2
	2006	6	2	6	—	4	5	1	2	1

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services

Prisoners: Mental Health Services

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are to provide therapeutic services for prisoners with mental health problems whose first language is not English. [218543]

Maria Eagle: Psychological therapies are commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs). When commissioning these services for prisoners, PCTs will assess the needs of their population and, as with all other health provision, consideration will be given as to how services will be delivered to meet the needs of all, including those with mental health problems whose first language is not English. This will be determined locally as part of a PCT's commissioning responsibility.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are to provide Welsh-medium therapeutic services for prisoners with mental health problems. [218544]

Maria Eagle: Provision of health care in Wales is a Welsh Assembly Government devolved responsibility. Services will be provided for Welsh medium offenders in accordance with the Welsh language policies of the local health boards.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide a greater range of non-custodial sentencing options in cases where young offenders are convicted for non-violent offences. [218809]

Mr. Hanson: We have developed a range of community sentences that can be used by the courts for young people. In addition we have provided out of court disposals which are particularly suitable for dealing with low level offences without the need for recourse to the courts.

We have passed legislation recently in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 which will establish a new non-custodial sentencing structure for young offenders aged under 18.

The primary community sentence for young offenders aged under 18 is the referral order under which the young offender must appear before a youth offender panel, including two lay members from the community and a member from the youth offending team. The young offender must agree to undertake reparation and rehabilitation in a contract agreed with the panel. The Act will extend the circumstances in which a referral order can be made and allow a second one to be made in exceptional circumstances. In the Act we also introduced a new generic community sentence for young people, the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO), which will replace nine existing community sentences. The YRO has 14 different requirements that may be added to an order and is designed to increase the options available to sentencers to deal with young offenders in the community with effective and tailored interventions. The YRO also provides two further requirements for serious and persistent young offenders that are set as alternatives to custody.

Young Offenders: Foster Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the intensive fostering pilots in reducing the number of young offenders sentenced to custody; and if he will extend the use of intensive fostering nationwide. [218808]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board are currently piloting intensive fostering in three areas. We are working closely with them to monitor the progress of these pilots and they are being evaluated by York University. The evaluation report is due later this year.

It is too early to give a full assessment of its effectiveness as an alternative to custody. However, indicative results show that the programme is benefiting the young people subject to it.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy that Child Support Agency staff respond personally to correspondence marked for their attention. [216599]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy that Child Support Agency staff respond personally to correspondence marked for their attention. [216599]

As part of the Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency introduced a new standard operating model to improve client service and get more money for more children. The Agency receives around five million phone calls each year, almost three hundred thousand new applications for maintenance and over two million change of circumstances requests as well as general correspondence. In addition people employed by the Agency may be on holiday, training, or ill when a particular task arises and you will appreciate the Agency needs to be able to allocate work to balance workloads and provide the best possible service. The Agency provides a full service to clients from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 5pm on Saturday. It is not possible for an individual caseworker to be available to a client over this period, therefore the majority of clients will not deal with the same caseworker but with the same team, any member of which will be able to resolve their query and reply to correspondence.

This change to team working ensures that the Agency has people available to deal with clients when they need us most.

However, the Agency has also revised its complaints resolution process and has introduced teams of specialist caseworkers responsible for resolving all aspects of a client's complaint. In these cases an individual caseworker will take responsibility for working with the client until the complaint is resolved.

Since the introduction of these changes as part of the Operational Improvement Plan two years ago, the number of children benefiting from maintenance has risen by around 126,000 to over 749,000 children. The Agency also collected or arranged a record breaking £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time was between making a phone call and speaking to a member of staff for all calls made to his Department crisis loan numbers in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215752]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 16 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on what the average waiting time was between making a phone call and speaking to a member of staff for all calls made to crisis loan numbers in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

Access to Crisis Loans by telephone did not commence until September 2006. The management information in place currently at Benefit Delivery Centres does not capture telephone waiting times.

A proportion of Crisis Loan calls are answered in our Contact Centres. The average time taken to speak to a member of staff since Contact Centre Direct started taking Crisis Loan calls in May 2007 has been 1 minute 56 seconds.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217384]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of staff from the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies who have taken early retirement during the last two complete financial years is summarised in the following table:

Business area	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[1]
Jobcentre Plus	656	510
The Pension Service	52	387
Disability and Carers Service	10	47
Pension Disability and Carers Service[2]	62	434
Child Support Agency	16	84
The Rent Service	6	42
The rest of DWP	39	117
Total DWP	779	1,187

[1] The figures cover the period 1 April to 31 March.
[2] The Pension Service and Disability and Carers Service came together on 1 April 2008 to form a new agency called the Pension Disability and Carers Service. Figures for both elements of the new agency are included for completeness.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department of employing a press and media officer was in 2007-08. [215263]

Mrs. McGuire: The calculated cost to the Department for employing a full-time press officer working on media issues equates to an average annual salary of £31,920.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217074]

Mrs. McGuire: The change in the number of employees in the Department and its agencies since July 2006 is summarised in the following tables.

Table 1: Numbers of individual employees

Business area	*July 2006*	*May 2008*	*Reduction*
Jobcentre Plus	79,089	73,504	5,585
The Pension Service	14,891	11,907	2,984
Disability and Carers Service	7,304	6,218	1,086
Pension Disability and Carers Service[1]	22,195	18,125	4,070
Child Support Agency	12,829	10,751	2,078
The Rent Service	670	575	95
The rest of DWP	11,532	10,293	1,239
DWP total	126,315	113,248	13,067

[1] The Pension Service and Disability and Carers Service came together on 1 April 2008 to form a new agency called the Pension and Disability Carers Service. Figures for both elements of the new agency are included for completeness.

Table 2: Numbers on a full-time equivalent basis

Business area	*July 2006*	*May 2008*	*Reduction*
Jobcentre Plus	71,048	65,607	5,441
The Pension Service	13,667	10,884	2,783
Disability and Carers Service	6,527	5,489	1,038
Pension Disability and Carers Service[1]	20,194	16,373	3,821
Child Support Agency	11,405	9,531	1,874
The Rent Service	650	563	87
The rest of DWP	10,794	9,613	1,181
DWP total[2]	114,092	101,688	12,404

[1] The Pension Service and Disability and Carers Service came together on 1 April 2008 to form a new agency called the Pension Disability and Carers Service. Figures for both elements of the new agency are included for completeness.
[2] Totals may not sum due to rounding of individual lines.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217766]

Mrs. McGuire: The Prime Minister sets the criteria for cars for use by Ministers. Currently, Cabinet Ministers may choose either a diesel powered Jaguar XJ or a Toyota Prius hybrid. Other Ministers may also choose from a Toyota Prius, a Honda Civic hybrid or any other suitable car with a CO_2 emission of 185g/km or less.

The Secretary of State has chosen the Toyota Prius hybrid as his ministerial car.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [215612]

Mrs. McGuire: The arrangements for the issue and management of identity passes that give access to the Department's premises have been outsourced to a service provider. The Department and its agencies operate from several hundred premises across the UK, and no central records are held by the service provider or the Department of the numbers of passes which are reported lost or stolen, and it would be disproportionately expensive to obtain this information. Employees are required to report all lost or stolen passes to the Department immediately, and to the police where appropriate, so that local management can determine any increased vulnerability to security, and take the necessary action.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days have been lost due to sickness among employees for which his Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218036]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in July 2001. The figures prior to this date relate to absence levels in the Department of Social Security (DSS) Group, the main predecessor to the DWP.

The available information is contained in the following table. The source of the information is the Cabinet Office's annual report titled 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service'. Working days lost (WDL) due to sickness are available only for 2005, 2006 and 2007. We have therefore provided the average working days lost per staff year for each of the years from 1997 to 2007.

	Total working days lost (WDL)	*Average working days lost (AWDL)*
2007	1,094,018	10.3
2006-07[1]	1,361,196	11.1
2005	1,233,162	10.1
2004	—	9.6
2003	—	11.6
2002	—	10.8
2001	—	11.1
2000	—	11.0[2]
1999	—	10.9[2]
1998	—	10.8[2]
1997	—	12.2[2]

[1] Financial year 2006-07 all other years figures are shown in calendar years.
[2] DSS Group only.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201764]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Disadvantaged: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recommendations in the Commission for Rural Communities report, England's rural areas: steps to release their economic potential, within his Department's areas of responsibility his Department intends to implement; and if he will provide a timetable for implementation. [217702]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw), on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1204W.

Early Retirement

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who were required to take early retirement in (i) Leeds West, (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each of the last 10 years. [215404]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I regret that the Department for Work and Pensions does not possess the data in a form which enables me to answer this question.

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent tackling fuel poverty among heating oil users in each of the last 10 years; and how much it plans to spend in the next 12 months. [217598]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The following tables set out the number of heating jobs and associated spends for oil heating jobs in each scheme year carried out through the Warm Front scheme since this measure was incorporated into the scheme in June 2005.

It should be borne in mind that around 15 per cent. of allocated oil jobs do not progress to completion through unfulfilled client contribution requests.

Measure category	*Households*	*Total cost (£)*	*Average (£)*
Scheme year 2005-06			
Boiler replacement oil	57	192,926.80	3,384.68
Oil central heating	98	363,772.56	3,711.96
Heating repair oil	9	5,489.55	609.95
Total	164	562,188.91	3,427.98
Scheme year 2006-07			
Boiler replacement oil	802	2,795,894.92	3,486.15
Oil central heating	705	2,735,750.73	3,880.50
Heating repair oil	56	54,436.45	972.08
Total	1,563	5,586,082.10	3,573.95
Scheme year 2007-08			
Boiler replacement oil	1,206	4,400,894.12	3,649.17
Oil central heating	614	2,318,599.12	3,776.22
Heating repair oil	120	256,242.47	2,135.35

Measure category	Households	Total cost (£)	Average (£)
Total	1,940	6,975,735.71	3,595.74
Overall total	3,667	13,124,006.72	3,578.95
Scheme year 2008-09 (expected)			
All jobs	2,400	9,158,400	3,816

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on fuel poverty amongst heating oil users. [217600]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with a number of Government Departments, including the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, on a broad range of measures aimed at tackling fuel poverty. Regular meetings are held at both official and ministerial level.

Fuel Poverty: Part-time Employment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department is giving to people in part-time work to meet their fuel bill payments; and if he will make a statement. [215406]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A person in part-time work may be eligible to receive winter fuel payments if they satisfy the qualifying conditions. Payments are made to most persons aged 60 or over and ordinarily resident in Great Britain to help with their fuel bills during the winter months. Payments are worth up to £200 for persons aged 60-79 and up to £300 for persons aged 80 or over. In winter 2008-09, we will make an additional payment alongside the winter fuel payment. Persons aged 60-79 will receive up to £50 and persons aged 80 or over up to £100.

Additionally, a person in part-time work may be eligible to receive cold weather payments if they satisfy the qualifying conditions when the temperature criteria are met for their postcode.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how much and what proportion of private rented accommodation in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea local authority area, *(b)* Essex county council area and *(c)* Southend West constituency is available at or below the median rent established by the Rent Service for the relevant rental market area; and if he will make a statement. [217922]

Mr. Plaskitt: The requested information is not available.

The Rent Service publishes information about broad rental market areas and local housing allowance rates online at

www.therentservice.gov.uk/.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make it his policy to publish information on the level of benefit reductions experienced by those local housing allowance claimants resident in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex who move address; who he consulted before introducing this policy; and if he will make a statement; [217923]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of persons residing in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex who will receive (i) an increase, (ii) a decrease and (iii) no change in benefit paid following the introduction of local housing allowance; what steps he has (A) taken and (B) plans to take to assist those who receive a decrease; what recent representations he has received on this issue; what reply he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [218374]

Mr. Plaskitt: From 7 April 2008, the local housing allowance is being rolled out to customers making new claims for benefit and customers who change address. The local housing allowance provides a clear and transparent set of allowance rates that helps tenants know how much financial help is available. A claimant can obtain details of the relevant rate of local housing allowance in advance, allowing them to make informed choice about the affordability of specific accommodation.

A claimant who is receiving the local housing allowance and who moves address within their existing broad rental market area, and who has no other changes to their family composition, will normally see no change in the amount of local housing allowance that they receive.

Information on all local housing allowance rates and details of broad rental market areas are available from The Rent Service website at

www.therentservice.gov.uk/.

The Department carried out a full public consultation before introducing the local housing allowance. We have received a wide range of representations about all aspects of local housing allowance. Details of individual representations, and our response to them, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We will be carrying out a two year review of local housing allowance.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he estimates will be spent on each type of incapacity benefit in each of the next five years. [209317]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* Latest estimates of expenditure on incapacity and incapacity-related benefits are presented in the following table. The figures assume the introduction of employment and support allowance in October 2008 and announced policies at the time the forecasts were produced—they do not include future proposals yet to be agreed. The figures cover the period of the Government's spending plans 2010-11.

Incapacity related benefits: estimated benefit expenditure, £ millions nominal terms

	2007-08 estimated outturn	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Incapacity benefit	6,580	6,210	5,570	4,920
Of which:				
Short-term lower rate	280	170	0	0
Short-term higher rate	340	270	20	0
Long-term rate	5,710	5,570	5,370	4,760

Incapacity related benefits: estimated benefit expenditure, £ millions nominal terms

	2007-08 estimated outturn	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Earnings related	240	210	180	160
Other incapacity-related benefits				
Severe disablement allowance	750	730	710	680
Income support for sick and disabled	5,230	4,920	4,240	3,670
Return to work credit	0	70	120	120
Statutory sick pay	50	50	50	50

Notes:
1. Figures presented are also available on the DWP website through the following link:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Incapacity benefit is payable at short-term lower, short-term higher, long-term rates plus an earnings related rate for ex-invalidity benefit claimants.
3. Incapacity benefit is replaced for new claimants by employment and support allowance in October 2008.
4. Severe disablement allowance closed in April 2001 to new claimants.
5. Income support for the sick and disabled covers incapacity-related income support payments to those who experience short-term sickness, for a period up to one year, and for those who qualify as long-term sick or disabled.
6. Return to work credit is financial support to those experiencing incapacity (subject to qualifying benefits), for the first year in which the individual returns to work.
7. Figures for statutory sick pay relate to estimated employer recoveries from the Government, based on information held by HM Revenue and Customs.
8. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
9. All figures relate to individuals of working age.

Incapacity Benefit: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in incapacity benefit to *(a)* current and *(b)* former armed services personnel in 2007-08. [218431]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of lone parents that will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2008 have a child for whom they are receiving disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement; [214949]

(2) how many and what proportion of lone parents who will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2008 are in *(a)* part-time employment, *(b)* unemployed and *(c)* in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [214950]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Information is available on the number of lone parents receiving income support at August 2007 who at that date had a youngest child aged 12 or over and who had a child for whom they were receiving disability living allowance.

Information is available on the number of lone parents receiving income support at November 2007 who at that date had a youngest child aged 12 or over and who were either receiving earnings from part time employment or no part time earnings from employment.

That information is in the tables.

No information is available on the numbers of lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over who were in education or training.

Some lone parents are exempt from these changes and will still be able to receive IS. These include lone parents who:

Are in receipt of carer's allowance

Have a child who they are receiving the middle or higher rate care component of disability living allowance for;

Are fostering

Lone parents receiving income support at August 2007 who had a youngest child aged 12 or over at that date and who had a child for whom they were receiving disability living allowance

	Number
All	113,100
Not in receipt of DLA for a child	103,600
In receipt of DLA for a child	9,500
Proportion in receipt of DLA for a child (Percentage)	8.4

Note:
1. 5 per cent. sample figures are uprated to 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Lone parents receiving income support at November 2007 who had a youngest child aged 12 or over at that date and who were receiving earnings from part-time employment

	Number
All	102,340
No part-time earnings	94,430
Part-time earnings	7,910
Proportion with part-time earnings (Percentage)	7.7

Note:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff *(a)* have received specific training and *(b)* will receive specific training before October 2008 on the changes to eligibility criteria for income support affecting lone parents coming into effect in that month; and if he will make a statement. [215840]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 16 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff have received specific training to date, and will receive specific training before October 2008, on the changes to eligibility criteria for Income Support affecting lone parents coming into effect in that month. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The introduction of the changes to eligibility criteria for receipt of Income Support, affecting lone parents, is to be phased over a three year period, commencing in November 2008. The changes will affect all jobs in Jobcentre Plus in different ways, and the proposed training and awareness approach will meet the specific needs of all job roles.

Our current planning assumption is that all Jobcentre Plus staff will require awareness products in the lead up to November 2008. Since February, five such products relating to this change have been issued to all Jobcentre Plus adviser managers. We also estimate that approximately 8,950 customer-facing staff will need

additional training during the implementation period, to equip them with the skills to support lone parents as they make their transition to Jobseeker's Allowance.

Further detailed work is currently being undertaken to convert these assumptions into more detailed plans. This approach will ensure adequate numbers of customer-facing staff are trained and available to deal with the increase in volumes of lone parents moving from Income Support to Jobseeker's Allowance at each stage of the implementation process.

Local Housing Allowance: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in the deregulated private rented sector who will be in receipt of local housing allowance in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; [218375]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex who will be in receipt of the local housing allowance where the rent is paid directly to the claimant in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [218376]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216679]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is provided in the following table.

Nature of incident	*Contested/ Uncontested*	*Date Concluded*	*Damages (£*
Asbestos Related Disease	Settled	Costs being negotiated	167,097.50
Physical and psychological injuries	Settled	9 July 2007	150,000.00
Repetitive strain injury	Settled	23 February 2008	92,368.45
Asbestos Related Disease	Settled	17 September 2007	50,000.00
Back injury	Settled	15 January 2008	36,500.00
Slip and trip injury (leg/back)	Settled	27 November 2007	17,000.00
Slip and trip injury (back)	Settled	1 April 2008	15,000.00
Exacerbation of existing back condition by failure to provide adequate equipment	Settled	2 January 2008	15,000.00
Neck/shoulder injury (struck by falling object)	Settled	28 May 2008	8,500.00
Slip and trip injury (back, hip, leg and ribs)	Settled	17 July 2007	8,500.00

Poverty

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* children, *(b)* pensioners and *(c)* working-age adults were in poverty in each English region in (i) 1990, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2007. [217100]

Mr. Timms: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the number and proportion of individuals, children, working-age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Regional data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates. Regional data are only available on a consistent basis from 1994-95. A time series showing the proportion of children and pensioners in households with household incomes less than 60 per cent. of median including the periods requested are shown in table 4.14ts for children and table 6.8ts for pensioners of the "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Information for working age adults for years where data are available is shown in the following table.

Proportion of working age adults in poverty in each English region in 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2004-05 to 2006-07, three-year average

Region	*Period*	*Percentage of working age adults below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income*	
		Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
North East	1997-98 to 1999-2000	21	26
	2004-05 to 2006-07	18	22
North West	1997-98 to 1999-2000	17	22
	2004-05 to 2006-07	17	21
Yorkshire and the Humber	1997-98 to 1999-2000	18	22
	2004-05 to 2006-07	16	20
East Midlands	1997-98 to 1999-2000	15	18
	2004-05 to 2006-07	16	20
West Midlands	1997-98 to 1999-2000	14	18
	2004-05 to 2006-07	18	22
East of England	1997-98 to 1999-2000	11	15
	2004-05 to 2006-07	12	17
London	1997-98 to 1999-2000	15	24
	2004-05 to 2006-07	15	24
South East	1997-98 to 1999-2000	10	15

Proportion of working age adults in poverty in each English region in 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2004-05 to 2006-07, three-year average

Region	Period	Percentage of working age adults below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income: Before housing costs	After housing costs
	2004-05 to 2006-07	11	16
South West	1997-98 to 1999-2000	14	19
	2004-05 to 2006-07	12	18

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Regional data is only available on a consistent basis from 1994-95, so no results are available for 1990.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
7. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
8. Proportions of working age adults in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Social Security Benefits: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in households in receipt of benefits in each local authority ward in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in 2008. [219096]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, is in the table.

Number of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, city of Newcastle upon Tyne wards, April 2007

	Number
Benwell	630
Blakelaw	770
Byker	815
Castle	205
Dene	290
Denton	530
Elswick	860
Fawdon	715
Fenham	645
Grange	220
Heaton	170
Jesmond	35
Kenton	720
Lemington	495
Monkchester	1,070
Moorside	590
Newburn	395
Sandyford	270
Scotswood	465
South Gosforth	40
Walker	930
Walkergate	470
West City	610
Westerhope	205
Wingrove	480
Woolsington	725

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Data represents a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and therefore excludes a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. The Department does not have complete information on child dependents on the benefit computer systems, therefore children have been merged on to income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and pension credit claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Capacity Building Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has provided to each local authority under the Capacity Building programme to date. [217837]

John Healey: Since April 2004, over 270 local authorities have received Capacity Building support from Communities and Local Government. The following tables show:

(a) the amount of direct support provided to each local authority, and

(b) resources made available to lead councils between April 2004 to March 2009 to support improvement partnerships and regional centres of excellence.

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	Amount (£)
Adur District Council	20,000
Allerdale Borough Council	10,000
Aran District Council	5,000
Ashfield District Council	5,000
Aylesbury Vale District Council	900
Barking and Dagenham Council	475
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	1,250
Basildon District Council	4,000
Basingstoke and Deane Council	21,600
Bassetlaw District Council	5,000
Bath and North East Somerset Council	114,500
Bedfordshire County Council	685,732
Berwick upon Tweed Borough Council	123,250
Birmingham City Council	426,200
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	69,000
Blackpool Borough Council	84,000
Blyth Valley Council	45,000
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	23,000
Boston Borough Council	6,000
Bournemouth Council	2,280

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	*Amount (£)*
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	301,000
Bridgnorth District Council	1,500
Brighton and Hove City Council	9,000
Bristol City Council	67,408
Broadland District Council	143,000
Bromsgrove Borough Council	25,250
Buckinghamshire County Council	2,000
Burnley Borough Council	254,491
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	140,000
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	25,000
Cambridge City Council	900
Canterbury City Council	1,325,000
Caradon Council	10,355
Carrick District Council	607,000
Castle Morpeth Borough Council	201,225
Castle Point Borough Council	282,650
Cheltenham Borough Council	300
Cheshire County Council	10,500
Chesterfield	503,600
Chester-le-Street District Council	582,550
Chichester District Council	9,000
Chiltern District Council	10,000
City of Bradford Council	6,500
City of Newcastle upon Tyne Council	6,500
City of Stoke on Trent Council	16,500
City of York Council	21,500
Congleton Borough Council	135,661
Corby Council	164,003
Cornwall County Council	1,000
Corporation of London	125,000
Coventry City Council	251,400
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	5,000
Cumbria County Council	287,350
Dacorum Borough Council	3,000
Darlington Borough Council	4,000
Daventry District Council	5,500
Derby City Council	13,715
Derbyshire County Council	10,000
Derbyshire Dales Council	11,225
Devon County Council	1,140,000
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	221,000
Dorset County Council	331,000
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	1,000
Durham City Council	4,500
Durham County Council	317,500
Easington Council	4,500
East Devon District Council	1,000
East Hampshire District Council	383,713
East Lindsey District Council	88,767
East Northamptonshire District Council	1,000
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	6,000
East Staffordshire Borough Council	10,500
Eastbourne Borough Council	300,000
Eastleigh Borough Council	8,000
Eden District Council	10,000
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,000
Elmbridge Borough Council	1,000
Erewash Borough Council	322,090

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	*Amount (£)*
Essex County Council	310,797
Exeter City Council	80,000
Forest Heath District Council	1,000
Forest of Dean District Council	194,700
Fylde Borough Council	112,450
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	3,500
Gloucestershire County Council	216,000
Halton Borough Council	5,000
Hampshire County Council	569,620
Harborough District Council	3,000
Harlow District Council	320,600
Hart District Council	9,500
Hartlepool Borough Council	14,500
Hastings Borough Council	7,000
Havant District Council	112,000
Herefordshire County Council	21,000
Hertfordshire County Council	16,425
Hertsmere Borough Council	5,000
High Peak Council	5,000
Hinckley and Bosworth Council	682,450
Huntingdonshire District Council	6,000
Hyndburn Borough Council	5,000
Ipswich Borough Council	5,000
Isle of Wight County Council	5,000
Isles of Scilly Council	60,000
Kent County Council	14,000
Kettering Borough Council	6,000
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	16,835
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	167,945
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	7,280
Leeds City Council	405,000
Lewes District Council	5,000
Lichfield District Council	914,800
Lincolnshire County Council	180,000
London Borough of Camden	57,000
London Borough of Croydon	5748
London Borough of Ealing	127,400
London Borough of Enfield	16,000
London Borough of Greenwich	1,000
London Borough of Hackney	223,550
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	5,500
London Borough of Haringey	350,230
London Borough of Harrow	13,800
London Borough of Havering	363,220
London Borough of Hillingdon	328,450
London Borough of Hounslow	1,000
London Borough of Islington	370,713
London Borough of Lambeth	491,249
London Borough of Lewisham	1,000
London Borough of Merton	395,100
London Borough of Newham	21,000
London Borough of Redbridge	1,000
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	500
London Borough of Southwark	184,875
London Borough of Sutton	120,000
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	32,000
London Borough of Waltham Forest	583,950
London Borough of Wandsworth	17,000
Luton Borough Council	10,000
Maldon District Council	20,000

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	*Amount (£)*
Malvern Hills Council	135,000
Manchester City Council	9,000
Mansfield District Council	326,100
Mendip District Council	224,700
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	10,000
Mid Devon District Council	81,750
Mid Suffolk District Council	5,000
Mid Sussex District Council	63,000
Middlesbrough Council	5,500
Milton Keynes Council	252,075
Mole Valley District Council	5,000
New Forest District Council	2,000
Norfolk County Council	10,000
Northumberland County Council	610,500
North Devon District Council	31,200
North Dorset District Council	149,700
North East Derbyshire District Council	116,500
North East Lincolnshire Council	424,500
North Hertfordshire District Council	15,000
North Kesteven Council	180,000
North Lincolnshire Council	16,500
North Norfolk District Council	10,000
North Shropshire District Council	141,200
North Somerset Council	6,000
North Tyneside District Council	227,032
North Warwickshire Borough Council	5,000
North West Leicestershire District Council	273,000
North Wiltshire District Council	4,000
Northampton Borough Council	326,600
Northamptonshire County Council	792,600
Nottingham City Council	51,800
Nottinghamshire County Council	11,000
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	204,500
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	108,130
Oswestry Borough Council	4,000
Oxford City Council	194,500
Oxfordshire County Council	11,500
Penwith District Council	5,000
Peterborough City Council	5,000
Plymouth City Council	400,773
Poole Borough Council	15,000
Portsmouth City Council	35,450
Preston Borough Council	5,000
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	7,000
Restormel Borough Council	3,060
Ribble Valley Borough Council	11,000
Richmondshire District Council	4,500
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	5,000
Rochford District Council	158,250
Rossendale Borough Council	147,076
Rother District Council	4,000
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	415,200
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	500
Rushcliffe Borough Council	9,850
Rushmoor Borough Council	10,000
Rutland District Council	1,050
Ryedale District Council	1,000

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	*Amount (£)*
Salford City Council	242,280
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	378,650
Sedgemoor District Council	2,700
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	4,000
Selby District Council	226,100
Shepway District Council	175,000
Shropshire County Council	171,800
Slough Borough Council	29,000
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	1,000
South Bedfordshire District Council	1,000
South Cambridgeshire District Council	4,500
South Hams District Council	6,000
South Kesteven District Council	167,700
South Lakeland District Council	96,300
South Norfolk Council	4,500
South Northamptonshire Council	100,300
South Ribble Borough Council	9,850
South Shropshire Council	24,700
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	21,500
Southampton City Council	4,000
Southend on Sea Borough Council	15,000
Spelthorne Borough Council	1,000
St. Albans City Council	900
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	64,000
St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	14,404
Staffordshire County Council	6,000
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	4,500
Stevenage Borough Council	4,500
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	10,000
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	16,715
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	4,500
Suffolk County Council	1,000
Sunderland City Council	51,650
Surrey County Council	11,000
Surrey Heath Borough Council	9,000
Swindon Borough Council	1,319,950
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	414,000
Tamworth Borough Council	5,000
Tandridge District Council	545,900
Taunton Deane Council	200,000
Teesdale Council	22,275
Teignbridge District Council	
Telford and Wrekin Council	205,000
Tendring District Council	5,000
Thanet Council	98,600
Three Rivers District Council	
Thurrock Council	84,400
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	5,000
Torbay Council	611,700
Torridge District Council	266,900
Trafford MBC	178,950
Tunbridge Wells Borough council	48,300
Uttlesford District Council	1,525
Wakefield Council	523,855
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	558,650

Table A: Capacity Building Grant

Local authorities	*Amount (£)*
Warrington Borough Council	2,400
Warwickshire County Council	151,500
Watford Borough Council	406,778
Waveney District Council	179,490
Wellingborough Borough Council	13,325
Welwyn Hatfield District Council	5,000
West Berkshire Council	10,000
West Lindsey District Council	5,000
West Somerset District Council	308,350
West Sussex County Council	9,000
West Wiltshire District Council	324,000
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	10,950
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	25,000
Wiltshire County Council	5,000
Winchester City Council	50,000
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	5,000
Wokingham District Council	15,000
Wolverhampton City Council	39,200
Worcestershire County Council	30,000
Wycombe District Council	5,000
Wyre Borough Council	130,950
Total	33,611,620

Table B

Lead authorities for improvement partnerships	*Area*	*Amount (£)*
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Yorkshire and Humber	12,053,139
Dorset County Council	South West	12,247,339
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	North East	6,112,889
Kent County Council	South East	11,986,889
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	London	14,994,147
Norfolk County Council	East England	15,323,369
Nottinghamshire County Council	East Midlands	10,375,502
Westminster City Council	Leadership Centre	6,546,000
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	North West	16,559,039
Worcestershire County Council	West Midlands	13,988,488
Total		120,186,801
		£
Grand total		£153,798,421

Community Relations: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* administrative, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* other costs of the Preventing Violent Extremism programme have been since its inception. [218538]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Although work on the Preventing Violent Extremism programme began in late 2006, the preventing extremism division in CLG did not become a separate financially accountable unit until April 2007. Therefore, between 1 April 2007 and June 2008, £466,352.48 has been spent on administration costs and £1,324,811.14 has been spent on staffing. In total, £20,372,055.43 has been spent on programme costs. This includes national project delivery and research as well as grant funding to local authorities and other organisations to run projects to tackle violent extremism.

Council Tax: Floods

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum period is that a house made inhabitable by flooding may be exempt from council tax. [218399]

John Healey: Properties which are vacant and undergoing major repair work to make them habitable may be exempt from council tax, for a maximum of 12 months, under Class A of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992 (SI 1992/558).

The Government have recently announced that they will provide financial support to those local authorities who exercise their right under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discounts to owners of properties on which the 12 month exemption period has lapsed but which are still uninhabitable due to the June and July 2007 floods.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217411]

Mr. Dhanda: During the last two years our records show that the Department for Communities and Local Government has *(a)* dismissed one and *(b)* disciplined two members of the Department.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees in her Department and its predecessor have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218403]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has a flexible retirement age, which allows employees below the senior civil service, to work until 70 if they wish. Prior to its introduction, there is no record of staff being asked to leave once they reached 65.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if she will make a statement; [216087]

(2) how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to

(i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement; [216095]

(3) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [216096]

(4) how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if she will make a statement. [216098]

Mr. Dhanda: Information for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

All three illnesses are grouped together as 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders'.

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2004 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [216097]

Mr. Dhanda: Data for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Information relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Planning Inspectorate, Fire Service College and QEII Conference Centre for 2008-09 is not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2004 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years; [218963]

(2) how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218725]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on sickness absence for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2004 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-towns: Curborough

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Curborough remains on her Department's list of potential locations for eco-towns following the Curborough Consortium's decision to withdraw its application to build an eco-town. [217516]

Caroline Flint: I can confirm that the Curborough Consortium has withdrawn its eco-town proposal and the site is no longer on the long list of potential locations. We had to expect that some developers would and will decide to remove themselves from the long list, while others will not meet the high standards needed to make it through to our final shortlist.

However, where eco-towns proposals are withdrawn, the local authorities will have to face up to the challenge of increasing housing supply and find another way to address the need for housing, and in particular affordable housing.

Eco-towns: Staffordshire

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what location for the proposed eco-town at Curborough, Staffordshire is indicated in the promotional materials published by her Department; what the location of the proposed site is; and what steps she plans to take to correct the promotional materials. [210209]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* As part of the first stage of consultation the proposed location for the eco-town at Curborough was set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future". Through promotional material we have said that more information is available on our website, and this includes links to the initial expressions of interest by the promoter for the shortlisted locations, including Curborough. These provide further details about the location. The proposal for an eco-town at Curborough has since been withdrawn by the promoter.

Essex Police Authority: Council Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the police precept was on Band *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E and *(f)* F bills for Essex Police Authority in each year since 2000. [217737]

John Healey: Details of the council tax precept for the Essex police authority in each year since 2000-01 are shown in the following table.

Valuation band ranges	Band A Under £40,000	Band B £40,001 to £52,000	Band C £52,001 to £68,000	Band D £68,001 to £88,000	Band E £88,001 to £120,000	Band F £120,001 to £160,000	Band G £160,001 to £320,000	£ Band H Over £320,000
Ratio to band D[1]	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	2
2000-01	45	53	60	68	83	98	113	136
2001-02	47	55	63	71	87	103	118	142
2002-03	52	60	69	78	95	112	129	155
2003-04	62	72	83	93	114	134	155	186
2004-05	66	77	88	99	121	143	165	199
2005-06	70	81	93	105	128	151	175	210
2006-07	74	86	99	111	136	160	185	222
2007-08	78	91	104	116	142	168	194	233
2008-09	81	95	109	122	149	177	204	244

[1] Within an authority, the council tax for each valuation band is a fixed ratio to that for band D. For example, a band A dwelling will pay 6/9 the band D amount, and a band H dwelling will pay twice the band D amount.

Ethnic Groups: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many black and minority ethnic organisations are receiving funding from local authorities in 2008-09; and what assessment she has made of recent trends in the number of black and minority ethnic organisations receiving such funding. [218914]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the research produced for her Department by the Centre for Economics and Business Research on the strategic review of fire and rescue services. [212726]

Mr. Dhanda: A summary of the research will be placed in the Library of the House.

Flood Control

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to require local authorities to produce local surface water management plans. [215063]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 301, by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn).

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214885]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214886]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house sales have taken place under the HomeBuy scheme in each month since April 2006; and what the Government's targets for sales in each month were. [218860]

Caroline Flint: The following table shows the number of homes sold under the HomeBuy scheme in each month since April 2006:

	Open Market HomeBuy	NewBuild HomeBuy/Shared Ownership	Social HomeBuy
April 2006	38	0	0
May 2006	1	0	0
June 2006	44	0	0
July 2006	185	100	0
August 2006	377	151	0
September 2006	397	130	0
October 2006	372	87	0
November 2006	183	166	0
December 2006	166	374	0
January 2007	124	241	0
February 2007	211	282	17
March 2007	297	1492	30
April 2007	4	42	0
May 2007	230	55	0
June 2007	175	354	2
July 2007	171	296	11
August 2007	226	266	16
September 2007	161	676	10
October 2007	214	372	26
November 2007	213	418	8
December 2007	316	1367	18
January 2008	240	574	12
February 2008	341	1394	23
March 2008	585	4317	31
April 2008	31	126	2
May 2008	170	267	4
June 2008	439	705	20

We do not set individual monthly targets for Open Market HomeBuy or NewBuild HomeBuy to ensure flexibility within the programme. Social HomeBuy is a demand led product and as such no targets are associated with this programme.

Interreg Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on the Interreg Programme, if she will place in the Library a copy of the updated edition of the INTERACT Handbook that was produced for the Interinstitutional Conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation, held in Brussels in June 2008. [217823]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the updated INTERACT Handbook on the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on the Interreg Programme, whether bodies set up under the provisions of European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Regulations 2007, with a registered office in the United Kingdom, will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [217824]

John Healey: For the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, bodies with a registered office in the United Kingdom set up under the provisions of the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation Regulations 2007 are not designated as public authorities.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 318W, on landfill tax, what the notional amount of funding given to local authorities in each year since 2003 to compensate for rising landfill tax was, according to calculations held by her Department when drawing up the local government finance settlement. [217820]

John Healey: Formula Grant is not hypothecated. It is not therefore possible to identify an amount provided for a particular item of expenditure.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effects of oil price changes on local authority costs. [217838]

John Healey: The Government have given local government the stability and certainty it asked for, in providing a three-year financial settlement for the period from 2008-09 to 2010-11. We have continued to provide real terms increases in funding for local government, with overall Government grant increasing by an annual average of 1.5 per cent. up to 2010-11. It is for local authorities, as for other organisations, to assess and manage in-year pressures on their budgets such as increases in fuel prices.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the capacity of local authorities to increase their revenue through greater use of charging powers; and if she will make a statement. [217851]

John Healey: The need for consistent and creative approaches to charging was highlighted in the recent Audit Commission report "Positively Charged". It showed that the approaches local authorities take to charging vary widely across the country and that the best authorities are using charges, with public backing, to improve services. The Government have made no separate assessment of local authorities' capacity to increase revenue through their use of charging powers.

Local Government: Elections

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average turnout for local council elections in Halifax has been since 1988. [219061]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 1988, the average voter turnout for the Calderdale council wards falling wholly or mostly within the Halifax parliamentary constituency has been 36.62 per cent. Averages by year are:-

	Average voter turnout
1988	35.81
1990	45.46
1991	41.37
1992	36.26
1994	40.72
1995	36.05
1996	32.55
1998	30.00
1999	29.06
2000	26.85
2002	30.65
2003	38.27
2004	49.96
2006	37.81
2007	37.53
2008	37.57

The Wards concerned are:-

1998 to 2003 election

Illingworth
Mixenden
Northowram and Shelf
Ovenden
St. John's
Skircoat
Sowerby Bridge
Town
Warley

2004 elections to present

Illingworth and Mixenden
Northowram and Shelf
Ovenden
Park
Skircoat

Sowerby Bridge

Town

Warley

Ward boundary changes took effect on 1 December 2003.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets she plans to set for local authorities for national indicator 154 under local area agreements. [217840]

John Healey: Targets in local area agreements (LAAs) are set by agreement between each local area, led by its local authority, and the Government. LAAs are now in place in all 150 local areas in England. Details on each LAA, including the agreed targets, are available at:

www.localprioritiescommunities.gov.uk

and

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8399555.

Maps: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what geo-spatial and geo-demographic data from her Department's Maps on Tap database are used by the Valuation Office Agency. [217850]

John Healey: None. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 789W.

Michael Clark

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 267-8W, on Michael Clark, when she expects the review by West Yorkshire MAPPA to be published. [219791]

Mr. Dhanda: The West Yorkshire MAPPA strategic management board is meeting on 18 July to consider the report prepared by its review panel into the murder committed by Michael Clark. The strategic management board will consider whether it is satisfied with the report or whether further work needs to be undertaken. The strategic management board will consider any recommendations and what actions, if any, need to be taken. It is for the strategic management board to determine whether or not to publish the report.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department was of providing business rate revaluation transitional relief in each year from 2000 to 2005. [217661]

John Healey: There was no cost to the Department. The 2000 to 2005 transitional relief scheme was, and continues to be, designed so that it is financed from other business rate payers, so that the gross income remained the same overall.

Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria parish councils must meet to achieve Quality Parish status. [217805]

John Healey: The criteria are set out in the revised Guide to becoming a Quality Council, which was published by the National Association of Local Councils in June 2008.

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on planning, whether the national policy statement on waste will cover planning policy relating to *(a)* landfill sites, *(b)* incinerators and *(c)* civic amenity sites. [217955]

John Healey: National policy statements will only deal with the types of infrastructure set out in clause 14(1) of the Planning Bill. We are still considering the particular detail of each national policy statement, and will make further announcements in due course.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on planning, whether the national policy statement on waste will be technology-specific. [217956]

John Healey: We are still considering the particular detail of each national policy statement, and will make further announcements in due course.

Property: Photographs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 177-78W, on property: photographs, if she will provide the information given in the answer as at June 2008. [217821]

John Healey: For England, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1363W. Council tax in Wales is a devolved matter.

A breakdown by local authority could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Planning and Development: Eco-towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W,

on regional planning and development: eco towns, whether the Regional Spatial Strategy partial reviews will be *(a)* commenced or *(b)* finished by 2011. [217822]

Caroline Flint: In the Housing Green Paper we said we would initiate partial reviews of Regional Spatial Strategies where necessary to ensure provision for 240,000 net additions per annum by 2016. Given changes in the housing market over the last year the Government have decided that we will work with regional partners on a flexible basis to agree the work programme and timetable with each Regional Assembly. This will take account of regional priorities and demands, including longer term housing needs, proposals for eco towns and new growth points, and the need to manage the transition to the proposed Single Regional Strategy.

Travelling People: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are applied by the Valuation Office Agency to determine whether a Traveller caravan should be rated for council tax purposes. [217803]

John Healey: Criteria applied are, that a pitch must be occupied (i) by a caravan that is a sole or main residence of an individual and (ii) in such a way, and with sufficient permanence, as to qualify as a hereditament, or part of a hereditament.

Valuation Office: Maps

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1600-01W, whether the Valuation Office Agency holds hard copy or electronic maps of each locality. [217963]

John Healey: The current delineation of each locality in England is held in electronic format.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to assist schools with disabled pupils. [207424]

Kevin Brennan: In June 2006, we published the training resource "Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings" and made it available to all schools and local authorities. This was prepared with the Disability Rights Commission, and provides schools and LAs with practical tools to improve their effectiveness. It helps them to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, and to review and revise their accessibility plans. These show how schools will increase access for disabled pupils to school premises and facilities, to the curriculum, and to information in alternative formats. A series of regional conferences was organised to publicise and disseminate the resource.

In 2007, we published additional guidance to support schools in implementing the disability equality duty and developing their disability equality scheme. This guidance is published as part of the same resource. It was also disseminated through a series of regional conferences.

We have also assisted schools to address bullying against disabled children and those with special educational needs by publishing "Bullying Involving Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability", on 15 May 2008.

Children: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of children entitled to but not taking up free school meals; [219226]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in poverty who are not claiming free school meals. [219227]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is not available.

We do not collect information on the number of pupils who may be eligible for free school meals but do not register as eligible.

Children: Poverty

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in poverty in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [215403]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The available information, published in the Households Below Average Income series, is that there were 3.4 million children living in households in Great Britain with below 60 per cent. of median contemporary income before housing costs in 1997/98; and there were 2.9 million such children in the United Kingdom in 2006/07. The Households Below Average Income series cannot provide information below the level of Government office region.

Work is currently under way to develop an indicator of child poverty at the local level that will measure the proportion of children in families living in poverty in both out of work and in work families. It is intended that this indicator will be used as the local area agreement child poverty indicator from April 2009 onwards.

Departmental Co-ordination: Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to discuss co-ordination of policy between the two Departments. [217052]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues on issues of mutual interest.

Departmental Co-ordination: Ministry of Justice

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss co-ordination of policy between their two Departments. [217051]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues on issues of mutual interest.

Departmental Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much the directors in his Department have been paid in bonuses in the last 12 months; [219286]

(2) how much has been paid in bonuses to senior civil servants in his Department since its establishment. [219565]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The breakdown of bonuses for the senior civil service for the 2007-08 financial year is set out in the following table:

£

	Number of bonus awards made to senior civil servants in DCSF	*Total cost of the bonuses awarded*
2007-08	91	577,972.38

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218962]

Kevin Brennan: Since the Department was formed in the 28 June 2007 Machinery of Government changes, 67 staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days. This applies from the date of establishment of the Department to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available).

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217897]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families catering service is contracted out and the information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219015]

Kevin Brennan: The requirement to prepare Home Information Packs applies to the marketing for sale of residential properties. This Department has not been involved in any such transactions since 1 August 2007.

Parents: Alcoholism

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children living with an alcoholic parent in each of the last 10 years. [218433]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not annually record the number of young people affected by parental alcohol misuse. However the Interim Analytical report produced for the 2004 report 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England' by the Prime Ministers Strategy Unit estimates that between 780,000 and 1.3 million children are affected by parental alcohol problems.

The Government recognise that parental alcohol misuse is a serious problem in the family and has negative effects on a child's life chances. This is why my Department is investing in targeted services for those families at risk that will help to reduce the risk of dependency on alcohol and break the cycle of problems being transferred between generations. The drugs strategy 'Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities', published in February 2008, introduced families as a key priority and highlighted the need for support to prevent future problems for children. This proposed a programme of intensive support services to reach the most chaotic families through the Family Interventions project; and Family Pathfinders to develop local systems and services that improve outcomes for families at risk. We are committed to further evaluating a number of programmes to better gauge their impact on reducing alcohol problems.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216676]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has made two settlements in respect of personal injury claims brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available, which covers the period 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007. Both claims were contested. No payments have been made in settlement of personal injury claims since November 2007.

Because of the low numbers involved, disclosure of any details of the claims would allow the individuals to be identified.

Positive Activities for Young People Programme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he took in choosing local authorities to take part in the COO-L positive activities bursary pilot. [219582]

Beverley Hughes: The two COO-L (Choice and Opportunities On-Line) pilots are part of a programme involving nine local authorities to test different approaches to addressing the particular barriers to participation in positive activities that exist for disadvantaged young people in their area. Local authorities were invited to take part because the development work they had already undertaken, as pilot areas for the youth opportunity card, showed evidence of the benefits to be gained both for disadvantaged young people in their area and in informing national strategy on youth activities. Each local authority was required to submit a detailed plan, demonstrating value for money, against clearly defined criteria.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1149-51W, on pre-school education: finance, if he will break down the budget lines for *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 by category of expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [219085]

Beverley Hughes: Expenditure on under fives is provided to local authorities in a single amount as part of the wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which provides funding to schools across the 3 to 16 age range. It is a matter for each local authority to distribute the grant between all schools and early years settings in response to local needs.

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs in pupil referral units obtained one or more GCSEs at grades A* to C in the school year 2006-07. [219264]

Kevin Brennan: The information required to answer this question is not held centrally.

Pupil Referral Units: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils received *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent exclusions from pupil referral units in school year 2006-07; [219261]

(2) how many unauthorised absences there were of pupils in pupil referral units in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 . [219265]

(3) what percentage of pupils in pupil referral units were classed as persistent truants in school year 2006-07. [219266]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information on exclusions from Pupil Referral Units in 2006-07 is not collected centrally. Information is available for the years 2004-03 and 2004-05 and this is shown in the following table.

Information on absence from Pupil Referral Units for complete school years is not yet collected centrally, therefore no information is available on unauthorised absence or persistent absentees (pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance). Information for the 2007-08 school year will be collected in spring 2009; however, this does not include information on persistent absentees. The Department does not maintain records of 'truancy', as authorised absence rates include lateness and unauthorised holidays during term time.

Pupil referral units: Number and percentage of exclusions 2003-04: England

	Permanent exclusions				*Fixed period exclusions*			
	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	Number	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]
England[2]	30	0.26	40	0.28	5,780	44.34	7,630	52.75

[1] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils in Pupil Referral Units.
[2] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly exclusions survey.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that children and young people with diabetes receive the support they need to manage their condition in school. [219504]

Kevin Brennan: The Department issued guidance entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings', in 2005. This guidance was published jointly with the Department of Health, and specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions. We also produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled 'Including Me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings'.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published a report entitled 'Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter', and has convened a group to support the implementation of best practice as set out in the report. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is represented on that group.

Schools: Bureaucracy

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proposals he has to reduce levels of bureaucracy in schools following the introduction of the New Relationship with schools; and if he will make a statement. [219036]

Jim Knight: The New Relationship with Schools was launched in early 2004 with two aims: to lift burdens from schools and also to sharpen school accountability. It was prompted by a review in 2003 which reported that schools felt burdened and confused by the demands placed on them by Government and other external agencies. Changes since 2004 have yielded significant reductions in burdens:

- the establishment of new, simplified, processes for schools to supply data to Government and non-departmental public bodies;
- simplification of school funding arrangements so that there are now far fewer distinct funding elements for schools to account for separately;
- replacement of large paper mailings to schools with electronic provision of information;
- replacement of each school's Governors' annual report to parents and annual meeting for parents with a School Profile containing some nationally provided data and narrative written by each school to a nationally set format;
- use of inspection reports to determine renewal of specialist schools' status instead of the specific application forms that schools had to fill in formerly.

With these gains now achieved, our approach now is to tackle the issue of burdens as an integral part of the development of any policy affecting schools. Our Children's Plan sets out an important enhanced role for schools, alongside other children's services, in helping all children live happy and fulfilling lives. So we keep the issue of burdens on schools under constant review as we develop all our policies. To take two examples,

- a standing group of school leaders will this week be scrutinising the burdens resulting from the measures schools have to take to prevent the employment of unsuitable adults to work with children;
- we are working with a group of representatives from schools and the school work force to design indicators of schools' performance in supporting children's general well-being.

This approach recognises and tackles important imperatives which can pull in different directions and where the balance is not always easy to strike.

Schools: Disabled

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* secondary schools, *(b)* special schools and *(c)* primary schools have put a disability equality scheme in place; [218132]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assist schools to develop a disability equality scheme where such schemes do not already exist; and if he will make a statement; [218133]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to monitor the implementation of schools' disability equality schemes; and if he will make a statement; [218134]

(4) what arrangements his Department has put in place to monitor the extent to which schools achieve compliance with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [218135]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities and schools are required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) to develop accessibility strategies and plans to improve access to school education for disabled pupils, and to have disability equality schemes. We would expect all schools and local authorities to meet their statutory duties under the Act, including schools informing parents of the accessibility plan and disability equality scheme and providing annual progress reports. To aid schools and local authorities in developing their accessibility and equality plans, the Government have issued a training resource entitled 'Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in schools and early years settings'. This provides schools and local authorities with practical tools to improve their effectiveness in (a) making reasonable adjustments to include disabled pupils and (b) in reviewing and revising their accessibility plans. In 2006, the Government facilitated a number of national roadshows to aid schools and local authorities in developing reasonable adjustments and accessibility plans. In 2007, the Government facilitated a further series of roadshows to support schools and local authorities in developing their disability equality schemes.

Schools are also expected to complete Ofsted's self-evaluation form to outline the extent to which they have complied with the general requirements of the Act and other equalities legislation, as part of the inspection arrangements. The National Strategies SEN regional advisers' visits to local authorities also consider whether systems are in place for assessing whether schools have disability equality schemes.

The Secretary of State has the power to direct a school or local authority not fulfilling their duties in relation to accessibility strategies and plans. The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is responsible for taking action against a school that has not met its duties under the disability equality duty (part 5 of the DDA). We would expect all schools and local authorities to have disability equality schemes and do not collect data centrally on those which have them in place.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities did not produce a transport policy statement under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002 in each of the last three years. [216078]

Jim Knight: We of course expect all local authorities to satisfy their duties under the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education Act 2002). Local authorities in England are required to prepare and publish a transport policy statement specifying what arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise, and for the provision of financial assistance in respect of travelling expenses, it considers necessary to facilitate attendance at schools and institutions of further education of students who are over compulsory school age but under 19 and students who are over 19 but who began their course before they reached 19.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for delivering the administrative functions in relation to local authority duties for transport for people of sixth form age (as set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and related statutory instrument).

Therefore, I will make arrangements for Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom dated 14 July 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked; "How many local authorities did not produce a transport policy statement under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002 in each of the last three years". (216078)

"What assessment the Learning and Skills Council has made of transport policy statements produced under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002; and if he will make a statement" (216079)

Under s509AB(5) of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has power to issue guidance to local authorities in respect of the preparation of their transport statements and the local authority must have regard to that guidance in preparing the statement. The LSC can also specify persons with whom the local authority must consult in preparing its statement.

The LSC issues annual guidance to Local Authorities pursuant to this power. It also administers the transport partnership funding on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The LSC also has certain powers and duties in relation to the Secretary of States' powers under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that local authorities carry out their statutory duties in relation to transport for post-16 learners. In summary the LSC has the responsibility of trying to resolve complaints and challenges in relation to the exercise by local authorities of their duties in relation to transport for learners of sixth form age. However the power to give directions to local authorities in the event they are failing to comply with their duties in relation to transport statements rests with the Secretary of State.

It should be noted that the LSC does not have any power or duty to formally approve the local authority's transport statement and giving formal approval would potentially conflict with the LSC's duties to consider complaints and challenges to local authority's exercise of their responsibilities. Furthermore although there is a requirement for local authorities to consult the LSC in preparing their statements there is no statutory requirement that the statements must be approved by the LSC. This consultation is carried out through the local transport partnership of which LSC Area Teams are a member. The partnership considers whether statement is comprehensive and responds to local transport issues but the LSC does not assess the local authority transport policy statement to determine compliance with its legal obligations.

Figures below indicate the number of local authorities who provided the LSC with a copy of their annual transport policy statement (out of a total of 150 local authorities)

05/06 – 130

06/07 – 146

07/08 – 148

Specialised Diplomas: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young offender institutions he expects will offer teaching for the new diplomas in *(a)* September 2008, *(b)* September 2009 and *(c)* September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [219237]

Beverley Hughes: Teaching for the new Diplomas is not scheduled to be offered in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) in September 2008 or 2009, although HMYOI Lancaster Farms is currently participating in a functional skills pilot. YOIs wishing to deliver Diplomas from 2010 will be able to apply through the Diploma Gateway this autumn and applications from YOIs will be welcomed.

As part of the implementation of the 14-19 reforms and our plans to improve education in custody, we are considering how we best deliver the 14-19 curriculum for young people in juvenile custody.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213719]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department and its predecessor originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213720]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) can only provide aggregate spend for the purchase of office furniture which includes chairs and other non timber purchases. It does not hold separate information on timber products alone and is therefore unable to provide costs on those timber products which originated from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from licensed FLEGT partners. The breakdown of aggregate spend for each of the last fours years is:

	Total cost (£)
2004-05	524,490
2005-06	315,124
2006-07	123,703
2007-08	1,269,169

DCSF, like all central Government Departments, actively seek to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal sustainable sources. From April 2009, all Departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Government and Trade (FLEGT) initiative.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what datasets his Department publishes which include information on the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training; and what the expected date of next publication of each set of data is. [219344]

Beverley Hughes: The Department's principal estimates of the number of young people of academic age 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are based on data from a range of administrative sources and the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and are published annually in a Statistical First Release each June. The most recent publication can be found via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml. These data are used to measure the Department's target to reduce the number of young people NEET by 2 percentage points by 2010 (from a baseline of 9.6 per cent. at end 2004).

NEET estimates based solely on the LFS are published by the Department quarterly following the release of each LFS Quarterly dataset. They are published in the NEET Quarterly Brief, available on the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway. As a sample survey, LFS estimates of NEET are subject to sampling error, and these estimates are not as accurate as the official measure outlined above. However, they allow monitoring of in-year trends in the numbers of young people NEET.

The Department publishes figures on young people NEET from the Youth Cohort Study (YCS). For the first time, in 2008, these published statistics also used data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE). Both of these sources are sample surveys, and provide information on young people from a single cohort rather than across the 16 to 18 age range. While the estimates of NEET produced from these sources are not accurate as the SFR measure, they are useful in providing breakdowns of NEET by characteristics and background. The next publication date for these combined data will be announced in the schedule of publications to be issued in March 2009.

Connexions services also collect information on young people known to them to be NEET. Connexions data on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority are made publicly available on the DCSF website. Figures for the end of each year are made available by April of the following year.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215190]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's average cost to employ a press and media officer is;

Information officer	£
Monthly salary	2,748.50
Monthly ERNIC	207.54
Monthly Superannuation	535.74
Total monthly pay costs	3,491.78

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215570]

Mr. Lammy: There are currently 11 staff in the Department who are classed as priority movers and are actively seeking posts within the Department or elsewhere in the civil service. The Department actively manages and supports employees in this position by ensuring access to vacancy information and engaging them in project work and other posts until a permanent position is secured.

The Department's agencies have delegated responsibility for their human resource functions and the information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since its establishment; and in which areas. [215621]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created one year ago. Since then, DIUS, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the Intellectual Property Office have reviewed six policy areas, which resulted in 18 amended or consolidated pieces of regulation.

The number of statutory instruments fully or partially revoked as a result of these reviews could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education: Transport

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment the Learning and Skills Council has made of transport policy statements produced under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [216079]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for delivering the administrative functions in relation to local authority duties for transport for young people of 6th form age (as set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and related statutory instrument).

Therefore, I will make arrangements for Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, to write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 14 July 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked; "How many local authorities did not produce a transport policy statement under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002 in each of the last three years". (216078)

"What assessment the Learning and Skills Council has made of transport policy statements produced under Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002; and if he will make a statement". (216079)

Under s509AB(5) of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has power to issue guidance to local authorities in respect of the preparation of their transport statements and the local authority must have regard to that guidance in preparing the statement. The LSC can also specify persons with whom the local authority must consult in preparing its statement.

The LSC issues annual guidance to Local Authorities pursuant to this power. It also administers the transport partnership funding on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The LSC also has certain powers and duties in relation to the Secretary of States' powers under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that local authorities carry out their statutory duties in relation to transport for post-16 learners. In summary the LSC has the responsibility of trying to resolve complaints and challenges in relation to the exercise by local authorities of their duties in relation to transport for learners of sixth form age. However the power to give directions to local authorities in the event they are failing to comply with their duties in relation to transport statements rests with the Secretary of State.

It should be noted that the LSC does not have any power or duty to formally approve the local authority's transport statement and giving formal approval would potentially conflict with the LSC's duties to consider complaints and challenges to local authority's exercise of their responsibilities. Furthermore although there is a requirement for local authorities to consult the LSC in preparing their statements there is no statutory requirement that the statements must be approved by the LSC. This consultation is carried out through the local transport partnership of which LSC Area Teams are a member. The partnership considers whether statement is comprehensive and responds to local transport issues but the LSC does not assess the local authority transport policy statement to determine compliance with its legal obligations.

The following figures indicate the number of local authorities who provided the LSC with a copy of their annual transport policy statement (out of a total of 150 local authorities).

	Number of authorities
2005/06	130
2006/07	146
2007/08	148

European Institute of Technology and Innovation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the establishment of a European Institute of Technology and Innovation. [218000]

Mr. Lammy: The Government welcome the recent adoption by the Council and European Parliament of a regulation establishing the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). The regulation provides a solid basis for the EIT to support European innovation through the creation of partnerships (to be known as "Knowledge and Innovation Communities") between existing excellent universities, research organisations and businesses in strategically important fields. The Government consider that a high calibre independent Governing Board, which is due to be appointed shortly, will play a key role in building the EIT's reputation. The board is expected to develop detailed operational criteria in the coming months, which will enable the first KICs to be launched around spring 2010. The decision, agreed unanimously in June 2008, that the administrative headquarters will be located in Budapest, should also help ensure that the EIT becomes operational with minimum delay.

Higher Education: Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students studying for a higher education qualification in a further education college are *(a)* directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* funded via a university and *(c)* funded by the Learning and Skills Council; and what proportion each of these groups form of the total number of higher education students in England. [216888]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

Higher education enrolments by source of funding, English further education colleges[1], 2005/06[2] and 2006/07[3] academic years

	Number	*Proportion (Percentage)*	*Proportion of all higher education enrolments[4] (Percentage)*
Total higher education enrolments at further education colleges[5]	181,055	100.0	9.2
Of Which:			
Directly funded by HEFCE[6]	54,250	30.0	2.8
Funded via a university[7]	50,015	27.6	2.5
Funded by LSC	55,675	30.7	2.8

[1] The figures have not been adjusted for colleges that transferred during this period from the FE to the HE sector, or for those which merged with HE institutions.
[2] Funded via a university figures come from the 2005/06 HESA record. 2006/07 HESA data are available but the equivalent analysis has not been performed.
[3] 2006/07 data is provisional. The final sweep of 2006/07 data will be available in January 2009.
[4] All higher education enrolments cover higher education enrolments at further education colleges plus higher education enrolments at higher education institutions. The underlying higher education institution data comes from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and is on a DIUS whole year count basis. Includes students registered by an English HE institution that are taught at any UK FE college (not just English FE colleges).
[5] Includes students with other sources of funding, therefore the sum of HEFCE funded, funded via a university and LSC funded will not sum to the number of all enrolments; likewise the proportions will not sum to 100 per cent.
[6] Includes students funded via a HEFCE-recognised funding consortium led by an HE institution.
[7] Include students registered at any English HE institution, this includes HE colleges as well as universities.
Notes:
1. Figures are on a DIUS whole year count basis, which counts students enrolled at any point in the academic year.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and proportions have been rounded to one decimal place.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR) apart from funded via a university figures which are from the 2005/06 Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduates in universities in England from households with incomes of *(a)* up to £25,000, *(b)* £25,000 to £27,120, *(c)* £27,120 to £30,000, *(d)* £30,000 to £35,000, *(e)* £35,000 to £38,330 and *(f)* greater than £38,331 attended university in each year since 2006-07 for which figures are available. [205866]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Complete information on household incomes of students is not available centrally.

The recently announced reforms for 2008/09 mean we estimate that around one third of eligible full-time students will be entitled to a full grant. These students will have a residual household income of £25,000 or less. We also estimate around a third will be entitled to a partial grant, equivalent to a residual household income between £25,000 and £60,005.

Due to these reforms by 2011, we estimate that the number of full-time students receiving some level of grant will increase by around 100,000. As part of this change, we estimate an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant.

Mathematics: Graduates

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of supply of graduates in mathematics and sciences. [218733]

Ian Pearson: There have been representations from a range of organisations who have raised issues concerning the supply of graduates in mathematics and sciences. DIUS Ministers have met senior representatives from professional, educational and business organisations, including the Wellcome Trust, the National Academies, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, GlaxoSmithKline, the Business Council for Britain, CBI, Shell UK, Universities UK, National Science Learning Centre, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) and many others. DIUS Ministers and officials have also corresponded with numerous organisations and individuals on this issue, and my Department maintains an active dialogue with many of these.

The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at higher education level. DIUS supports a range of measures, and works closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), to raise awareness of these subjects and to increase the engagement of young people in STEM activities to encourage them to pursue these subjects beyond school.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is providing £160 million over five years to increase the demand for and supply of students doing strategically important and vulnerable subjects, of which the majority will be spent on STEM subjects. Additional funding of £75 million has also been made available from 2007-08 for three years, for high-cost strategic science subjects at undergraduate level, including chemistry, physics and chemical engineering.

Medicine: Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he and his Department's officials have had with their counterparts in the Department of Health on the adequacy of student financial support available through the Student Loans Company and the NHS Grants Unit for medical students. [216929]

Bill Rammell: Maintenance and tuition fee support for medical students is shared between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department of Health; the Department's officials meet regularly to consider issues of mutual interest.

Students on the standard undergraduate medical and dental courses are eligible for tuition fee and maintenance support on the same terms as other undergraduate students for the first four years. For the fifth and subsequent years of their courses the tuition fees are paid by the Department of Health and students are eligible for a means-tested NHS bursary and a reduced (broadly 50 per cent.) non means-tested student loan.

Graduates can apply to do an accelerated four-year medical or dental course. Graduates will have to fund the first year's fees but are still eligible for a loan for maintenance. Tuition fees are then paid in full and means-tested bursary support is available from the NHS from the second year onwards of these courses on the same basis as students in year 5 and onwards of the standard undergraduate course.

Officials in the Department will be working with those at the Department of Health as they take forward recommendations in their report "A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Stage Review".

Pupil Referral Units: Speech Therapy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many speech and language therapists are employed in pupil referral units. [219229]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Teachers and other staff with a variety of skills and experience working in pupil referral units cater for the diverse needs of children and young people educated in these settings. However, data on the number of staff employed specifically as speech and language therapists are not collected centrally.

Students: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will promote opportunities for students from ethnic minorities living in urban areas to undertake studies in the land-based economy based in rural colleges. [218167]

Mr. Lammy: The profile and attractiveness of careers in the land-based economy are being drawn to young people's attention in different ways. Those currently interested in learning about land-based industries can already study for a GCSE in environmental and land-based science. From September 2009 there will be a new diploma in environmental and land-based studies. There is also a network of specialist schools and academies located across urban and rural areas. Discretionary learner support funding is available to individual students through colleges, and included within this is support for residential courses. Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the land-based industries, helps to raise awareness of opportunities in the sector to young people, and has a dedicated website aimed at young people

www.ajobin.com.

Students: Loans

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average time taken by graduates to pay off student loans following receipt of a salary of £15,000 per annum was in the latest period for which figures are available. [218997]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* Income contingent loans were introduced in 1998. Students only begin to repay their loan in the April after leaving university or college and their repayments begin when their income reaches the threshold of £15,000. Repayments are made through the UK tax system and for borrowers on PAYE employers make deductions at 9 per cent. of income above £15,000 threshold.

Borrowers in receipt of a salary of £15,000 per annum do not make any repayments; and loan balances are written off after 25 years.

Actual data on average time to repay income contingent loans are unavailable for most income contingent loan borrowers, because most have yet to complete repayment.

We estimate that a student who entered higher education in 2006/07 will take an average of around 13 years to repay their student loan. The repayment period is counted from the April following the year of graduation. The calculation is based on assumptions about lifetime graduate earnings, derived from the British Household Panel Survey and the Labour Force Survey. The calculation takes account of gender, age and periods spent unemployed or inactive for other reasons.

Video Games: Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many computer games development courses, and other related degree courses, have been accredited by Skillset, the Sector Skills Council for Creative Media; [218729]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the content and standard of computer games development courses offered at UK universities; [218732]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the utility to industry employers of degree courses in computer games development. [218730]

Mr. Lammy [*holding answer 14 July 2008*]: Our high level skills strategy sets out a clear aim of more, and more employable, graduates, and recognises an important role for Sector Skills Councils in working with both industry and higher education.

With support from the sector, Skillset has accredited four computer games degrees. 11 higher education institutions (HEIs) in England are currently interested in seeking such accreditation.

Quality Assurance Agency reviews of HEIs' own quality and standards arrangements have consistently shown standards in UK HE are robust and that their procedures, and those of the institutions themselves, repeatedly demonstrate the strength of academic quality and standards throughout a very diverse system. However, it is important that the computer games industry works with Skillset to articulate specific skill and knowledge demands so that HEIs can take these into account in course design.

I am aware of calls from the games industry to increase the number of graduates in specialist games degrees, mathematics, physics and computer sciences able to enter it. I will carefully consider any views on this subject submitted in response to the Department's consultation document 'Higher Education at Work—High Skills: High Value'.

Vocational Training: Trade Unions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding is being provided for trades union educational programmes in 2008-09. [217992]

Mr. Lammy: Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this the Government introduced the Union Learning Fund in 1998 to enable trade unions use their influence with employers, employees and training providers to encourage greater take up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations. The Government will invest £21.5 million through the Union Learning Fund in 2008-09.

With the help of the Union Learning Fund, trade unions and their Union Learning Representatives have been really successful in working with employees and employers to raise skill levels in the workplace. There are now over 20,500 trained Union Learning Representatives who have helped over 600,000 workers into learning since the fund was introduced in 1998, and over 200,000 last year alone - including over 34,000 workers with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Union Learning Representatives and other trade union representatives and officers can also access LSC-funded training, delivered through a network of approved colleges, to help them carry out their duties more effectively.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Zimbabwe

7. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent humanitarian assistance has been provided by the Government to Zimbabwean refugees in neighbouring countries. [218950]

Gillian Merron: The UK is providing some £1.2 million of humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwean migrants at the border with Zambia and unaccompanied child migrants along the South African border. Additionally, we have provided £400,000 to NGOs caring for victims of South Africa's recent xenophobic violence, many of whom were Zimbabwean.

10. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [218953]

Gillian Merron: Mugabe's destructive policies continue to devastate the lives of millions. Half the population will need food aid by the end of the year. An estimated 36,000 people have been displaced internally, over a hundred killed and thousands injured. The decision by the government of Zimbabwe to ban the work of many humanitarian agencies has added to people's suffering.

West Bank

8 **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development What assessment he has made of the likely effect on the Palestinian economy of the measures recently agreed on movement and access in the West Bank. [218951]

Mr. Malik: The agreement reached by Israel and the Quartet Representative to improve north-south movement in the west bank and access to the Jordan valley should build confidence and increase economic activity. Progress on this is critical to reviving the Palestinian economy. The agreement on movement and access must be implemented in full.

As statements by the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State make clear, improved access to Gaza is crucial to ease the suffering of ordinary Gazans.

Leprosy

9. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has given to developing countries to eradicate leprosy in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [218952]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £12.5 million to the World Health Organisation (WHO) core budget over 2007-08, including an element for leprosy control programmes.

In Nepal, one of the two remaining leprosy-endemic countries, we support the leprosy control programme through sector budget support to the Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP). In 2007-08, we provided £8.95 million to the NHSP, which included support to the International Health Partnership. Over the same period DFID also provided £44,287 to a Leprosy Mission England and Wales community project in India.

G8 Summit

11. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcome for development policy of the G8 summit was. [218954]

Mr. Thomas: Last week's summit reiterated G8 commitment to delivering: $50 billion in extra aid by 2010, ($25 billion to Africa); $4 billion in 'Aid for Trade' and universal access to HIV/AIDs treatment by 2010. The G8 has also pledged over $10 billion for food security; $60 billion over five years for health; 1.5 million more health workers; 100 million bednets by 2010; and $1 billion for the education Fast Track Initiative.

Tuberculosis

12. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provision has been made in his Department's five-year research strategy for more effective drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for tuberculosis. [218955]

Gillian Merron: In 2005 there were 14.1 million cases of tuberculosis and 1.6 million deaths. The UK Government's 2007 International Development White Paper commits us to increasing funding for new drugs and vaccines. This commitment is reinforced in the Department's new five year research strategy which calls for continued and increased support for product development partnerships to develop vaccines, diagnostics and drugs for HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The strategy is available on-line:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/research/newresearch.asp

Microfinance

13. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to microfinance initiatives in developing countries. [218956]

Gillian Merron: Since April 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent over £186 million on microfinance and financial sector projects.

DFID supports broader financial sector development programmes to improve access to finance for poor people, where microfinance is just one component. These programmes aim to encourage the entry of financial institutions into the microfinance sector and assist governments to improve the regulatory environment for financial institutions to serve the poor.

DFID continues to invest in new programmes to support microfinance and improve access to finance. This includes a £9.3 million, five year financial sector development programme in Nigeria and a £32.8 million, seven year programme in Bangladesh.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

14. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to improve the provision of aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [218957]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) recently launched the 2008 to 2010 Country Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which sets out how we will ensure that UK assistance to DRC has the greatest possible impact in reducing poverty and ending conflict. We continually review the effectiveness of our aid, including through internal audit visits and a country programme evaluation planned for later this month. Building on the leading role DFID played in the development of a joint donor strategy for DRC, we continue to be actively involved in discussions with other donors to improve the quality of aid.

Disabled Children in Africa

15. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the proportion of disabled children in Africa completing schooling. [218958]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are spending £8.5 billion over the period 2006-07 to 2015-16 in support of education in developing countries. This will help support partner countries' plans, policies and programmes to ensure that children, including those with disabilities, benefit from quality education. We expect to spend £500 million annually in support of education in Africa by 2010.

The Department for International Development (DFID) policy in support of people who are disadvantaged is laid out in the paper "Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion". The paper was placed in the House Library and is available on line:

http://www.dfif.gov.uk/pubs/files/sovcail-exclusion.pdf).

Afghanistan: Food

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the effects of drought on the major food-producing areas in Afghanistan. [217514]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In April 2008, the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) visited all 34 provinces to survey 2008 crop yield prospects.

The findings indicate that this year Afghanistan will produce only two-thirds of its food needs and will have to import 2 million metric tonnes of grain.

The worst affected regions are the West, North and North East which are reliant on rain-fed agriculture.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK has put forward proposals for a new humanitarian action plan for Afghanistan addressing rising food prices and deterioration in the security situation. [217513]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In August 2008, a Department for International Development (DFID) humanitarian mission will visit Afghanistan to evaluate the situation. The mission will include an assessment of the situation in relation to food insecurity, conflict-affected populations and internally displaced people, as well as an assessment of institutional capacities to coordinate and provide assistance. The team will contribute to the development of a UN Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan.

On Wednesday 9 July, the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations launched a joint humanitarian appeal to respond to the recent drought in Afghanistan and high world food prices. DFID contributed to the design of the agricultural recovery component of the appeal and will support a number of the elements in collaboration with other donors.

DFID support will include: (i) £3 million to the World Food Programme to provide food and cash support to those most affected by high food prices; and (ii) a £3.5 million contribution to a £30 million voucher programme to provide seeds and fertilizer to the most vulnerable farmers in drought affected areas to increase food production.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether the Government supports the deployment of additional UN staff to assist with the co-ordination of the humanitarian relief effort in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [217515]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator on a new humanitarian action plan for Afghanistan. [217611]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK recognises the important role of the United Nations in coordinating donor assistance in Afghanistan. A Department for International Development (DFID) official met with John Holmes, UN Under Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on 29 June in Kabul to discuss the humanitarian situation.

DFID welcomes efforts to increase the capacity of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UMAMA) to better co-ordinate the UN and donors' humanitarian efforts. Plans to increase the UNAMA humanitarian team from two to 15 full time staff will greatly assist in this endeavour.

In August 2008, a DFID humanitarian mission will visit Afghanistan to evaluate the situation. One of the team's tasks will be to assess and make recommendations on the role and capacity of the UN in providing and co-ordinating humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

Africa: Food Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in Africa are receiving World Food Programme support. [217797]

Gillian Merron: According to the World Food Programme (WFP) the agency currently has operations in the following countries in Africa:

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo (Brazzaville)
Democratic Rep of Congo
Cote D'Ivoire
Djibouti
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Further information on the work of WFP and the countries in which it operates is available on their website:

http://www.wfp.org/country_brief/index_region.asp

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimates his Department has made of changes in food aid costs to *(a)* Ethiopia, *(b)* Gambia, *(c)* Afghanistan and *(d)* Zambia in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [218021]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Over the next five years, changes in food aid costs will be driven by rises in prices of food and fuel, and by increases in the number of people receiving food aid. The World Food programme (WFP) and other agencies estimate that about 100 million additional people may have been rendered food insecure globally as a result of recent price rises. This year, WFP's revised estimate of its total global requirement is approximately £2.4 billion. This represents a 54 per cent. increase compared to the original 2008 requirement. WFP notes that its 2008 requirement may increase further still.

At country level, changing food aid costs have raised requirements for 2008 from the start of the year as follows:

In Ethiopia: an increase from approximately £119 million to £177 million;

In Gambia: an increase from approximately £1.2 million to £1.7 million;

In Afghanistan: an increase from approximately £66 million to £131 million;

In Zambia: an increase from approximately £7 million to £9.7 million;

Realistic predictions of food aid costs beyond one year are not considered to be possible, as a combination of international, regional and national influences can result in high price volatility.

On 22 April the Secretary of State announced a £455 million aid package to address rising global food prices. The package is designed to address both short term needs and long term solutions. It includes some $60 million (over £30 million) in support of recent appeals by the UN World Food programme for countries most at risk.

Africa: Sanitation

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of recent energy and fuel price rises on levels of spending required between 2008 and 2015 to reach the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals in *(a)* Ethiopia, *(b)* Somalia, *(c)* Eritrea and *(d)* Gambia; and if he will make a statement. [218019]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The link between energy and fuel price rises on the one hand, and the levels of spending required between 2008 and 2015 to reach the water and sanitation millennium development goals on the other, is complex.

Nevertheless, it is clear that fuel prices will increase the costs of MDG delivery and may reduce the availability of Government resources to meet these costs.

DFID monitors the progress of countries towards achievement of the MDGs. However we do not have data on Gambia and Somalia. Ethiopia and Eritrea are both "off track" to achieving the MDGs on sanitation. Eritrea is considered to be "on track" for the Water MDG, but, Ethiopia is "off track".

DFID is providing support for the achievement of water and sanitation MDGs, including some programmes in the countries listed. In Ethiopia, first transfer of our £75 million investment to support the Government's Universal Access program has been made. This will support investments in rural and urban water supply and sanitation. In Eritrea, we have recently agreed a £6 million rural water and sanitation project with UNICEF. In 2006-07 DFID spent £8 million on humanitarian activities in Somalia, a proportion of which went towards projects with water components.

Africa: Social Conditions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the percentage of infants with low birth weight, *(b)* the proportion of the population with access to clean drinking water, *(c)* primary school attendance levels and *(d)* adult literacy rates in (i) Ethiopia, (ii) Malawi, (iii) Afghanistan and (iv) Congo in each of the last 10 years. [218015]

Gillian Merron: Indicators on low birth weight, access to improved water, net enrolment and adult literacy are used to track progress towards the millennium development goals. The data are published by the UN and World Bank. Data are not available for all years and every country. Available data for the selected indicators are shown in the following table and are shown on the UN Statistics Division website:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Low-birthweight babies (percentage of births)										
Ethiopia	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	14	—	—
Malawi	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congo, Rep.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
Improved water source (percentage of population with access)										
Ethiopia	—	—	22	—	—	—	22	—	—	—
Malawi	—	—	64	—	—	—	73	—	—	—
Afghanistan	—	—	21	—	—	—	39	—	—	—
Congo, Rep.	—	—	57	—	—	—	58	—	—	—
Net enrolment ratio in primary education										
Ethiopia	—	34	37	41	43	44	48	63	70	—

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Malawi	—	99	—	—	—	—	96	95	—	—
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congo, Rep.	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45	—	—
Literacy rate, adult total (percentage of people ages 15 and above)										
Ethiopia	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—
Malawi	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Afghanistan	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congo, Rep.	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	—	—	—

'—' Data not available
Source:
UN Statistics Division and World Bank.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the impact of rising fuel prices on maintaining levels of relief assistance to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [218016]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Prices of food, construction materials, boats and other commodities have risen significantly in Burma since the Cyclone struck in May. This is in line with increased demand and limited supply locally. The added factor, however, is the substantial increase in global fuel prices. The costs of the relief operation are directly affected by both these factors.

It is expected that the revised appeal for funds, due to be issued by the United Nations on 10 July, will reflect this increase in prices. DFID has pledged £17.5 million to this appeal, bringing the total of UK funding to Burma since the cyclone to £40 million.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government plan to take to implement the findings of the International Assessment of Agriculture Technology for Development. [219250]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) presents findings and a range of options for different stakeholders (governments, private sector, academics and civil society) to consider. These findings are neither prescriptive nor legally binding on any party. We are assessing these in taking forward the Government's support to developing countries on agricultural knowledge science and technology (AKST).

The Department for International Development is already taking action in line with IAASTD's findings. In April I announced that DFID will increase its investment in agricultural research to £400 million over five years. This investment will include research on environmentally sustainable solutions, focus on the needs of farmers, address gender issues, look to build public-private partnerships, look at the impact of markets on poor farmers, and support traditional and modern technologies.

Economic Growth

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of likely economic growth in *(a)* India, *(b)* China, *(c)* Brazil and *(d)* Venezuela in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [218022]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not perform its own growth forecasting. To inform its policies, DFID relies upon the economic analysis of the international financial institutions, especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The 2008 IMF World Economic Outlook report has the following projections:

	Percentage
(a) India	
2008	7.9
2009	8.0
2010	8.0
2011	8.0
(b) China	
2008	9.3
2009	9.5
2010	10.5
2011	10.0
(c) Brazil	
2008	4.8
2009	3.7
2010	4.5
2011	4.0
(d) Venezuela	
2008	5.8
2009	3.5
2010	2.2
2011	2.2

These figures represent the estimated annual per cent. change of each country's gross domestic product. I have provided projections from 2008 to 2011 because the IMF reports by calendar year rather than UK financial year.

Horn of Africa: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on food shortages in the Horn of Africa; and what assistance his Department is offering to those countries affected. [217798]

Gillian Merron: High and rising food prices, drought and conflict are affecting the Horn of Africa, where several million people are now facing acute food shortages.

In Ethiopia, the Government and UN agencies estimate that at least 4.6 million people will require food aid from June to November. DFID has committed £25 million to addressing the crisis. These funds will be allocated as follows:

Up to £10 million through the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for emergency food aid operations.

£9 million through the UN's Humanitarian Response Fund to support supplementary and emergency feeding programmes.

£5 million for the Productive Safety Net Programme. This is additional to £22 million DFID provided in January as our regular annual payment. This government-led programme delivers predictable food and cash transfers to seven million food insecure people and has been successful in reducing the potential scale of the humanitarian crisis.

At least £1 million to Medecins sans Frontieres for emergency feeding programmes.

In Somalia, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating alarmingly due to increasing conflict, soaring food prices, deepening drought and a poor start to the April to June season rains. Cereal prices have increased by between 110 per cent. and 375 per cent. in the last year. The UN estimates that the number of people in need of assistance in Somalia has increased to 2.6 million people. This figure could rise to 3.5 million (50 per cent. of the entire population) by the end of the year. DFID has provided £12 million to the UN World Food Programme's operations, which aim to stabilise the worsening nutrition situation for 2.4 million people.

Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of financial aid from his Department to developing countries is for *(a)* education, *(b)* health, *(c)* earthquake reconstruction, *(d)* agriculture development and *(e)* encouraging job creation in 2008-09. [218025]

Mr. Malik: Information on Department for International Development (DFID) aid allocations for 2008-09 are available in annex 2, table 4, page 245 of the DFID publication "Development: Making it Happen", DFID's 2008 annual report. This publication is available online at www.dfid.gov.uk and in the Library of the House.

It is not yet possible to provide aggregate estimates of total spending in particular sectors across the DFID programme for 2008-09. By 2010-11 we plan to increase our education spend from to £1 billion a year to enable us to meet our commitment to spend £8.5 billion on education in the 10 years leading up to 2015. We have also recently announced plans to spend £6 billion on strengthening health systems and services over the seven years to 2015.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department has commissioned on social protection systems; in which countries his Department has engaged in work on social protection issues; and if he will make a statement. [218507]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned a range of work to inform the international debate on the role of social protection in the fight against poverty in developing countries, and to provide guidance for the implementation of social assistance tools. Analytical and evidence building work includes studies on the cost, affordability and financing of social assistance, its impact on poverty and the links to growth. This work will contribute to policy analysis and advice, to help inform country partners and the international community. DFID is also in the process of commissioning longer term research on a range of technical and political economy aspects of the design and implementation of social transfer programmes.

DFID is working in different ways in over 20 countries. In Pakistan, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia this means supporting the development of national social protection strategies. In Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Kenya we are funding major social transfer programmes while in other countries such as Ghana we have helped support smaller pilot projects. We are also helping Brazil and South Africa to share their experience of using social protection to reduce poverty with other developing countries.

Progressio

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to Progressio in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned for 2008-09; what restrictions his Department places on the use of such funds; and if he will make a statement. [217909]

Mr. Malik: Levels of DFID funding to Progressio in each year since 1997-98 are laid out in the following table. Current plans for 2008-09 amount to £3.28 million. Current funding is provided within the usual terms of the International Development Act 2002. No further specific restrictions have been placed on the use of these funds.

Levels of DFID funding to Progressio

Financial year	*DFID funding (£ million)*
1997-98	1.952
1998-99	2.226
1999-2000	2.344
2000-01	2.317
2001-02	2.910
2002-03	2.646
2003-04	2.569
2004-05	2.689
2005-06	2.955
2006-07	2.800
2007-08	[1]2.800

[1] Estimate

Ukraine: Agriculture

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* type and *(b)* level of assistance his Department is providing to increase agricultural outputs in Ukraine in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [218020]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) closed its bilateral programme in March 2008 in recognition of Ukraine's Middle Income Country status and progress in reducing poverty. As a result we are not contributing directly to increasing agricultural outputs in the Ukraine. However, we continue to support the country's development through our membership of multilaterals, particularly the European Union and World Bank.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of refugees who have left Zimbabwe since the March 2008 elections. [218324]

Gillian Merron: It is very difficult to estimate the number of Zimbabweans who have left the country by regular and irregular means since the March 2008 elections. Many of those who have fled Zimbabwe will not have refugee status in their host countries and, therefore, will not be recorded as Zimbabwean refugees. In terms of officially recorded refugee figures, reports from humanitarian agencies would suggest the following break down:

Botswana: 538 granted refugee status, a further 214 being processed;

Zambia: 18 granted refugee status, a further 25 being processed;

Mozambique: 68 applications for refugee status are being processed.

While exact figures for those fleeing since March 2008 are hard to determine, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the worsening crisis in Zimbabwe will act as a spur for further migration.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of representations received by his Department from interested parties used in the preparation of the partial regulatory impact assessment of the Prohibition of Abortion (England and Wales) Bill of Session 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [216401]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of written representations received from interested parties used in the preparation of the partial regulatory impact assessment of the Prohibition of Abortion (England and Wales) Bill of Session 2005-06 have been placed in the Library. Discussions were also held with a number of organisations, including some of those who made written representations, but a written record of these is not available.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people under the age of 18-years-old who were alcoholics in each of the last 10 years. [218380]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Back Pain: Medical Treatments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trust areas offer botulinum toxin injections for patients with back pain; [218609]

(2) how many patients in West Sussex were refused funding for botulinum toxin injections for back pain by West Sussex Primary Care Trust in each of the last three years; [218610]

(3) what the average cost of using botulinum toxin injections for the treatment of back pain was per dose in the latest period for which figures are available. [218612]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) commission services on behalf of their population and make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all available evidence.

The hon. Member may wish to raise the decisions of the PCT with its chief executive.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the use of botulinum toxin injections for back pain. [218611]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* No such assessment has been made.

Breast Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to implement the recommendations arising from the National Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Audit. [217807]

Ann Keen: There are no plans to implement centrally the recommendations arising from the national mastectomy and breast reconstruction audit.

However, the information from this audit will be useful for the national health service locally in considering how mastectomy and breast reconstruction surgery services are provided and what action may be needed at a local level.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence is currently developing a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of early breast cancer. The guideline will cover surgical management and breast reconstruction. Publication of the guidance is expected in February 2009.

Car Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mileage allowance is provided to each category of entitled worker by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [218481]

Ann Keen: The Department's staff who use their own motor vehicle and have insured it for business use are entitled to claim 40p per mile for the first 4,000 miles in the tax year (starting 6 April 2008) and 25p per mile for every subsequent mile claimed. If staff use their vehicles to carry official passengers they can claim an additional 4p per mile for the first passenger carried and 2p per mile for each subsequent passenger. The passengers are not entitled to claim any mileage allowance.

Where staff use a motorcycle (again having insured it for business use) they are entitled to claim 24p per mile. Staff who use a bicycle to undertake official travel are entitled to claim 20p per mile.

These rates apply to all departmental staff irrespective of grade.

For national health service staff there are recently agreed new rates for regular and standard user rates. These are available on the NHS Employers website at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-3179.cfm

Chiropody

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of NHS chiropody provision. [217669]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been carried out centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly.

Chlamydia

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to raise awareness of *(a)* levels of chlamydia in young people and *(b)* chlamydia screening programmes. [218502]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department launched the "Condom Essential Wear" campaign in November 2006, to tackle sexually transmitted infections and the behaviours that contribute to their spread. This campaign particularly features chlamydia and gonorrhoea in its creative executions.

The Department is also investigating how promotional activity at a national level can support the delivery of the National Chlamydia Screening programme.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197604]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently putting in place a cycle to work scheme for its employees. The scheme will support employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling the Department to loan a cycle to an employee, for between 12 to 18 months. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee. The Minister will be writing, in the near future, to the non-departmental public bodies which are not in the scheme, to remind them of the scheme and positively encourage their participation.

The following table shows the current situation in each of the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Executive agency	*Tax-free benefits*	*Other allowances*
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	No	No
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	No	No
Executive non-departmental public bodies (ENDPBs)		
Appointments Commission	No	No
Commission for Social Care Inspection	No	No
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	No	No
General Social Care Council	No	No
Health Protection Agency	No	No
Healthcare Commission	Yes	No
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	Yes	No
Human Tissue Authority	No	No
Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts	Yes	No
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	No	No
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	No	No
Special Health Authorities		
Information Centre for health and social care	Currently covers part of the organisation. Shortly to cover fully.	No
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	Yes	No
National Patient Safety Agency	Yes (in planning stage)	No
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	No	No
NHS Blood and Transplant	No	No
NHS Business Services Authority	No	No
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	No	No
NHS Litigation Authority	No	No
NHS Professionals	No	No
Mental Health Act Commission	No	No

Dementia: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with dementia in Bexley who are paying for care. [218519]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have *(a)* started to provide NHS services and *(b)* ceased to provide NHS services since the inception of the new contract. [218082]

Ann Keen: This information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of dentists required in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London to meet demand for NHS dental care. [218395]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. This is a local rather than centrally managed process. The Department has issued guidance to the local national health service on developing local dental commissioning plans. Additional support is available through the national primary care contracting team. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue locally.

Dental Services: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the number of NHS dentists required to meet demand in *(a)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton. [218079]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. This is a local rather than centrally managed process, and the Department has issued guidance to the local national health service on developing local dental commissioning plans. Additional support is available through the national primary care contracting team.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter locally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Hampshire residents in each local authority area have accessed NHS dental treatment in each of the last five years. [218080]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Under the old dental contractual arrangements, in place up to and including 31 March 2006, the number of patients registered with a national health service dentist was the measure used to monitor access to primary care dental services. However, registration information is not equivalent to the number of patients who accessed an NHS dentist, which is the measure used under the new dental contractual arrangements introduced in April 2006.

The numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist as at 31 March for the years 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published in August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced in April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, is available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007. Information is provided at SHA and PCT level. This report, published in June 2008, has already been placed in the Library and on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3.

Information on registrations and patients seen is recorded according to the location of the dental surgery. Most patients will live within the PCT/SHA area in which they receive primary care dental services but some will attend a dentist further afield. Both the above reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in *(a)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton have stopped accepting new NHS patients in the last 12 months. [218081]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services as a whole is now a formal priority in "The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09", copies of this publication have already been deposited in the Library. The Department has supported this with a substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to primary care trusts from 1 April 2008.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulance trusts in England have a specific support plan for people with diabetes; and what guidance his Department has issued to ambulance trusts on the preliminary treatment of people with diabetes by ambulance and paramedic staff. [218758]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for developing support plans to treat people with diabetes rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to

commission diabetes services that meet the needs of their local population. The Department has not issued any guidance to ambulance trusts on the treatment of people with diabetes.

Diseases: Prisons

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners infected with *(a)* HIV and *(b)* hepatitis C; and what proportion of that number have been diagnosed in each case as infected. [217947]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The last major study of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales found that of 3,942 prisoners surveyed in 1997 and 1998, 0.4 per cent. were infected with HIV, and 7 per cent.[1] with hepatitis C.

[1] *Source:*
Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C antibodies in prisoners in England and Wales: a national survey. Weild A. R., Gill O. N., Bennett D., Livingstone S. J. M., Parry J. V., Curran L. (2000). Communicable Disease and Public Health 2000;3:121-6.

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to ensure that prisoners who are at risk of contracting HIV and hepatitis C in prisons receive harm reduction measures equivalent to those offered outside prisons. [217948]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has introduced a wide range of harm reduction measures to prisons to help this at risk group.

The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) has introduced National Treatment Agency models of care to prisons, through the amalgamation of existing clinical drug treatment services and psychosocial programmes. IDTS aims to get prisoners off illegal drugs and away from risky behaviours through clinical interventions such as maintenance and managed withdrawal.

Since October 2007, prisons across England and Wales have introduced disinfecting tablets and dispensers. These can be used to sterilise illicitly held needles which may be used for drug-injecting. Their use can prevent and control the transmission of blood borne viruses (BBVs) including HIV and hepatitis C.

Prison health staff have the authority to supply condoms if, in their clinical judgment, there is a risk of HIV infection or transmission of any other sexually transmitted illness.

The "Hepatitis C Action Plan for England" (July 2004) applies to prisoners, copies have already been placed in the Library. It envisages that prisoners should have access to the testing, diagnostic, assessment and treatment services that it specifies. Prisons and their national health service partners draw up, and regularly review, prison health delivery plans within which prisoners' health care needs are assessed, prioritised, resources allocated and delivery monitored.

A DVD advising prisoners about hepatitis C 'Hep C: Inside and Out' has been distributed to all prisons.

A health promotion leaflet on blood-borne viruses in prisons: "Get Out of Jail BBV Free" has been developed by the Department, the British Liver Trust and the Health Protection Agency.

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what collections of specific data on HIV and hepatitis C diagnosis in prisons are made by the Health Protection Agency. [217949]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For HIV and hepatitis C, the disease surveillance systems organised by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), (the Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID), which collects data on prevalent HIV infections, and KC60 statutory returns, which identify diagnoses made in genito-urinary clinics and collect data on new diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections) do include diagnoses of prisoners.

However, neither identify individual prisons as locations, or whether a person is a prisoner when treated or diagnosed.

Epilepsy: Drugs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people taking anti-epileptic drugs unnecessarily as a result of misdiagnosis; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of such drug-taking. [218846]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people taking anti-epileptic drugs unnecessarily as a result of misdiagnosis, or of the cost of such drugs to the national health service.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effects of full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on the treatment of epilepsy on mortality rates among those with the disease; [218651]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with epilepsy and prone to seizures who will become seizure-free when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on epilepsy care are fully implemented. [218656]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the effect of full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines on the number of people who would be seizure-free, or on the mortality rate for those with epilepsy.

NICE guidelines have the status of clinical guidelines for health professionals. It is the responsibility of health professionals to use their clinical judgment, in consultation with the individual patient, to decide on the most appropriate treatment options taking into account all relevant guidelines.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provided for *(a)* the prevention of female genital mutilation and *(b)* the treatment of cases arising from female genital mutilation in each of the last 10 years. [217710]

Ann Keen: The Department has provided £20,000 for a female genital mutilation (FGM) prevalence study and £31,000 for the development of FGM DVD for health professionals. We have also core funded the specialist organisation Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD), which includes core funding of £30,000 in 2007-08.

Information is not collected centrally on national health service expenditure on FGM.

Fluoride

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects of fluoridation of public water supplies in the last three years; [217687]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on children's health of the fluoridation of public water supplies in the last three years; [217690]

(3) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between fluoride and the incidence of (i) bone cancer, (ii) thyroid gland complaints and (iii) brain disorders in the last three years. [217691]

Ann Keen: We continue to refer to key research reports commissioned since 1999. A "Systematic Review of Public Water Fluoridation" published by the University of York in 2000 found no significant association between water fluoridation and goitre, bone disease or any other systemic illness, but called for further research to strengthen the evidence base. "Water Fluoridation and Health", published by the Medical Research Council in 2002, endorsed the University of York's recommendations and suggested priorities for further research. Copies of both reports are available in the Library. Accordingly, the Department commissioned the University of Newcastle upon Tyne to investigate bio-availability (absorption of fluoride. The report, the "Bioavailability of Fluoride in Drinking Water", a Human Experimental Study published in 2004, showed no statistically significant differences between absorption of fluoride from naturally fluoridated and artificially fluoridated water. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

Evidence to date shows that dental fluorosis in a minority of children remains the only proven effect of the fluoridation of water, besides protection against tooth decay. Dental fluorosis is characterised by a flecking, or more rarely a mottling, of teeth, often only visible when teeth are dried. We are supporting research into the assessment of fluorosis using intra-oral cameras. If, as we expect, it shows that the measurement of dental fluorosis can be standardised, we will undertake a further study of its prevalence and aesthetic impact.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on alternative sources of fluoride available for ingestion by the public to promote dental health in the last three years. [217688]

Ann Keen: An appraisal of our 'Brushing for Life' scheme, published in 2005, showed that providing young families with free packs containing fluoridate toothpaste, a toothbrush, and guidance on dental hygiene, is capable of increasing the frequency with which parents and carers brush their children's teeth. However, experience shows that oral health promotion campaigns aimed at changing behaviour in respect of diet and tooth-brushing do not achieve the reductions in dental decay offered by the fluoridation of water. Copies of the publication have been placed in the Library.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has evaluated research carried out in other European Union member states on the fluoridation of public water supplies in the last three years. [217689]

Ann Keen: The Department has evaluated the report 'Assessing The Impact Of Exposure To Fluoride In Water On The Oral Health Of 16 Year Olds In A Border Region Of Ireland', published by Queen's University Belfast in March 2007. It showed that 31 per cent. of 16-year-old residents of fluoridated areas in the Republic of Ireland had no obvious tooth decay experience compared with 22 per cent. in Northern Ireland, where there are no fluoridation schemes.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the levels of tooth decay in countries *(a)* that fluoridate and *(b)* do not fluoridate public water supplies for the purposes of benchmarking in the last three years. [217692]

Ann Keen: Some 170 million people in the United States of America drink fluoridated water. Studies reported by the American Dental Association show that fluoridation of water reduces dental decay by over 50 per cent. Experience elsewhere shows that it is possible to achieve similarly low levels of dental disease in affluent areas with as many as 60 per cent. of 12-year-old children with no tooth decay, but the attraction of fluoridation is its potential for reducing inequalities in oral health.

General Practitioners: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the allocation formula; and for what reason work on the formula has been suspended. [219782]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the funding formula used to inform primary care trusts (PCTs) revenue allocations.

ACRA has recently completed an extensive review of the key elements of the funding formula. The 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations will be announced in the autumn alongside the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10 and ACRA's report will be published at that time.

Health Visitors: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [218357]

Ann Keen: The requested information is provided in the following table. Latest available data are for September 2007.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors and district nurses in the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust[1] (PCT) area as at 30 September in each specified year

Headcount

	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]	2007
Total Specified staff	269	271	264	238	230
Health visitors	154	161	152	80	129
District nurses	115	110	112	158	101

[1] In October 2006 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT, Cotswold and Vale PCT and West Gloucestershire PCT merged to form Gloucestershire PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
[2] The numbers of district nurses are shown, as evidence suggests that there have been some coding issues around health visitors and district nurses during the merger of the three PCTs.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Human Papilloma Virus

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what selection criteria were applied to the tender process for a human papilloma virus vaccine; what role the criteria played in the decision-making process on the tender; and what weight was given to each criterion. [217487]

Dawn Primarolo: The award criteria for the evaluation of the contract to supply human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine were as follows:

Criteria	*Points*
Quality of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18	Maximum (Max) of 5,000
Duration of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18 for more than 10 years duration	Max of 3,000
Quality of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV Strains 6/11	Max of 1,300
Duration of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV Strains 6/11 for more than 10 years duration	Max of 500
Quality of protection against HPV strains not included in the vaccine formulation	Max of 1,000
Other evidence of additional clinical benefits	Max of 500
Effective price per dose excluding VAT	Commercially confidential
Supply of the vaccine as single pre-filled syringe pack presentation	Max of 10
Quality of labelling, leaflets and presentation	Max of 5
Shelf life	Max of 120
Flexibility in the vaccine dosage schedule	Max of 70
Offers that reduce the risk of wastage if the vaccine is subject to temperatures above 8°C (this include the provision of temperature indicators and evidence based guidance on the stability of the vaccines at higher storage temperatures and subsequent safe administration.)	Max of 200
Closeness of proposed delivery schedule to authority requirements	Max of 200
Pallet configuration including a preference for the use of Euro pallets	Max of 5
Impact of proposed amendments to the terms and conditions	(-500). Offerors may lose up to 500 points
Quality/robustness of manufacturing contingency arrangements	Max of 10
Quality/robustness of the risk management of storage and distribution	Max of 10
Information provided relating to pack sizes, cold chain delivery, batch numbering systems and production capacity	Max of 5

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the human papilloma virus vaccine Gardasil. [217534]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department commissioned the Health Protection Agency to carry out studies to examine the impact and cost effectiveness of introducing a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme. This work has been accepted for publication in the *British Medical Journal*.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) provided advice to the Department on the effectiveness of HPV vaccines, including Gardasil (Sanofi Pasteur MSD). JCVI considered data on vaccine efficacy from both published papers and unpublished clinical trial data.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of delivering a course of treatment of the human papilloma virus vaccine Cervarix as part of the national immunisation programme. [217535]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of delivering a course of treatment of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine will vary from primary care trust (PCT) to PCT depending on how they choose to implement the immunisation programme.

In total £8.9 million has been given to PCTs to deliver the HPV programme in the first year and the Department will provide the vaccine to the PCTs free of charge.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors underlay the decision not to issue catch-up Cervarix vaccinations against the human papilloma infection to female patients older than 18 years as part of the national immunisation programme. [217536]

Dawn Primarolo: The human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme will offer the HPV vaccine to girls and young women aged 12 to 18 years of age. We are currently considering the issues around offering the vaccine to those over 18 years of age, including the cost-effectiveness of such an intervention.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the respective assessments of the cost and benefits of providing *(a)* Cervarix and *(b)* Gardasil as the human papilloma virus vaccine for the national immunisation programme. [218674]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost-effectiveness analysis of introducing a Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination programme in the United Kingdom carried out by the Health Protection Agency has been accepted for publication in the British Medical Journal and will be available shortly.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's June 2008 consultation on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, whether his Department has

undertaken an impact assessment in respect of urology patients who use intermittent catheters to ensure that they will maintain the same level and quality of care provision; and if he will make a statement. [218492]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with the Better Regulation Executive (BERR) guidelines on consultation, an impact assessment has been published alongside the consultation document entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care June 2008", copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. The proposals set out in the consultation reflect discussions with patients and healthcare professionals—as well as dispensing contractors, manufacturers and wholesalers. It is intended that any new arrangements for the provision of stoma and incontinence items in primary care will maintain patient care.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with *(a)* colitis and *(b)* Crohn's disease in the London Borough of Bexley. [218520]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no estimate of the number of people diagnosed with colitis and with Crohn's disease in Bexley, and information about the number of people diagnosed with these conditions is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue with the Chief Executive of Bexley Care Trust.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what work is being undertaken to *(a)* raise awareness of the benefits of specialist care and *(b)* support patient choice in referral to specialist centres in relation to liver disease; [218624]

(2) whether he plans to appoint a national clinical director for liver disease; [218625]

(3) what progress has been made on consideration of a national strategy to tackle liver disease. [218626]

Ann Keen: We recognise that there is strong support for developing a national strategy for liver disease and are currently considering how best to take this forward in light of the changes committed to in "High Quality Care for All", published on 30 June, copies of which are available in the Library.

We have no plans at present to appoint a national clinical director for liver disease.

Medicine: Graduates

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on paying graduate medical students' university tuition fees in each of the last five years. [216896]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of eligible medical graduates on the four year graduate entry course for whom a tuition fee was paid and the total cost of tuition fees paid for those students in the last two academic years is shown in the table.

Information for years prior to 2005-06 is not available.

Analysis of tuition fees paid to NHS funded medical students by academic year

	Four year graduate entry course	
Academic year	*Number of students*	*Amount paid for tuition fees (£)*
Medical students		
2005-06	1,414	1,661,850
2006-07	1,823	2,189,600

Notes:
1. NHS student bursaries' database only holds details of the course that the student was actually funded for in that academic year, accordingly all medical and dental students who intercalated (undertook a one year BSc course part way through their medical/dental course) in any academic year have to be included with the figures for the medical students (because the vast majority of intercalating students are medical students) as they cannot interrogate the data to clarify whether an intercalated student was a medical or dental student in previous or future academic years.
2. Some graduate students may undertake the under-graduate medical course. However, these students cannot be included in the figures in the table as the information recorded by NHS student bursaries only captures the course the students are attending and not the status of the student.

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to spend on paying graduate medical students' university tuition fees in each of the next five years. [216897]

Ann Keen: Information on the estimated number of medical graduate on the four year graduate entry course and the estimated amount of tuition fees, which may be paid for those students in the next five academic years is shown in the following table.

Estimated amount of tuition fees which may be paid to national health service funded medical students on the four year graduate entry course by academic year

Academic year	*Estimated number of graduates on the four-year graduate entry medical course*[1,2]	*Estimated amount of tuition fees to be paid*[3,4] *(£)*
Medical students		
2008-09	2,035	5,080,855
2009-10	2,003	6,459,675
2010-11	1,981	6,388,725
2011-12	1,998	6,443,550
2012-13	1,998	6,443,550

[1] Actual intake medical graduate numbers in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were used to estimate the number of medical graduates in 2008-09.
[2] The planned intake medical graduate figure from 2007-06 was used to calculate estimated total number of medical graduates from 2008-09 onwards.
[3] Actual tuition fee rates have been used to estimate total amount of tuition fees paid in 2008-09 and 2009-10. From 2010-11 onwards, the 2009-10 tuition fee rate has been used to calculate estimated total amount of tuition fees paid and does not include any annual uplifts.
[4] The amount of tuition fee paid is calculated from the estimated number of medical graduates, however in reality not all medical graduates will be eligible to have their tuition fees paid.

Notes:
1. The figures do not account for medical students who might intercalate (undertake a one year BSc course part way through their medical course) in any academic year and so this would increase the number of years they would need their tuition fees paid for them.
2. Some graduate students choose to undertake the under-graduate medical course because their degree is not acceptable for entry onto the shortened medical course. However, these students cannot be included in the figures in the table as the information recorded by Higher Education Funding Council only captures the course the students are attending and not the status of the student.

Sources:
1. Higher Education Funding Council for England: Medical School Return 2004-05—2007-08
2. Department of Innovation Universities and Skills tuition fee rates 2006-07—2009-10

Mental Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is provided by his Department to mental health trusts on the provision of emergency psychiatric teams; [218076]

(2) which mental health trusts have emergency psychiatric teams. [218077]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The term 'emergency psychiatric teams' could refer to either or both 'crisis resolution and home treatment' teams, or 'emergency care' teams.

The Department published The Mental Health Policy Implementation Guidance in 2001 (copies of which have been deposited in the Library) to support the delivery of adult mental health policy locally and the joint publication with the Care Services Improvement Partnership Guidance Statement on Fidelity and Best Practice for Crisis Resolution Teams in January 2007. The Guidance Statement identifies aspects of how crisis teams deliver care which need attention so that best practice is followed across the country and emphasises a whole systems approach to care.

We also published Emergency care 10 years on: reforming emergency care on 29 April 2007, along with an updated version of the mental health emergency care checklist.

The information as to which mental health trusts have 'crisis resolution' and 'home treatment' teams is provided in the following table. The Department does not hold information on the numbers of 'emergency care' teams.

Mental health services: total number of crisis teams per mental health provider at 31 March 2008

Mental health providers	*Total crisis resolution teams*
England total	344
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	7
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	9
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	7
Barnsley PCT	2
Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust	3
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	6
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	10.5
Bradford District Care Trust	4
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	4
Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	4
Central and North West London NH Foundation Trust	10
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	7
Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	3
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	6
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	4
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	6
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	6
Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	3
Dorset PCT	1
Dudley PCT	2
East London NHS Foundation Trust	7
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	3
Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	6
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	7
Herefordshire PCT	1
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	6
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	4
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	9
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	10
Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust	6
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	5.5
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	4
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	5
Mersey Care NHS Trust	6
Milton Keynes PCT	1
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	6
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	6
North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	6
North Lincolnshire PCT	1
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	3
North Yorkshire and York PCT	3
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	3.5
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	11
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	7
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	4
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	5
Pennine Care NHS Trust	9
Plymouth Teaching PCT	2
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation	4
Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust	2.5
Sheffield Care Trust	4
Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	3
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	5
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	11
South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	5
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	7
South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust	7
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	3
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	6
Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	9
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	10
Walsall Teaching PCT	2
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	6
Wolverhampton City PCT	2
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	3

Notes:
Total 'crisis resolution' teams include teams with Department's sign off to provide services to a population larger than a standard team as specified by the policy implementation guidance.
Source:
Service mapping exercise

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health nurses were employed in NHS hospitals in each of the last five years; and how many experienced a violent assault in connection with their duties in each such year. [218525]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of mental health nurses from 2003 to 2007 has been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of violent assaults against mental health nurses is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For information on the numbers of reported physical assaults against NHS staff, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2390-1W.

NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 962W, on the NHS, on what specific elements of the constitution his Department is considering whether it is appropriate to legislate; and what elements of the constitution his Department is not proposing to enshrine in legislation. [216938]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The NHS Constitution is a 'declaratory document' and will not be enshrined in legislation. However, we intend to legislate to place a legal duty on all national health service organisations to take account of the Constitution when performing their functions, and on the Secretary of State to renew the Constitution every 10 years.

The draft NHS Constitution and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The details, including how to feed in views, are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

NHS Cord Blood Bank

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much of the NHS blood and transplant budget for 2008-09 is allocated to the NHS Cord Blood Bank for *(a)* donation, *(b)* collection, *(c)* storage and *(d)* provision of cord blood units for clinical use; [218140]

(2) what physical capacity the NHS Cord Blood Bank has to *(a)* store and *(b)* process collected units of cord blood. [218141]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS Blood and Transplant has allocated the following budget for 2008-09 to the NHS Cord Blood Bank:

	£
Donation and collection	1,255,000
Storage of cord blood units	510,000
Provision of cord blood units for clinical use	300,000

Currently, the NHS Cord Blood Bank has more than 11,000 cord blood units banked over three sites in Edgware, Bishops Stortford and Cambridge. New, single site facilities at Filton, near Bristol, will allow 2,000 units per year to be processed and stored with the aim of having 20,000 clinical grade cord blood units banked by 2013.

NHS: Anniversaries

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts put on special events to mark the 60th anniversary of the NHS; and at what cost in each case. [217951]

Ann Keen: Local events and activities to mark the 60th anniversary of the national health service were organised by NHS trusts locally. These costs are not held centrally.

NHS: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the findings of the Advisory Committee for Resource Allocation review of the geographical apportionment of health funding. [217260]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations will be announced in the autumn alongside the national health service operating framework for 2009-10. The report of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation's review of the funding formula used to inform PCT revenue allocations will be published at that time.

NHS: Reorganisation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if his Department will publish the transcripts of the consultations undertaken as part of the Next Stage Review; [218622]

(2) who was consulted as part of the Next Stage Review, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* area of work. [218623]

Ann Keen: The NHS Next Stage Review has been first and foremost a local process. Clinical working groups were established in each strategic health authority (SHA) region to identify improvements to local services. In total 74 groups, led by 2,000 frontline clinicians examined services across eight 'pathways of care' engaging with patients, national health service staff, stakeholders and the public.

Each SHA has now published its long-term vision for improving health and healthcare in its region based on the work of these groups. The local visions and the final report are based on unprecedented engagement with around 60,000 public, patients and staff through a combination of local engagement led by the SHAs, and nationally through a series of events, meetings and working groups.

More information on local engagement can be found within the SHA vision documents, which are available on the review website—www.ournhs.nhs.uk. Nationally, full findings from the first set of deliberative events on 18 September 2007 and a summary of the international clinical summit on 21-22 November 2007 are available on the website. An analysis of the views and opinions gathered in the engagement process has also been published on the website.

A full breakdown of those engaged in the review process by region and area of work could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Nurses: Redundancy

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses have been made redundant as a result of reconfiguration of services in each of the last three years. [218432]

Ann Keen: The number of specialist nurses made redundant as a result of reconfiguration of services is not held centrally.

Occupational Therapy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many occupational therapists qualified in 2007. [218078]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Pain

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is to be included in the forthcoming NHS Next Stage Review report on the management of chronic pain in *(a)* primary care, *(b)* secondary care and *(c)* tertiary care settings. [214304]

Ann Keen: The NHS Next Stage Review final report, 'High Quality Care for All' was published on 30 June; copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. The review, led by two thousand frontline clinicians and staff across each strategic health authority in England, examined services across eight 'pathways of care', including long-term conditions. The report responds to the challenges identified locally to deliver the improvements to the wider system that will enable these local priorities to be met most effectively.

The report sets out a series of proposals to improve patients' experience of the care they receive. These include:

giving patients even greater influence over the services they use by guaranteeing choice and access to the most clinically and cost-effective drugs and treatments;

making health care more personal by ensuring that everyone with a long-term condition has their own personalised care plan and by piloting personal health budgets;

a new right to the latest drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, and the speeding up of the process to look at new drugs and treatments; and

measuring quality right across the service and publishing that information for the first time, so that both staff and patients can work together to make the best decisions about treatment.

Physiotherapy: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Health Professions Council has made on the statutory regulation of sports therapists; and if he will make a statement. [218742]

Mr. Bradshaw: The White Paper, "Trust, Assurance, Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century" sets out Government proposals for extending statutory regulation to more health care professions/ occupational groups. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The Extending Professional Regulation Working Group, on which the Health Professions Council is represented, have been tasked with taking forward this work.

At this stage, the focus of the working group is not around the statutory regulation of individual professional groups and it is doubtful there will be scope to regulate new professions before 2010.

Prescriptions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescription forms were submitted in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [218897]

(2) what the average number of prescription items issued per prescription form was in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [218898]

(3) what the average cost to the NHS of items issued on prescription was in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [218902]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is in the following table[1].

[1] Based on prescriptions dispensed in the community in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

Strategic health authority	*Number of prescription forms (Thousand)*	*Average number of prescription items per form*	*Average net ingredient cost[1] per item (£)*
2005			
East Midlands	31,021.0	2.01	10.39
East of England	39,394.4	1.97	11.51
London	41,407.8	1.97	11.90
North East	21,482.0	2.00	10.16
North West	56,737.4	2.07	10.77
South Central	25,014.3	1.92	11.47
South East Coast	28,537.6	1.97	12.13
South West	38,317.4	1.92	10.39
West Midlands	39,530.1	2.00	11.41
Yorkshire and the Humber	40,012.9	2.05	10.07
Total	361,454.8	—	—
2006			
East Midlands	32,377.9	2.02	10.32
East of England	41,127.9	1.98	11.36
London	42,914.2	2.00	11.70
North East	22,199.8	2.04	9.87
North West	57,865.4	2.09	10.82
South Central	25,842.3	1.93	11.19
South East Coast	29,502.8	1.99	11.93
South West	39,813.4	1.94	10.08
West Midlands	41,199.1	2.00	11.49
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,174.1	2.06	9.99
Total	374,016.9	—	—
2007			
East Midlands	34,426.6	2.04	9.94
East of England	43,339.0	2.00	10.90
London	45,142.4	2.02	11.10
North East	23,155.9	2.08	9.38
North West	60,298.6	2.10	10.60
South Central	27,106.7	1.95	10.74
South East Coast	31,010.2	2.01	11.55
South West	41,665.3	1.96	9.63
West Midlands	43,015.3	2.03	11.22

Strategic health authority	Number of prescription forms (Thousand)	Average number of prescription items per form	Average net ingredient cost[1] per item (£)
Yorkshire and the Humber	42,964.7	2.08	9.76
Total	392,124.6	—	—

[1] Net ingredient cost is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
Source:
Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Primary Care Trusts: Equality

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts have completed a local equality impact assessment; and whether those assessments are centrally collated; [218542]

(2) what requirements there are on primary care trusts to conduct local equality impact assessments; and whether those assessments are required to cover cancer services. [218599]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All primary care trusts (PCTs) have a duty to undertake and publish equality impact assessments (EqIAs). These are not centrally collected by the Department. However, the Healthcare Commission has conducted audits of national health service trusts to look at whether trusts have published the required information. Each PCT is required under the equality legislation to equality-impact assess their functions, policies, strategies and procedures. The Healthcare Commission when inspecting PCTs will assess the quality of the EqIA which will go towards their annual rating.

The "Cancer Reform Strategy" was published in December 2007 and has an equality impact assessment which highlights the strategic equality issues regarding cancer which are there to inform PCTs of the issues they should take in due regard when commissioning their own cancer services. Copies of the strategy have already been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Managers

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts employ a medical director; [218903]

(2) whether each primary care trust employs a medical director. [219193]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Senior Salaries Review Body

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors underlay his decision to accept the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendation for an increase to basic pay of 2.2 per cent. for executive staff covered by the Very Senior Managers' Pay framework from 1 April 2008. [217486]

Ann Keen: In considering their response to each pay review body the Government take into consideration the recruitment and retention position of the work force, affordability, the consumer price index inflation target and value for money for taxpayers.

Sight Impaired: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* less than six, *(b)* six to 10 and *(c)* 11 to 16 years old have been prescribed glasses in each of the last five years. [218074]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect statistics broken down by the age groups requested. The following table shows the numbers of national health service optical vouchers paid for by the NHS in England for persons aged under 16 and 16-18 in full-time education.

Numbers of spectacles for which vouchers were reimbursed

	0-15 (Children)	16-18 (Students)
2002-03	992,220	252,720
2003-04	1,022,960	233,530
2004-05	997,768	236,065
2005-06	996,535	244,534
2006-07	1,011,619	257,918

The data are published by The Information Centre for health and social care in the General "Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales", copies of these publication have already been placed in the Library.

All figures are the total number of NHS optical vouchers and do not take into account individuals who may have received more than one NHS optical voucher.

Wheelchairs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of wheelchair transportation to and from NHS hospitals. [214344]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no assessments made of the adequacy of provision of wheelchair transportation to and from national health service hospitals. It is for local NHS organisations and Social Services to decide how resources should to allocated and to commission appropriate services, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the implementation of the new model for the delivery of wheelchair services is intended to reduce waiting times for *(a)* assessment for and *(b)* delivery of powered wheelchairs. [216571]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme (TCEWS) was set up in 2006 to design a radical new model for delivery of both community equipment and wheelchairs in England. The remit of the programme was to place service users and carers at the heart of any new service model and build on the strengths of the third and private sector. The overall aim was to develop a new high quality system for delivering equipment which would give those supported by the state the sort of choice and control they have not previously enjoyed. Responsibility for assessment of need remains with local health and social care commissioners.

The programme has developed a business case for a new model of delivery of wheelchair services which is currently being considered by senior officials in the Department.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 17 July 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fruit and Vegetable Grading

14. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in discussions on revising the EU grading rules for fruit and vegetables. [219300]

Jonathan Shaw: The June 2007 Agriculture Council agreed to a package of reforms to the CAP fruit and vegetables sector, since when the European Commission have been taking forward the implementation of the new regime. This includes revised rules on marketing standards which are currently under discussion in the Fruit and Vegetables Management Committee.

Upper River Ray

15. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make funding available for environmental projects for the Upper River Ray catchment area in Oxfordshire. [219301]

Mr. Woolas: Funding has been available for environmental projects within the Upper River Ray catchment area for over 10 years through various agri-environment schemes.

Agricultural Theft

16. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the likely effects on trends in the theft of agricultural equipment and red diesel of rising world oil and metal prices. [219303]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State has not had any discussion with the Home Secretary on the theft of agricultural equipment and red diesel. Farm security is a matter for individual farms to address, with advice from the police if necessary.

I sympathise with farmers who have been victims of crimes, but crime is the remit of the Home Office, and not this Department.

Chewing Gum

17. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for incentives to encourage manufacturers of chewing gum to create a biodegradable product. [219304]

Jonathan Shaw: Manufacturers assure us that they continue to put significant resources into developing less adhesive products, while retaining their marketability and safety. Additional tax relief is already available to companies incurring expenditure on qualifying research and development activities.

Food Prices

18. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to seek reductions in food prices. [219305]

Hilary Benn: High food prices are a global issue requiring coordinated action. The G8 recently agreed to invest $10 billion to address short-term humanitarian needs and to improve food security over the longer term. Rising food prices have an impact at home and abroad—particularly for the poorest—and today my Department has published a discussion paper which sets out what we consider necessary to ensure UK food security in a globalised world.

Energy Efficiency

19. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on making consumer products more energy efficient. [219308]

Joan Ruddock: The publication of the Progress Report on Sustainable Products and Materials was agreed by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Energy and Environment. Regular meetings have also been held with industry stakeholders such as retailers and manufacturers.

Consumer Council for Water

20. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Consumer Council for Water; and what matters were discussed. [219310]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers and DEFRA officials are in regular contact with the Consumer Council for Water on a range of issues.

Fishing Industry

21. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the UK fishing industry. [219311]

Jonathan Shaw: Information of the performance of the UK fishing industry is published annually by the Marine and Fisheries Agency in: 'United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics'. The document includes information on the size of the UK fishing fleet, the number of fishermen, key economic indicators, and the quantity and value of sea fish landings, imports and exports. Comparisons are made with the fishing industries in Europe and the rest of the world.

Single Payment Scheme

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Rural Payments Agency's performance against its targets in delivering the single payment scheme. [219296]

Hilary Benn: The Rural Payments Agency met all of their payment targets for the 2007 Single Payment Scheme. This demonstrates a continued improvement in RPA performance and is another important step towards the agency again providing an acceptable level of service to its customers.

Marine Habitats

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to safeguard marine habitats; and if he will make a statement. [219297]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are committed to establishing (by 2012) a network of well managed marine protected areas that will conserve the richness of our marine environment.

Carbon Emissions

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the global economic situation on individual consumers' carbon footprints. [219302]

Hilary Benn: In the short-term, high fossil fuel prices and the global downturn could lead to slightly reduced demand for fuel and energy, and thus slightly lower carbon emissions in the economy as a whole, as people reduce their demand for fuel and energy.

If fossil fuel prices remain high in the long run, we expect producers and consumers to adapt and consume less fossil-fuel based energy, leading to reduced carbon emissions.

Environment Protection: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 905W, on environment protection: housing, whether the carbon footprint regarding the 60 per cent. reduction target relates to housing only. [219021]

Mr. Woolas: The Green Neighbourhoods project aims to retrofit up to one hundred selected neighbourhoods across England, with concentrations of hard-to-treat homes, with energy saving, microgeneration and water efficiency measures that would aim to reduce the carbon footprints of their homes by at least 60 per cent.

Pesticides: EC Action

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Government abstained from the vote on the proposed Pesticides Directive in the Council of Ministers in respect of changing approval of pesticides from risk-based to hazard-based examination. [219447]

Mr. Woolas: The UK abstained on this issue as we remained concerned that no proper assessment of the potential impact of the proposals on agriculture in the Community, or of their benefits for consumers, had been presented to member states. We could not support measures which would have significant adverse impacts on crop protection and secure no significant health benefits for consumers.

Rural Areas

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress against his Department's objective of achieving fair access to public services for rural communities. [219307]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's new departmental strategic objective, which is based on outcomes rather than inputs, is "Strong Rural Communities". Progress against this DSO, published on the DEFRA website, is assessed quarterly against a range of indicators which show, in the main, a very positive picture.

In addition, the Commission for Rural Communities published its "State of the Countryside" report yesterday, in which the accessibility of services for rural communities is discussed in detail.

WALES

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217750]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218972]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218041]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of working days lost due to sickness among employees in the Northern Ireland Office in each year from 2000. Details are unavailable prior to 2000. The figures prior to 2004-05 do not include Home Civil Servants (HCS staff); however, they are included in figures from 2004-05 onwards.

	Staff included	*Total days absence*
2000-01	NIO NICS	12,147.5
2001-02	NIO NICS	13,396.4
2002-03	NIO NICS	14,894.5
2003-04	NIO NICS	16,592.5
2004-05	NIO NICS and NIO HCS	18,364.5
2005-06	NIONICS and NIO HCS	17,313.3
2006-07	NIONICS and NIO HCS	18,631.8

Young Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what procedures are in place to identify *(a)* mental health problems, *(b)* learning difficulties and *(c)* addictions among those entering young offender centres in Northern Ireland; [218760]

(2) what percentage of residents in young offenders centres in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years have been diagnosed as having *(a)* mental health problems and *(b)* learning difficulties; [218775]

(3) what percentage of those detained in young offender centres have experienced *(a)* learning difficulties, *(b)* literacy and numeracy difficulties, *(c)* time spent as a looked-after child, *(d)* mental health problems or personality disorder, *(e)* family break-down and *(f)* exclusion from school; [218803]

(4) what procedures there are for assessment of those entering young offender centres for *(a)* mental health problems or personality disorders, *(b)* educational under-achievement, *(c)* learning difficulties, *(d)* addictions and *(e)* family difficulties or breakdown. [218810]

Paul Goggins: All young offenders coming into prison undergo a health care committal screen on the first night. They are asked questions about mental health problems, drug and/or alcohol use or misuse and if they have any particular literacy problems. All inmates are also seen, on initial committal, by Opportunity Youth to identify any alcohol or substance misuse problems. If specific mental health problems are identified then they would receive onward referral to mental health support within health care.

The first assessment will be carried out by a mental health nurse who will provide basic support but, if required, a further referral will be made to another specialist, such as cognitive behavioural therapists, Opportunity Youth or psychiatrists.

A health care induction programme, aimed at providing inmates with information regarding the health services available to them whilst in custody, has been produced and is being delivered twice a week to all new committals. Inmates are informed of the clinics and support services available to them and how to access them. All staff, including the dental team, deliver the induction programme on a rotational basis.

Wider research in the UK suggests that approximately 60-70 per cent. of prisoners have some mental health problem but detailed analysis has not yet been undertaken specifically in relation to the young offender centre population.

Inmates are also given an education assessment within 20 days of committal which assesses literacy and numeracy ability and also tests for dyslexia. They are also asked to make the assessor aware of any other known learning difficulties, in particular ADHD.

In the last three years 31 per cent. of male young offenders have shown some indicators for dyslexia, (this compares with a figure of approximately 10 per cent. in the general population). A pilot is under way to assess better learning difficulties among the young offenders and in particular ADHD, which will also develop and pilot appropriate interventions.

At present, education staff are able to assess but not formally diagnose specific learning difficulties, although they can and do identify indications for certain conditions and plan and deliver lessons accordingly. Prison Service will also consider a diagnosis of dyslexia, which is a more formal process than assessment and must be carried out by a suitable qualified individual, as part of the pilot.

The Prison Service does not routinely have access to the academic, social care and other records of individuals before they come into custody. However, our own assessments on committal show that around 70 per cent. have literacy and numeracy skills below level 1, which is comparable to that of an 11-year-old.

Finally, the hon. Gentleman will be aware that lead responsibility for the provision of prison health care was transferred to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 1 April 2008 and therefore I have copied these questions and my response to the Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey MLA.

Young Offenders: Children in Care

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of those detained in young offender centres have been at any time a looked-after child or otherwise in the care of the state. [218802]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service does not record the information requested in Northern Ireland. However, research in England and Wales suggests about one in three have been in care as a child.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of children who have *(a)* been arrested, *(b)* appeared in court, *(c)* gone through youth conferences and *(d)* been imprisoned in young offender centres or prison in each of the last 10 years spent time in state administered care. [218834]

Paul Goggins: Information in the format requested for *(a)*, *(b)* and *(d)* is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information available on *(c)* covers the proportion of initial admissions to the Juvenile Justice Centre, Northern Ireland, received from care homes:

	Proportion (percentage)
1998	15
1999	15
2000	28
2001	25
2002	15
2003	21
2004	35
2005	35
2006	35
2007	26

Notes:
1. Figures exclude cases where looked after status is unknown at time of admission.
2. Figures are based only to children whose residential address is a care home at time of admission.
3. Figures are based on the first 10 months of 2007 only.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Grand Prix

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department had with *(a)* the organisers of Formula 1, *(b)* Milton Keynes Council and *(c)* other interested parties on the proposed move of the British Grand Prix from Silverstone to Donington Park; and on what dates each such discussion took place. [219455]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The decision to move the British Grand Prix from Silverstone to Donington is a commercial matter for Formula One Management (FOM) and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

I have not had any direct discussions with any party about this decision.

However, my officials and I have met regularly with representatives of Motor sport Development UK (MDUK), The British Racing Drivers' Club (BRDC) and colleagues from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to discuss the current redevelopment plans of the Silverstone circuit.

I also met with Bernie Ecclestone on the 18 March 2008 to discuss the British Grand Prix.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218043]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sickness absence figures are contained in the annual report 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service', published by the Cabinet Office. Website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

The sickness absence reports on the Cabinet Office website date back to 2004. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

The Department's sickness absence policy provides guidance to employees on the procedures to following in dealing with sick absence. It also details responsibilities of individuals, line managers and human and business resources in monitoring and dealing with sickness absence and encouraging return to work—which includes guidance on making reasonable adjustments for employees.

As part of the Department's attendance, health and well-being programme for employees, there are also policies covering a range of flexible work patterns such as part-time/job share, flexible working hours and working from home to support work-life balance. There is support for employees who may wish to take a career break and/or special leave.

The Department also has an employee assistance programme, which is free to employees (their families and friends) and offers advice and counselling on both personal and work related issues.

Gambling

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings the Gambling Commission has held with *(a)* Gala Coral, *(b)* William Hill and *(c)* Ladbrokes or their representatives on betting shops in the last 12 months; what matters were discussed; what the outcomes were of the discussions; and if he will make a statement. [219544]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of its work in regulating the gambling industry the Gambling Commission has various meetings with representatives of the gambling industry, including Gala Coral, William Hill and Ladbrokes.

These meetings can form part of a formal consultation process, formal liaison with the industry and compliance work. A wide range of regulatory matters have been discussed at the meetings which form part of the Commission's work to ensure effective regulation of the betting industry is maintained. Apart from the normal licensing processes and compliance visits to the operators' premises, the only specific meetings on betting shops with any of the companies have been induction visits for Commissioners and staff.

Reaching Communities Scheme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of funding from the Reaching Communities Scheme has gone to projects in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas. [213450]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The fund does not distinguish between urban and rural areas in awarding and recording these grants.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance is provided on funding of programmes in rural areas when deciding on grants from the Reaching Communities Scheme. [213451]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Reaching Communities is managed by the Big Lottery Fund, which does not provide any specific guidance to applicants in rural areas but does work with partner or helper organisations to ensure that those groups who experience barriers to participation will be able to develop projects for funding from the

programme. Regional information is also provided to committee members who are involved in considering applications.

Sports: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency since 1997. [218397]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Departmental and Lottery funding to promote and invest in grassroots and community sport is allocated via Sport England. They hold information according to local authority rather than parliamentary constituency, and have itemised the following investment since 1997 in clubs and schools projects within the London borough of Bexley:

Funding	*Recipient*	*Project*	*Award date*	*Financial year*	*Award amount (£)*
Sports Club	Phoenix Sports Club	New Sports Pavilion	27 April 1998	1998-1999	22,007
Sports Club	Danson Park Bowls Consortium Ltd.	Extension to Clubhouse	19 October 1998	1998-1999	41,950
Sports Club	Long Lane Junior Football Club	Upgrade changing facilities and construct STP	21 February 2000	1999-2000	462,330
Sports Club	Bexley Cricket Club	Community Club Development Programme			41,730

Funding	*Recipient*	*Project*	*Award date*	*Financial year*	*Award amount (£)*
Sports in Schools	Bexley Council	School Sport Coordinator Partnership	1 September 2002	2002-03	368,344
Sports in Schools	Bexley Council	Sidcup swimming centre -	30 August 2006	2006-07	693,000

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the opportunities for people completing apprenticeships to achieve higher education qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [219127]

Mr. Lammy: In World-class Apprenticeships we highlighted the need for clear progression routes for apprenticeships to maximise the apprenticeship experience, including higher education. Sector Skills Councils are developing a strategy for Level 4 Apprenticeships, enabling progression to higher education, including Foundation Degrees. They are mapping all apprenticeship frameworks to see where Level 4 apprenticeships may be required. Arrangements are already in place for apprentices who complete an engineering or e-skills apprenticeship to have their learning recognised through UCAS points to progress to higher education. A further eight frameworks are expected to be recognised by 2010.

We expect the number of opportunities to progress to higher education to rise once the planned mapping has been completed and the responsibility for maintaining progress will lie with the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) when it is operational in April 2009.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of staff in his Department and its predecessor have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218716]

Mr. Lammy: Since the Department was formed in the 28 June 2007 machinery of government changes, 56 staff have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days. This applies from the date of establishment of the Department to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available). This equates to 6.8 per cent. of current staffing.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days since establishment. [218982]

Mr. Lammy: Since the Department was established in the 28 June 2007 machinery of government changes, 10 staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days. This applies from the date of establishment of the Department to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available). This represents of 1.2 per cent. of DIUS staff.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219013]

Mr. Lammy: This Department has not commissioned any home information packs. An answer in respect of all our agencies could be given only at disproportionate cost.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many and what percentage of staff in her office have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years; [218713]

(2) how many staff in her Office have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218980]

Helen Goodman: Data held by the Cabinet Office indicated that in 2007 there were no staff in the Leader's Office who had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days.

The number of staff with periods of sick absence lasting less than five days for the calendar year 2006 is already a matter of public record.

Sickness absence information for the previous years is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register: Marketing

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission has spent on *(a)* its own voter registration campaigns and *(b)* voter registration campaigns run by non-governmental organisations in each of the last 10 years. [218986]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its public awareness campaigns both encourage voter registration and provide information about how to take part in elections, including different methods of voting and voting systems. The Commission is therefore not able to separate out its expenditure on voter registration specifically, from its expenditure on wider campaign activity.

The following table shows the total expenditure on the Commission's campaign activity in each of the past four years for which the relevant financial records are readily available. Equivalent information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The costs include advertising costs, and expenditure on other campaign activity such as research, call centres, websites and publications.

	£
2004-05	5,781,527
2005-06	6,334,064
2006-07	5,260,138
2007-08	4,963,172

Section 13 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 gives the Commission power to make grants to other bodies to promote public awareness. I am informed that since 2002 the Commission has awarded grants to organisations for projects that raise awareness of the democratic process, including but not limited to promoting voter registration. The following table shows the total grant funding awarded to non-governmental organisations in each year:

	£
2002-03	317,808
2003-04	188,339
2004-05	218,335
2005-06	393,734
2006-07	2,308,406
2007-08	1,177,477

The grants scheme is now closed to new applications and all funded projects will end by 31 March 2010.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission spent on voter registration advertising in each of the last five years; and what assessment the Commission has made of the effectiveness of that advertising in increasing voter registration. [218989]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its advertising campaigns both encourage voter registration and provide information about how to take part in elections, including different methods of voting and voting systems. The Commission is therefore not able to separate out its expenditure on voter registration advertising from its wider voter information advertising.

The following table shows the total expenditure on all such advertising in each of the past four years for which the relevant financial records are readily available. Equivalent information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2004-05	4,937,021
2005-06	5,438,551
2006-07	4,412,197
2007-08	4,115,661

A report to the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission by the Comptroller and Auditor General, published in 2006 and entitled "Is the Public Aware of Democracy?" concluded that the Commission had used its resources in raising public awareness in general effectively, when judged by measures such as recall rates and other industry measures for its advertising, and that there appeared to have been an overall positive effect on voter registration.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Pay

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Solicitor-General what the hourly charging rates of staff of the Treasury Solicitor's Department were in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [217289]

The Solicitor-General: For those staff of the Treasury Solicitor's Department who are charged for on an hourly rate, the figures were:

	£
2005-06	
Litigation Division and Employment and Commercial Contracts Group	
Senior Civil Servant	134
Senior Solicitor (Grade 6)	112
Solicitor (Grade 7)	103
Junior Solicitor (Legal Officer)	64
SEO/HEO	64
Legal Trainee, EO and AO	54
Advisory Divisions	
Head of Division	162
Senior Civil Servant	134
Grade 6, 7 Adviser	91
Legal Officer	57
SEO/HEO	57
Legal Trainee, EO, AO	54
2006-07	
Head of Division (COCAD)	165
Senior Civil Servant	136
Senior Solicitor (Grade 6)	114
Solicitor (Grade 7), Junior Solicitor	104
SEO/HEO	65
Legal Trainee, EO and AO	56
2007-08	
Head of Division (COCAD)	167
Senior Civil Servant	138
Senior Solicitor (Grade 6)	115
Solicitor (Grade 7), Junior Solicitor	106
SEO/HEO	66
Legal Trainee, EO and AO	56

Note:
COCAD—Cabinet Office and Central Advisory Division
HEO—Higher Executive Officer
SEO—Senior Executive Officer
EO—Executive Officer
AO—Administrative Officer

Serious Fraud Office

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she plans to take following the publication in June 2008 of the final report on the review of the Serious Fraud Office; which organisations will be consulted on the report; and if she will make a statement. [215311]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 12WS. The review by Jessica de Grazia provided helpful insights into the work of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) based on comparisons with US prosecutors.

The new Director of the SFO has found her recommendations on the internal workings of the SFO valuable background for his change programme. We are considering her recommendations on the wider environment in the context of a range of proposals we are already taking forward to strengthen the response to fraud, which is a cross-Government programme of work.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions the Attorney-General has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Justice and *(b)* the Home Secretary on the Final Report on the review of the Serious Fraud Office published in June 2008. [215312]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General shared Jessica de Grazia's report with the Secretary of State for Justice and the Home Secretary as it was published, and our officials were then and have since been in contact with officials in both Departments and in the prosecuting Departments to consider the recommendations.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans there are to enhance co-operation between the Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office. [216029]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office works closely in collaboration with the other Law Officer Departments and the Attorney-General's Office on a variety of issues. To ensure her Departments work closely together at a strategic level, my noble Friend the Attorney-General chairs a strategic board on which the directors are represented, which meets quarterly.

Serious Fraud Office: Contracts

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General with how many external contractors the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has contracts; what estimate she has made of the average annual cost to the public purse of such contracts; and how many such contractors have held contracts with the SFO in each of the last 10 years. [215314]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) does not keep records of the number of external contractors it employs. The cost of all non-permanent staff employed at the SFO (including external barristers) for each of the last 10 years is as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	11,521,000
2006-07	10,312,000
2005-06	11,845,000
2004-05	9,492,000
2003-04	8,566,000
2002-03	6,759,000
2001-02	6,596,000
2000-01	5,316,000
1999-2000	4,004,000
1998-99	4,750,000

Serious Fraud Office: Operating Costs

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost of running the Serious Fraud Office was in each of the last 10 years. [215316]

The Solicitor-General: The cost of running the Serious Fraud Office for each of the last 10 years was as follows:

Financial year	Annual running costs (£)
2007-08	42,071,000
2006-07	40,415,000
2005-06	39,869,000
2004-05	32,808,000
2003-04	27,791,000
2002-03	26,176,000
2001-02	23,002,000
2000-01	19,608,000
1999-2000	15,860,000
1998-1999	16,027,000

Serious Fraud Office: Powers

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans there are to increase the Serious Fraud Office's investigatory powers; and whether these plans have been amended to take account of the findings in the Final Report on the review of the Serious Fraud Office published in June 2008. [215307]

The Solicitor-General: At present, there are no plans to extend the investigative powers of the Serious Fraud Office beyond those which were recently provided through the Serious Crime Act 2007.

Serious Fraud Office: Prosecutions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions were initiated by the Serious Fraud Office in each of the last 10 years; and what the conviction rate from such prosecutions was in each year. [215322]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has brought prosecutions against the following number of defendants in each of the last 10 years; and the conviction rates arising from these prosecutions are as follows:

Financial year	Defendants tried	Conviction rate (percentage)
2007-08	25	68
2006-07	21	71
2005-06	23	57
2004-05	58	64
2003-04	39	51
2002-03	25	68
2001-02	13	77
2000-01	58	88
1999-2000	12	92
1998-99	42	81

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General in what proportion of Serious Fraud Office prosecutions was pre-trial abuse claimed by the defence in each of the last 10 calendar years. [216028]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office does not centrally maintain statistics about applications made to a judge to stop a trail from proceedings on the basis of allegations of abuse of process.

The SFO holds post-case reviews on conclusion of each case, which provides an opportunity for the case team to discuss and record the successes of the investigation, as well as any lessons learned from issues encountered (and resolved) for the future. This information is shared across the office to ensure that best practice is adopted throughout the organisation.

Serious Fraud Office: Recruitment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney-General plans to issue guidance to the Serious Fraud Office on its recruitment practices, with particular regard to recruitment of former police officers. [216032]

The Solicitor-General: No.

Serious Fraud Office: Resignations

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what reasons were given to the Attorney General for the resignation of the former Chief Executive of the Serious Fraud Office. [216030]

The Solicitor-General: The head of the Serious Fraud Office is the Director. The previous Director, Robert Wardle, was appointed on the basis of a fixed term contract which ended on 20th April 2008.

Serious Fraud Office: Standards

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the *(a)* targets and *(b)* priorities of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) are to be reviewed following the review of the SFO Final Report published by the Attorney General in June. [214971]

The Solicitor-General: The SFO is currently involved in a fundamental review as a result of the arrival of a new Director on 21 April 2008 and the publication of Jessica de Grazia's Report on the Serious Fraud Office published in June 2008.

As part of this review the Director has already made a number of changes designed to strengthen the leadership team, improve staff training and to shorten the time it takes to get SFO cases into Court. The recommendations made in Jessica de Grazia's report which relate to the operation and management of the SFO are currently being considered very carefully as part of this, and further developments to build on the performance of the SFO will be introduced over the coming year.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General whether there are proposals to *(a)* improve the Serious Fraud Office's case management procedures and *(b)* seek efficiency savings in Serious Fraud Office investigations and prosecutions. [215315]

The Solicitor-General: The recently appointed director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has already stated on several occasions that one of his priorities is to enable cases to be brought to court more quickly.

In addition, in March 2007 the SFO established the Case Management Reform Programme (CMRP), which is a business change programme designed to contribute to the strategic aims and objectives of the SFO. In

particular, the CMRP aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of SFO casework processes, thus increasing the probability that cases will withstand procedural challenge and be concluded within much shorter time frames.

Serious Fraud Office: Working Conditions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the findings in the recent final report on the Serious Fraud Office on its working culture; and if she will make a statement. [216033]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General and I are aware that the new Director of the Serious Fraud Office has taken account of Jessica de Grazia's findings and his own assessment since arrival and that he is taking forward a programme of change within the SFO, including of communication and ways of working. This is a welcome approach. In this he will be building on the good work of very many staff in the SFO, which was also acknowledged by Jessica de Grazia.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Clinical Trials

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what regulations and guidelines govern the participation of children in care in drug trials. [218463]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Clinical Trials in the European Union are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the European Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the member states relating to implementation of good clinical practice in the conduct of clinical trials on medicinal products for human use. The Directive provides for the protection of clinical trial subjects, including minors, and sets out requirements for the ethical review of clinical trials. The Directive provides for a general rule that minors may only be included in a clinical trial if the informed consent of the parents or legal representative has been obtained.

The Directive was transposed into United Kingdom legislation as the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations on 1 May 2004. Two further Commission Directives setting out the detailed principles and guidelines of good clinical practice have been agreed and implemented into UK law. On 1 May 2008 the Government amended UK legislation, following a public consultation, to allow minors to be entered into a trial prior to consent having been obtained from a person with parental responsibility or legal representative in trials of emergency medicines where and while certain conditions are met.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213692]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 and has not completed any new builds since that time. Since 2007, the Department has undertaken one major refurbishment with a value in excess of £0.5 million where BREEAM is applicable. The work is ongoing and a BREEAM assessment will be undertaken once the refurbishment has been completed.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on developing the 'Build your PlaySpace' on the departmental website; and if he will make a statement. [217673]

Kevin Brennan: The Department developed the 'Build your PlaySpace' interactive tool to engage children and young people in the fair play consultation in a fun and interactive way. The tool is one strand of a wider consultation strategy that includes an activity poster/competition for children and young people, live events to encourage local dialogue with children, young people, their families and practitioners and written consultation.

The cost of developing the 'Build your PlaySpace' tool was £50,000 plus VAT.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have used the 'Build your PlaySpace' on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement. [217674]

Kevin Brennan: The Department developed the 'Build your PlaySpace' interactive tool to engage children and young people in the fair play consultation in a fun and interactive way. The tool is one strand of a wider consultation strategy that includes an activity poster/competition for children and young people, live events to encourage local dialogue with children, young people, their families and practitioners and written consultation.

The number of people who have used the 'Build your PlaySpace' tool as at 16 July 2008 is 9,286. The interactive tool will be available until 18 August 2008.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on hospitality in the last 12 months. [219696]

Kevin Brennan: The purchase of hospitality is recorded under the general heading of Meeting Refreshments. Details of expenditure on hospitality incurred by the Department over the last 12 months and recorded in the Department's Integrated Financial Information System, are set out:

Financial Year 2007-08: £ 357,260.54

DCSF was established under Machinery of Government Changes on 28 June 2007. The response also covers those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

Departmental Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid in bonuses to staff of each non-departmental body for which his Department has responsibility in the last 12 months. [219282]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold information on the bonuses paid to NDPB staff.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many young offenders were assessed on reception into custody as having literacy and numeracy skills below level one at each young offender institution in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [219242]

(2) what proportion of young people entering secure facilities were tested for literacy and numeracy skills in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [219245]

(3) what proportion of people in young offender institutions had a reading age of *(a)* entry level 1 and 2 and *(b)* entry level 3 in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [219248]

Beverley Hughes: The following table gives the number of young offenders who were assessed on reception into custody as having literacy and numeracy skills below level one (those assessed at Pre-entry Level, Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3) at each Young Offender Institution in the last 12 months:

Establishment	*Lit*	*Total*
Ashfield	467	584
Brinsford	277	368
Castington	169	213
Cookham Wood	8	22
Downview	10	35
Eastwood Park	25	41
Eastwood Park	676	891
Foston	0	0
Hindley	164	226
Huntercombe	167	253
Lancaster Farms	185	263
New Hall	25	44
Parc	56	73
Parc	361	458
Thorn Cross	55	60
Warren Hill	365	391
Werrington	214	318
Wetherby	416	527
Total	4,309	5,992

The following table gives the number of juvenile young offenders assessed for literacy and numeracy skills on entry to custody in YOIs (data prior to 2003/04 are not available):

	Percentage assessed
2003/04	100.0
2004/05	97.7
2005/06	95.1
2006/07	98.0

Data from the Learning and Skills Council's (2006-07) initial literacy assessments on for juveniles in YOIs is as follows (data prior to 2006/07 are not available):

	Entry level 1 and 2	*Entry level 3*	*Below entry level 1*
2006/07	1,367	2,219	54
2007/08[1]	864	1,687	58

[1] These figures are for August 2007 to May 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many hours per week of education young people in young offender institutions received on average in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [219246]

(2) what the attendance rate for timetabled education and training sessions in young offender institutions was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [219244]

(3) what proportion of young offenders supervised by young offender institutions are in full-time education, training or employment; and if he will make a statement. [219243]

Beverley Hughes: The following table shows the average number of hours of education, training and personal development activity received by juvenile offenders in young offender institutions (YOIs) for all the years that YJB data are available:

	Average hours per week
2004/05	24.5
2005/06	28.2
2006/07	26.2

The following table gives the attendance rates per establishment in 2006/07:

Establishment	*Class efficiency*
Ashfield	88.62
Brinsford	84.91
Castington	86.98
Cookham Wood	61.59
Downview	85.31
Eastwood Park	82.71
Feltham	84.15
Hindley	70.19
Huntercombe	72.26
Lancaster Farms	72.13
New Hall	73.70
Parc	92.27
Stoke Heath	81.80
Thorn Cross	76.04
Warren Hill	85.62
Werrington	84.69
Wetherby	82.65

Data on the proportion of juvenile offenders supervised by YOIs who are in full-time education, training or employment are not collected in the format requested. Under the Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS), each young offender has an entitlement to 25 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week. The Youth Justice Board collect data on the average number of hours delivered across YOIs and the latest figures are shown above.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set to improve the educational provision and performance of young offender institutions; what progress has been made towards meeting these targets; when each such target is to be met; and if he will make a statement. [219247]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not set central targets to improve the educational provision and performance of young offender institutions. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) sets and monitors the following performance indicators for education in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs):

Assessment: All young people entering a secure facility are assessed for literacy and numeracy.

Progression: 80 per cent. of young people must improve by one skill level or more in literacy and/or numeracy from the level of need set out in the individual learning plan. In YOIs this indicator relates to young people on DTOs of 12 months or more.

Training plans: All young people entering a secure facility must have a training plan developed and subsequently reviewed in accordance with the "YJB's National Standards for Youth Justice Services".

Hours of education and training: to ensure that young people in YOIs receive an average of 25 hours training and personal development activity per week.

The following table shows the performance against these YJB targets for the years for which data are available:

	Assessment (percentage)	*Progression (percentage)*	*Training plans (percentage)*	*Hours of education and training*
200304	100.0	52.0	n/a	n/a
200405	97.7	41.87	93.0	24.50
200506	95.1	42.5	80.5	28.24
200607	98.0	36.1	94.4	26.20

We have published proposals to improve the education and training young offenders receive in the Youth Crime Action Plan on 15 July.

Foster Care: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster carers received fixed penalty notices for non-attendance of children in their care at school in each of the last five years. [219482]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of foster carers who received fixed penalty notices for non-attendance of children in their care at school in each of the last five years is not collected centrally.

National Healthy Schools Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on implementation of *(a)* the Healthy Schools initiative and *(b)* the Sustainable Schools framework in each year since 2004; and what forecast expenditure on such activities is for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [219401]

Kevin Brennan: The National Healthy Schools Programme is jointly funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Health. The following amounts have been allocated for each financial year since 2004:

	£ million
2004-05	5.7
2005-06	9.3
2006-07	12.2
2007-08	13.2

£13.2 million provisional funding has been allocated through the area based grant for each year over the next three financial years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, with the option of adding more funds in each financial year. We have added £3 million to this financial year bringing the total to £16.2 million for 2008-09.

The Sustainable Schools programme began in May 2006 and the Department has

spent to date:

	£
2006-07	600,000
2007-08	1,015,000

We have forecast to spend in 2008-09 and 2009-10:

	£
2008-08	1,015,000
2009-10	1,000,000

Pupil Referral Units: Young Offenders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attending pupil referral units were *(a)* convicted of a criminal offence and *(b)* received an official police caution in the school year 2006-07. [219263]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions the Youth Sport Trust has had with the Association for Physical Education on the delivery of the National Schools Sports Strategy. [217525]

Kevin Brennan: Through their joint membership of the consortium contracted to deliver the PE and Sport Professional Development Programme, a workstrand of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, the YST routinely meet with AFPE. The last such meeting was held on 12 May.

JUSTICE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* employees of (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies reporting to his Department were (A) dismissed and (B) disciplined for matters related to their conduct in the last two years. [217604]

Mr. Wills: According to centrally held records in the Ministry of Justice (former DCA), including HMCS, OPG, Tribunals Service, Wales Office, Scottish Office and MOJ HQ, 40 members of staff were dismissed for matters relating to conduct in the period April 2006 to the end of March 2007, and 53 members of staff were dismissed for the period April 2007 to the end of March 2008.

The former DCA does not hold the information on the number of staff disciplined for matters related to their conduct centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The only information of this type held is on the Prison Service.

According to centrally held records in the public sector Prison Service, 130 members of staff have been dismissed, and a further 587 members of staff have been formally disciplined, for matters relating to their conduct in the period 1 July 2006 through 30 June 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217416]

Mr. Wills: The core Ministry of Justice employs staff previously employed on several sets different terms and conditions, each with their own legacy arrangements for bonus payments.

The information provided as follows relates to former DCA senior civil service (SCS) and grades below SCS. The data exclude payments to magistrates courts staff (who became civil servants within this Department in April 2005 and whose terms and conditions did not normally allow for payment of performance or special bonuses) and staff in the Tribunals Service who joined the former DCA on 1 April 2006 about whom information is not available to us prior to 2007.

Proportion of members of the senior civil service not paid the maximum bonus amount during the past two years

	Percentage
2006	82
2007	75

Proportion of staff below the SCS who did not receive the maximum performance bonus amount during the past two years (not awarded maximum performance bonus in respect of the 2006 and 2007 performance years)

	Percentage
2006	86.80
2007	83.70

Notes:

1. Performance bonuses are paid to staff who are assessed to have performed over and above the standard expected from them over the course of the whole performance year.
2. During the above years there was one single amount paid to staff receiving an exceeded marking. This was £400.
3. Data referring to proportion refers only to those staff on relevant terms and conditions (i.e. only include former DCA and Court Service staff but not staff on magistrates courts terms and those who joined from the other Government Departments during machinery of government changes in 2005 and 2006 and who were not subject to the former DCA performance management or reward systems during the relevant period).
4. Information on performance bonus payments for the 2007-08 performance year is not yet available. These payments are implemented as part of the annual pay award which will be paid in August.
5. The information contained above excludes payments to staff on Home Office terms and conditions who transferred to the Ministry of Justice with the establishment of the Ministry in May 2007. Information for these staff for 2007-08 is included in the answer to this question provided by the Home Office. Information for 2007-08 as information is not yet available.

Proportion of staff below the SCS who did not receive the maximum special bonus amount during the past two years.

Special bonuses are paid to staff 'in year' for exceptional contribution over and above that normally expected during the performance year. Awards are benchmarked locally and there is 'no maximum' amount payable.

HM Prison Service. HM Prison Service became an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

In 2006-07, no member of staff employed by HMPS was awarded the maximum bonus available.

In 2007-08, two members of staff received this bonus. The total number of staff in post at this time was 51,239, therefore as a proportion more than 99.99 per cent. of staff did not receive the maximum possible bonus.

Domestic Violence: Convictions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for offences connected to domestic violence in each of the last three years, broken down by criminal justice area. [218749]

Maria Eagle: Convictions for offences involving domestic violence cannot be identified from the information held on the court proceedings database as the circumstances behind each offence are not collected centrally by my Department.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for offences related to driving without insurance there were in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty imposed in each year was. [219058]

Maria Eagle: The available information relates to the offence of 'use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'. Tables A and B provide data on prosecutions, convictions (findings of guilt) and court imposed fines from 1997 to 2006 (latest available). Table C covers fixed penalty notices issued from 1 June 2003 to 2006. Data for 2007 will be available later this year.

Table A: Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*	
Police force area	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*
Avon and Somerset	15,354	9,424	16,892	9,875	15,098	9,357	14,609	9,515
Bedfordshire	4,724	2,951	4,449	2,992	3,479	2,328	3,594	2,307
Cambridgeshire	3,440	2,395	3,425	2,507	3,058	2,233	2,929	2,216
Cheshire	4,838	3,499	4,961	3,658	5,463	3,872	5,729	4,075
Cleveland	3,925	2,798	4,204	2,908	4,331	3,027	4,793	3,573
Cumbria	4,223	3,089	3,787	2,866	3,597	2,772	3,507	2,684
Derbyshire	5,565	3,830	5,137	3,522	5,120	3,613	5,318	3,914
Devon and Cornwall	8,422	4,967	7,232	4,263	7,493	4,681	9,234	5,872
Dorset	5,271	3,458	4,198	2,777	4,776	3,013	6,035	3,540
Durham	3,992	2,912	4,261	3,086	5,899	4,475	5,470	4,328
Essex	7,161	4,507	7,025	4,635	7,336	5,035	7,898	5,328
Gloucestershire	3,577	2,115	4,465	2,885	4,443	2,867	4,174	2,539
Greater Manchester	30,655	20,548	30,836	21,430	33,228	23,697	33,783	23,865
Hampshire	11,768	7,844	11,557	8,028	11,553	8,123	10,559	7,535
Hertfordshire	4,580	2,573	5,799	3,056	4,748	2,789	5,258	3,310
Humberside	4,408	3,479	4,279	3,501	4,894	3,920	5,024	4,043
Kent	6,935	4,755	6,958	4,808	6,151	4,232	9,033	6,408
Lancashire	20,334	11,577	18,794	11,198	18,111	10,800	18,354	10,981
Leicestershire	9,706	5,990	9,481	6,265	11,054	7,281	10,263	6,713
Lincolnshire	4,589	3,001	5,000	3,466	5,345	3,744	4,500	3,307
London, City of	2,671	1,382	3,127	1,431	2,521	1,141	1,738	776
Merseyside	10,896	8,435	9,747	7,694	8,932	6,920	10,054	7,708
Metropolitan Police	42,283	25,873	35,064	22,874	31,285	20,893	29,649	20,117
Norfolk	3,932	3,456	3,434	3,060	3,468	3,000	3,951	2,844
Northamptonshire	4,999	3,083	4,849	3,271	5,571	4,151	3,949	2,971
Northumbria	12,470	8,064	11,837	8,079	13,296	9,299	13,195	9,385
North Yorkshire	3,926	2,778	3,744	2,538	4,003	2,656	3,905	2,548
Nottinghamshire	8,078	6,149	8,726	6,658	7,957	6,156	7,748	6,034
South Yorkshire	11,228	7,346	11,553	7,831	11,763	8,424	12,690	8,871
Staffordshire	8,180	5,251	8,210	5,379	8,021	5,725	8,777	6,740
Suffolk	3,258	2,202	3,743	2,283	4,189	2,547	3,923	2,319
Surrey	4,942	2,439	3,908	2,051	4,436	2,278	4,941	2,571
Sussex	9,333	4,726	8,202	4,150	7,415	4,198	6,796	3,777
Thames Valley	11,887	6,258	11,948	6,311	13,543	7,291	12,816	7,426
Warwickshire	4,316	2,595	3,769	2,394	3,523	2,192	4,135	2,309
West Mercia	7,082	4,848	8,207	5,624	7,450	5,224	7,686	5,512
West Midlands	29,878	18,484	30,928	18,969	27,409	16,407	28,148	17,896
West Yorkshire	23,980	15,042	23,549	14,682	25,776	15,903	26,529	15,476
Wiltshire	3,463	2,311	4,820	2,712	4,708	2,558	4,901	2,620
Dyfed-Powys	3,079	1,953	2,852	1,952	3,017	2,044	3,072	2,073
Gwent	4,097	2,899	4,478	3,344	4,451	3,452	4,680	3,777
North Wales	4,859	3,280	4,452	3,309	4,102	3,097	3,697	2,839
South Wales	14,829	9,936	16,187	10,629	15,406	10,467	14,615	10,273
England and Wales	397,133	254,502	390,074	254,951	387,419	257,882	391,659	262,915

Number of offences

	2001		*2002*		*2003[2]*	
Police force area	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*
Avon and Somerset	13,022	8,393	15,124	9,700	17,163	10,558
Bedfordshire	4,651	2,895	4,731	3,147	5,041	3,490
Cambridgeshire	2,508	1,967	2,875	2,266	3,301	2,694
Cheshire	4,975	3,885	5,765	4,540	6,385	5,354

Number of offences

Police force area	2001 Total proceedings	2001 Total findings of guilt	2002 Total proceedings	2002 Total findings of guilt	2003[2] Total proceedings	2003[2] Total findings of guilt
Cleveland	4,789	3,606	5,994	4,282	5,575	3,980
Cumbria	3,595	2,887	3,540	2,876	3,488	2,849
Derbyshire	5,429	4,218	5,614	4,670	5,793	4,888
Devon and Cornwall	8,648	5,723	9,598	6,354	9,676	6,608
Dorset	5,262	2,965	6,176	3,371	7,034	4,263
Durham	5,394	4,343	5,840	4,614	5,802	4,518
Essex	7,708	5,388	7,811	5,359	7,489	5,440
Gloucestershire	4,683	2,677	4,417	2,286	4,412	2,579
Greater Manchester	37,088	26,399	36,337	27,527	38,208	29,559
Hampshire	10,349	7,614	10,912	8,063	10,619	8,095
Hertfordshire	5,816	3,672	6,612	4,191	7,216	5,078
Humberside	4,730	3,641	4,464	3,551	5,509	4,411
Kent	9,592	7,042	10,059	7,697	9,788	7,452
Lancashire	16,280	9,748	17,555	11,020	21,229	13,689
Leicestershire	10,475	6,792	10,699	7,372	11,304	8,066
Lincolnshire	4,083	2,956	4,242	3,057	5,883	4,269
London, City of	1,826	1,020	2,353	1,330	2,563	1,605
Merseyside	9,467	7,693	10,360	8,551	12,776	10,627
Metropolitan Police	32,032	22,566	36,485	27,116	43,100	31,463
Norfolk	4,744	3,033	5,563	3,590	6,322	4,461
Northamptonshire	2,028	1,626	1,211	885	4,157	3,242
Northumbria	12,504	9,184	12,309	9,286	12,951	9,826
North Yorkshire	3,545	2,171	3,340	2,096	3,774	2,353
Nottinghamshire	7,856	6,181	7,460	5,922	9,224	7,609
South Yorkshire	14,623	10,079	13,859	9,975	13,745	9,882
Staffordshire	6,027	4,678	7,056	5,723	7,214	6,072
Suffolk	4,123	2,373	4,759	2,845	5,808	3,579
Surrey	5,101	2,804	5,554	3,145	4,657	2,880
Sussex	6,814	3,995	6,413	3,698	5,808	3,665
Thames Valley	11,728	7,092	12,842	8,283	14,516	9,718
Warwickshire	4,204	2,665	3,711	2,389	3,756	2,899
West Mercia	7,787	5,731	7,849	5,812	7,735	6,014
West Midlands	27,010	18,066	32,339	22,010	36,409	25,370
West Yorkshire	27,618	15,842	24,873	13,952	26,966	16,967
Wiltshire	5,292	3,264	5,326	3,162	4,794	3,006
Dyfed-Powys	2,953	1,906	3,316	2,275	3,094	2,236
Gwent	4,758	3,817	4,508	3,660	4,083	3,448
North Wales	3,376	2,551	4,048	2,987	5,968	4,523
South Wales	13,805	9,721	16,499	11,488	16,932	11,650
England and Wales	388,298	264,869	410,398	286,123	447,267	320,935

Number of offences

Police force area	2004 Total proceedings	2004 Total findings of guilt	2005 Total proceedings	2005 Total findings of guilt	2006 Total proceedings	2006 Total findings of guilt
Avon and Somerset	17,489	10,862	14,625	8,688	11,834	7,444
Bedfordshire	4,534	3,190	4,776	3,334	4,356	3,137
Cambridgeshire	3,120	2,654	3,371	2,827	4,107	3,432
Cheshire	6,515	5,372	4,592	3,871	4,463	3,803
Cleveland	6,597	5,080	4,611	3,819	4,013	3,383
Cumbria	3,446	2,753	2,855	2,199	2,654	2,098
Derbyshire	6,326	5,505	5,869	5,190	4,352	3,841
Devon and Cornwall	8,943	6,178	7,404	5,241	7,500	5,348
Dorset	6,075	3,618	5,752	3,584	5,177	3,207
Durham	5,300	4,029	4,454	3,186	3,285	2,427
Essex	7,132	5,323	7,035	5,413	6,507	5,340
Gloucestershire	3,695	2,438	3,500	2,042	2,838	1,876
Greater Manchester	34,942	26,722	30,280	22,869	26,516	20,263
Hampshire	9,750	7,467	7,882	6,251	6,529	5,356
Hertfordshire	7,463	5,382	7,763	5,716	7,641	5,849
Humberside	5,170	4,298	4,840	4,136	5,085	4,406

Number of offences

Police force area	2004 Total proceedings	2004 Total findings of guilt	2005 Total proceedings	2005 Total findings of guilt	2006 Total proceedings	2006 Total findings of guilt
Kent	10,673	8,347	8,535	7,050	8,154	7,055
Lancashire	16,065	9,948	17,960	10,945	15,246	9,448
Leicestershire	10,833	7,790	7,306	5,340	5,912	4,345
Lincolnshire	6,621	4,766	5,644	3,907	5,242	3,873
London, City of	2,812	1,122	1,499	1,068	1,575	1,130
Merseyside	13,023	10,385	10,728	8,757	7,807	6,591
Metropolitan Police	47,806	36,465	47,223	36,033	46,132	37,075
Norfolk	5,084	3,734	4,442	3,436	4,054	3,175
Northamptonshire	5,804	4,641	4,441	3,606	3,859	3,101
Northumbria	11,685	9,106	11,728	9,348	10,347	8,629
North Yorkshire	4,065	2,508	3,865	2,569	3,270	2,298
Nottinghamshire	9,224	7,755	7,358	6,299	5,994	5,097
South Yorkshire	11,416	8,497	11,246	8,484	10,307	7,838
Staffordshire	7,439	6,317	7,224	5,959	6,328	5,399
Suffolk	5,718	3,541	4,279	2,738	3,799	2,499
Surrey	3,927	2,581	4,491	2,874	4,173	2,712
Sussex	4,371	3,068	4,569	3,370	5,074	3,763
Thames Valley	12,920	9,144	11,255	7,887	10,329	7,600
Warwickshire	4,160	3,433	3,469	2,958	3,512	2,981
West Mercia	7,249	5,498	7,144	5,604	7,042	5,679
West Midlands	39,696	27,453	34,786	24,890	29,998	21,378
West Yorkshire	32,404	20,175	26,667	16,220	21,641	13,751
Wiltshire	4,641	2,778	4,599	2,814	4,466	2,793
Dyfed-Powys	2,244	1,645	2,639	1,890	2,413	1,745
Gwent	3,474	2,961	3,241	2,761	3,088	2,670
North Wales	6,022	4,773	4,211	3,331	5,057	3,969
South Wales	15,946	11,143	12,605	8,694	11,805	7,984
England and Wales	441,819	320,445	392,763	287,198	353,481	265,788

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2)
[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Average fine imposed[1] at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

£

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	259	204	165	182	130	133	138	154	154	155
Bedfordshire	314	293	274	226	164	169	137	143	156	183
Cambridgeshire	221	209	215	182	119	118	131	152	171	182
Cheshire	274	248	237	211	149	153	167	179	190	195
Cleveland	162	167	170	179	167	173	171	189	202	210
Cumbria	150	171	220	265	152	151	159	169	171	186
Derbyshire	270	279	283	296	337	355	367	367	376	372
Devon and Cornwall	184	185	178	179	133	132	127	134	145	150
Dorset	295	302	301	261	121	114	125	158	171	176
Durham	181	177	194	160	118	122	121	116	123	132
Essex	174	149	140	123	101	104	112	164	182	202
Gloucestershire	154	202	247	240	91	86	133	147	143	140
Greater Manchester	245	226	236	232	152	151	157	167	176	181
Hampshire	132	135	138	136	119	122	124	131	138	141
Hertfordshire	193	164	173	204	155	166	181	198	208	216
Humberside	159	148	143	137	122	132	137	150	180	194
Kent	246	241	227	271	209	192	191	197	204	221
Lancashire	332	296	237	219	111	113	141	156	169	183
Leicestershire	318	318	276	254	134	135	138	150	145	152
Lincolnshire	159	197	209	188	133	134	148	179	185	196
London, City of	332	314	346	375	369	368	334	230	198	214
Merseyside	200	203	200	207	163	167	148	137	141	147
Metropolitan Police	202	185	184	169	139	140	143	147	165	179
Norfolk	242	256	265	210	99	107	139	152	152	165

Table B: Average fine imposed[1] at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

£

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004	2005	2006
Northamptonshire	243	286	310	280	280	339	245	183	156	172
Northumbria	136	146	148	144	130	135	135	137	142	148
North Yorkshire	249	236	230	211	130	136	141	166	177	185
Nottinghamshire	164	165	153	150	152	156	152	188	138	147
South Yorkshire	194	206	191	170	128	137	146	125	147	143
Staffordshire	251	228	234	198	152	163	166	186	230	256
Suffolk	193	192	192	183	128	138	133	136	156	162
Surrey	243	242	215	218	201	215	221	197	195	217
Sussex	218	186	181	167	118	117	138	162	170	169
Thames Valley	292	257	268	250	134	135	158	198	206	217
Warwickshire	228	175	177	188	156	168	164	210	200	230
West Mercia	268	282	282	263	176	180	165	193	208	218
West Midlands	207	190	189	201	169	192	200	206	207	211
West Yorkshire	255	242	242	209	120	123	134	144	144	146
Wiltshire	152	182	186	204	283	286	280	200	208	228
Dyfed-Powys	183	182	175	169	155	166	172	187	184	191
Gwent	253	225	225	208	148	154	171	157	171	172
North Wales	210	226	272	230	144	150	149	154	163	173
South Wales	190	180	183	188	159	173	158	154	149	158
England and Wales	224	214	212	203	150	155	160	169	177	185

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2)
[3] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Fixed penalty notices issued for the endorsable offence of driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003[2] to 2006

Police force area	2003[2]	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	5	47	63	115
Bedfordshire	0	0	62	154
Cambridgeshire	0	63	53	138
Cheshire	0	40	101	203
Cleveland	48	70	159	102
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	112
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	42	80
Dorset	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	7	13
Essex	0	0	6	362
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	3
Greater Manchester	9	44	13	3
Hampshire	0	111	125	393
Hertfordshire	11	177	389	532
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	10	12	31	249
Lancashire	42	91	174	409
Leicestershire	34	62	19	212
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	46
London, City of	2	21	9	51
Merseyside	0	0	0	102
Metropolitan Police	43	147	490	1,408
Norfolk	0	0	0	..
Northamptonshire	5	40	93	74
Northumbria	38	7	4	12
North Yorkshire	33	95	92	121
Nottinghamshire	21	42	101	162
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	36	122	152	274
Suffolk	0	0	0	95
Surrey	0	0	0	12

Table C: Fixed penalty notices issued for the endorsable offence of driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003[2] to 2006

Police force area	2003[2]	2004	2005	2006
Sussex	0	0	0	115
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	31	50	70	146
West Mercia	0	0	32	281
West Midlands	0	37	0	3
West Yorkshire	3	46	104	328
Wiltshire	0	0	0	141
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0
North Wales	87	139	297	200
South Wales	0	0	0	0
England and Wales	458	1,463	2,688	6,651

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
[3] Force unable to supply data due to technical reasons.
Notes:
1. Offenders are subject to a £200 fixed penalty. However this can be increased to a maximum of £5,000 if the matter goes to court.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electoral Register

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the percentage of voter registration is estimated to be in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in England; [218824]

(2) what the target level for voter registration is; [218827]

(3) what plans he has to enable local authorities to maximise voter registration. [218828]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any estimate of the percentage of voter registration in each constituency and local authority area in England. The Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote in their report, Understanding Electoral Registration, which was published in September 2005. However the number of electors registered in England continues to grow and between 2 December 2006 and 1 December 2007 the number of parliamentary electors grew from 37,588,775 to 37,817,466 and the number of local government electors grew from 38,223,259 to 38,599,775.

The Government have not set any target level for voter registration, as we believe that all eligible electors should be registered to vote. To support this aim we have taken a number of steps to increase voter registration rates. Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries and inspecting records that they are permitted to inspect. It is for the ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with. To support such activities we have made £2.5 million available each financial year under our Participation Fund, which allows EROs to apply for additional funding to assist them in promoting electoral awareness within their areas.

The Act also includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for EROs. The Electoral Commission is currently developing these standards and the final set of standards will be published during July 2008. A copy of these standards will be laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will give us a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration.

Incapacity Benefit: Fraud

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people previously in receipt of incapacity benefit who have had their entitlement to benefit withdrawn following a medical assessment appealed against the decision in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those appeals were successful. [219451]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service holds data on the number of appeals made against decisions regarding incapacity benefit. This includes information on anyone who may have been refused incapacity benefit on their initial claim. It is not possible to specify the number of appeals made by people who have previously been in receipt of incapacity benefit and who have subsequently had their entitlement to the benefit withdrawn following a medical assessment.

Between April 2007 to March 2008, the number of incapacity benefit appeals listed for hearing was: 65,723; the number of cases heard at hearing was: 57,806. Of these, 29,636 (45.1 per cent.) cases were successful.

Land Registry Act 2002

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Government will bring forward proposals to amend section 73(7) of the Land Registry Act 2002. [218586]

Bridget Prentice: It is possible that an amendment will be required to some of the provisions in the Land Registration Act 2002 to reflect the transfer of the Adjudicator's present jurisdiction into the proposed Lands and Housing Chamber of the First Tier Tribunal to be created under the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 and announced following the Ministry of Justice's recent consultation.

However, the changes will only reflect the transfer and will not affect the rights of the parties in these disputes. At this stage, no timetable has been fixed for making the transfer.

Sentencing

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of regional variation in sentencing practices, including custodial sentences, affecting young offenders. [218801]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board have commissioned a research study of sentencing decisions made by courts, to identify why some young people are sentenced to custody and others to community sentences. They will be considering its recommendations to inform any future work in respect of sentencing practice.

In the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 we introduced the Youth Rehabilitation Order, the new generic community sentence for young people aged under 18, and made a number of other youth justice provisions. To reflect this change we will also be asking the Sentencing Guidelines Council to produce sentencing guidelines for young people. The guidelines and training will be delivered to sentencers to help ensure consistent and appropriate application of the new sentencing framework.

Young Offenders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued to secure establishments on screening of young offenders for *(a)* mental illness, *(b)* learning difficulties and *(c)* physical disabilities. [218805]

Mr. Hanson: All young offenders receive health screening on reception into prison. This is via an evidence based initial health screen used throughout all prisons in England and originally developed by Professor Grubin of the University of Newcastle. Young offenders are also screened for their educational needs. A new reception screen for young people has been developed by the Youth Justice Board and is being piloted. It contains a section looking at disability and impairment and covers physical and mental health problems.

A general learning needs assessment is used to identify all learning difficulties and disabilities. Where problems are identified, either as a result of the health screen or the education screen, a referral to an appropriate professional would be expected to be made.

Transfer of the responsibility for commissioning health services in Young Offender Institutions, and adult prisons in England, commenced in 2003 and was fully devolved to the NHS by April 2006. Primary Care Trusts work with their partner establishments to develop a comprehensive health needs assessment of the population and commission on the basis of that need.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to prohibit imprisonment of offenders under the age of 14 years. [218806]

Mr. Hanson: We have greatly strengthened and expanded the range of pre-court diversions and community sentences available for the police and courts to use when dealing with young people who have offended. The Government's Youth Crime Action Plan, which was published on 15 July, builds on this by setting out cross-Government arrangements for tackling offending and re-offending by young people.

However, for a small minority of young people who commit serious offences, custody is the only appropriate response to what has occurred and the only means of protecting the public.

Any offender aged 14 or under who is sentenced to custody is accommodated in a secure training centre or secure children's home. These have high staffing ratios, a child-centred approach and a particular emphasis on education.

Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities there are for the detoxification of children in each *(a)* secure training centre, *(b)* secure children's home and *(c)* young offender institution. [219123]

Mr. Hanson: There is a 24-hour clinical presence in each of the young offender institutions, and in Oakhill secure training centre, which experiences and manages the greatest number of cases of drug and alcohol dependence among young people. All other secure training centres and secure children's homes have arrangements in place to identify and manage, often with the assistance of local NHS substance misuse services, cases of substance dependence.

The Youth Justice Board, Department of Health and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse are about to issue jointly developed clinical guidance for the treatment of substance dependence among young people in secure settings. This will be the first document of its kind in the world.

The guidance has been piloted in five young offender institutions (Ashfield, Downview, Hindley, New Hall and Wetherby), one secure training centre (Oakhill), and two secure children's homes (Vinney Green and Aycliffe).

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of trends in the number of children remanded in custody while awaiting trial. [218836]

Mr. Hanson: The proportion of young people held on remand in custody has remained relatively stable over the past five years. The decision to remand a young person in custody remains a matter for the courts.

The following table (based on data supplied by the Youth Justice Board) shows the number of young people remanded to custody at the end of June in the years 2003-08 and the percentage of the overall under-18 custodial population this represented.

	Number of young people remanded to custody[1]	*Percentage of under-18 custodial population*
2003	559	19.9
2004	587	21.6
2005	565	20.3
2006	648	22.2
2007	607	20.9
2008	636	20.6

[1] Young people remanded to custody on the last Friday of June 2003-08.

Young Offenders: Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police services on the use of restorative justice techniques as a way of preventing young people entering the criminal justice system. [218833]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice has not issued any guidance to local authorities and/or police services on the use of restorative justice techniques as a way of preventing young people entering the criminal justice system.

However Restorative Justice has been embedded in the youth justice system since the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act which recommends its use as part of existing disposals, if appropriate for the individual/s involved. Restorative justice approaches can be found in both out-of-court and in-court disposals-for example, in reprimands, warnings, referral orders-and will also play a part in the delivery of youth conditional cautions and the youth rehabilitation order which form part of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

We announced in the children's plan that we will be piloting a new out of court disposal that will sit below reprimands and final warnings. This will be the youth restorative disposal which uses restorative techniques to allow a young person to apologise for committing an offence thus making them take responsibility for their actions at the scene of the offence.

Our commitment to the use of restorative justice when dealing with young offenders is further evidenced by its inclusion in the youth crime action plan as part of our vision for the future of youth justice.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Flood Control

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities exercising their discretionary powers to discount council tax for flood victims. [219731]

John Healey: No estimate has been made of the number of local authorities exercising their discretionary powers to reduce the council tax payable in respect of properties damaged by floods.

The Government are, however, currently seeking information from local authorities to determine which of them intend to use their discretionary powers under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discounts in respect of the council tax payable on properties which are still vacant and require major repairs due to the floods of June and July 2007. The Government recently announced their intention to provide financial support to those authorities who exercise their discretion under section 13 A in these circumstances.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place in her Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219604]

Mr. Dhanda: All official hospitality is recorded in a hospitality register, held at directorate level. Human resources require register holders to supply aggregate figures from time to time, and conducts spot-checks on the registers themselves.

Departmental Press

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the communications and press budget for her Department has been in each year since its establishment. [215742]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The Department was established in 2006. The pay budget for the Department's Communications Directorate is as follows:

Financial year	£
2006-07	3,328,565
2007/08	3,601,646

This includes press office costs of £1,465,772 in financial year 2007-08.

For the press office element of the overall budget in previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of her Department's budget and that of its predecessor was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218061]

Mr. Dhanda: The proportion of my Department and its predecessor's spend on research since1998-99 against the total Departmental spend for that particular year is set out in the following table.

Financial year	Proportion of research expenditure against total departmental spend (percentage)
Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions	
1998-99	0.3
1999-2000	0.3
2000-01	0.4
Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions	
2001-02	0.1
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	
2002-03	0.1
2003-04	0.1
2004-05	0.1
2005-06	0.1
Communities and Local Government	
2006-07	0.1
2007-08	0.1

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentation on the inclusion of a return path within help scheme equipment referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting of 27 February 2008. [215266]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of the presentation made at the Emerging Technologies Group meeting of 27 February 2008 will be deposited in the Library of the House. One slide has been omitted from the slideshow since at this stage the disclosure of that slide would be likely to be prejudicial to ongoing discussions between Government Departments about the development of the policy.

Eco-towns

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the advertisement from her Department on eco-towns published in the Stratford Herald indicated that the site of the proposed eco-town at Long Marston fell entirely within Warwickshire; and if she will arrange for corrected versions of the advertisement to be placed in local newspapers in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Gloucestershire. [212747]

Caroline Flint: As part of the first stage of consultation the details of all the shortlisted locations, including Middle Quinton/Long Marston, are set out in the expressions of interest submitted by bidders, and these informed the summaries of the proposed locations set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future". These details are available from our website together with further information about the schemes. Warwickshire was given as the location for the Middle Quinton proposal as the bulk of the scheme lies in that county. In any future material we will make clear that parts of the scheme extend across the boundary into Worcestershire and also have an impact on Gloucestershire.

We have just completed the first stage of consultation and through this and ongoing work we are assembling more details about sites, including Middle Quinton/Long Marston. In the second stage we will publish—for further consultation—a draft planning policy statement and a draft sustainability appraisal which will set out more detail for each location. Also as part of this there will be further consultation events around the shortlisted locations to provide further information and listen to the public's views, and details will be provided to media in all three counties.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to speed up planning procedures in respect of applications for developments of eco-towns. [217804]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) today (PQ 213886).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which of the sites proposed for an eco-town and not included on the shortlist her Department or its predecessor has *(a)* sold or *(b)* otherwise disposed of land under arrangements whereby her Department would benefit from a future sale of the land in the last 10 years. [210092]

Caroline Flint: One of the Department's agencies, English Partnerships, holds surplus public sector land which is included in the bid for the Pennbury eco-town proposals outside Leicester, which is one of the shortlisted sites.

As regards other former ownerships, information about land sold or disposed of by my Department and its predecessors in the last 10 years in relation to the other shortlisted eco-town sites, and those not shortlisted for further consultation and assessment, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means she plans to accelerate the planning process for eco-towns. [213886]

Caroline Flint: The draft eco-towns planning policy statement, which we will publish in draft for consultation, will become a useful addition to the policy framework and will set out how local planning authorities will consider eco-towns through the planning system, which we already have in place. The eco-towns planning policy statement will be an important material consideration in the determination of any planning application for an eco-town, particularly where the development plan is silent or out of date.

Eco-towns: Greenbelt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1037W, on eco-towns: planning permission, and the answer to the

hon. Member for the Cotswolds of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2303W, on eco-towns: green belt, which eco-town bids involve greenfield development; and what estimated number of hectares of greenfield land would be developed in each case. [213580]

Caroline Flint: Most of the eco-town proposals include a mix of brownfield and greenfield land. Initial summaries of greenfield/brownfield were included in the consultation paper "Eco-towns—living a greener future" published on 3 April. Several of the schemes have since been adjusted in the light of consultation with local partners and we will set out an updated summary of this information when the Eco-towns update document is published.

Empty Property

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1355W, on empty property, what estimate she has made of the number of homes that will be made available using the £200 million fund; and what assessment she has made of the effect this initiative and the Settled Homes Initiative will have on *(a)* the numbers of households on housing waiting lists and *(b)* the number of empty properties on the housing market. [219792]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have given Housing Corporation flexibility in 2008-09 to acquire up to £200 million worth of completed stock that can be put to use as affordable housing. We estimate that this will enable the purchase of between 3,000 to 5,000 properties. So far the Housing Corporation has allocated some £19 million, since the scheme was announced in May, bringing over 600 homes into the affordable housing programme.

If properties at the right price, in the right locations and offering good standards are available, the Housing Corporation will consider investing further resources to support delivery of our demanding affordable housing targets.

In 2007, £30 million was provided for the Settled Homes Initiative which will enable six schemes in London to purchase around 900 empty homes and convert them over time into quality settled social housing.

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of A-rated energy labelled circulator pumps installed in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [219267]

Mr. Iain Wright: The labelling scheme on circulators is voluntary and therefore the Government do not hold information on the number of A rated circulator pumps installed in the UK.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to include energy efficient circulator pumps within Part L of the Buildings Regulations for domestic and non-domestic properties; and if she will make a statement. [219268]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has started a review of the energy efficiency provisions within Part L of the Building Regulations. As part of this we are considering the potential for introduction of energy efficiency standards for pumps in domestic and non-domestic properties. Any such proposals would be the subject of formal consultation in 2009 with the aim of making amendments that would come into effect in 2010.

Housing Renewal Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for establishing new *(a)* output targets and *(b)* funding agreements for Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders. [217849]

Mr. Iain Wright: Discussions with housing market renewal partnerships to agree output targets and funding agreements for 2008-09 are in hand. We expect to have completed new funding agreements, containing output targets, by September. As before, copies of these funding agreements will be placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of conditions in the economy on plans to build 83,200 houses in Hertfordshire by 2021. [219341]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 497W, to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy).

Housing: Sales

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of current trends in the housing market; what steps she plans to take to implement the lifetime homes standard in current market conditions; and if she will make a statement. [219795]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not publish forecasts for house prices or house-building. The National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, launched in February this year, stated that we would be undertaking a review of the take-up of Lifetimes Homes Standards across all sectors in 2010 in order to decide what further measures may be necessary to drive change in this area. This review will look at all relevant considerations including market conditions.

In the meantime, the up-take of Lifetime Homes Standards continues to be encouraged through our policy of making them a required element in the Code for Sustainable Homes at Level 6 from 2008, Level 4 from 2010 and Level 3 from 2013. This will have the effect of ensuring that all publicly funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the savings which will accrue to local authorities from implementing the lifetime homes standard. [219793]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the consultation document 'The Future of the Code for Sustainable Homes (Making a rating mandatory)' (July 2007) we published a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment which estimated that the total quantified benefits arising from implementation of Lifetime Homes Standards would be £95.2 million per year. A breakdown of the costs and benefits are provided in that document. The proportion of this benefit accruing to local authorities is not specifically identified.

Local Authorities: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the role of parish and town councils as *(a)* residential landlords and *(b)* housing enablers. [219186]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department supports the development of a wide range of capable, viable and well managed housing providers. The Department has not made any assessment of the role of parish and town councils as residential landlords or housing enablers.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* financial assistance her Department has provided to local authorities to invoke (i) mandatory and selective houses in multiple occupation licensing powers and (ii) the Housing Health and Safety Rating System since the implementation of the Housing Act 2004. [219522]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has published guidance for local authorities on the criteria for making applications for additional houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing and selective licensing schemes. The Department has also published Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Operating Guidance for local authorities and Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Enforcement Guidance and Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Guidance for landlords and property related professionals.

The Department has funded the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) to support local housing authorities in England and Wales in implementing mandatory HMO licensing and on the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. LACORS issues guidance, advice, and coordinates and disseminates best practice in relation to regulation of private sector housing.

Planning: Public Participation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the use of charrettes to involve local people in the planning process *(a)* in Hertfordshire and *(b)* elsewhere. [219697]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has made no assessment of this particular technique either in Hertfordshire or elsewhere. The choice of methods for consultation is a local matter.

Poverty

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the 100 most deprived wards in the UK were in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [219631]

John Healey: Data on deprivation are no longer collected at ward level. However, the following tables provide details of the 100 most deprived lower super output areas (LSOA) in England for 2004 and 2007. LSOAs have between 1,000 and 3,000 people living in them and, in most cases, are smaller than wards. The tables provide the name of the ward in which the LSOA is situated, as well as the local authority district.

Most deprived lower super output areas in England: 2004

Rank of IMD[1]	*LSOA code*	*Ward name*	*LA name*
1	E01006559	Breckfield	Liverpool
2	E01005204	Harpurhey	Manchester
3	E01006755	Speke	Liverpool
4	E01005133	Central	Manchester
5	E01005203	Harpurhey	Manchester
6	E01005067	Ardwick	Manchester
7	E01006468	Princess	Knowsley
8	E01006676	Granby	Liverpool
9	E01005202	Harpurhey	Manchester
10	E01006561	Breckfield	Liverpool
11	E01005106	Bradford	Manchester
12	E01005108	Bradford	Manchester
13	E01006778	Vauxhall	Liverpool
14	E01006469	Princess	Knowsley
15	E01006436	Kirkby Central	Knowsley
16	E01005484	Central and Falinge	Rochdale
17	E01012070	Middlehaven	Middlesbrough
18	E01005482	Central and Falinge	Rochdale
19	E01014656	Lawrence Hill	Bristol, City of
20	E01005240	Moss Side	Manchester
21	E01005205	Harpurhey	Manchester
22	E01006599	Clubmoor	Liverpool
23	E01007122	Bidston	Wirral
24	E01005228	Lightbowne	Manchester
25	E01012891	St. Andrew's	Kingston upon Hull, City of
26	E01006647	Everton	Liverpool
27	E01006777	Vauxhall	Liverpool
28	E01013818	Aspley	Nottingham
29	E01006515	Abercromby	Liverpool
30	E01005129	Central	Manchester
31	E01005609	Blackfriars	Salford
32	E01006703	Melrose	Liverpool
33	E01006646	Everton	Liverpool
34	E01006704	Melrose	Liverpool
35	E01005658	Langworthy	Salford
36	E01011372	City and Holbeck	Leeds
37	E01005350	Coldhurst	Oldham
38	E01006563	Breckfield	Liverpool
39	E01006560	Breckfield	Liverpool
40	E01009638	St. Michael's	Coventry
41	E01006598	Clubmoor	Liverpool

Most deprived lower super output areas in England: 2004

Rank of IMD[1]	LSOA code	Ward name	LA name
42	E01006467	Princess	Knowsley
43	E01005095	Beswick and Clayton	Manchester
44	E01005130	Central	Manchester
45	E01012895	Southcoates East	Kingston upon Hull, City of
46	E01006750	Smithdown	Liverpool
47	E01008439	West City	Newcastle upon Tyne
48	E01013956	St. Ann's	Nottingham
49	E01005132	Central	Manchester
50	E01006494	Tower Hill	Knowsley
51	E01006493	Tower Hill	Knowsley
52	E01011361	Chapel Allerton	Leeds
53	E01006674	Granby	Liverpool
54	E01006442	Longview	Knowsley
55	E01026625	Nelson	Great Yarmouth
56	E01007124	Bidston	Wirral
57	E01007132	Birkenhead	Wirral
58	E01012041	Gresham	Middlesbrough
59	E01005065	Ardwick	Manchester
60	E01009585	Henley	Coventry
61	E01012069	Middlehaven	Middlesbrough
62	E01010730	Little Horton	Bradford
63	E01006756	Speke	Liverpool
64	E01013137	East Marsh	North East Lincolnshire
65	E01008291	Benwell	Newcastle upon Tyne
66	E01006447	Northwood	Knowsley
67	E01005201	Gorton South	Manchester
68	E01009365	Sparkbrook	Birmingham
69	E01007293	Tranmere	Wirral
70	E01007127	Birkenhead	Wirral
71	E01008214	Felling	Gateshead
72	E01006691	Kensington	Liverpool
73	E01005144	Cheetham	Manchester
74	E01006779	Vauxhall	Liverpool
75	E01005257	Newton Heath	Manchester
76	E01006470	Princess	Knowsley
77	E01006740	St. Mary's	Liverpool
78	E01011663	Seacroft	Leeds
79	E01010732	Little Horton	Bradford
80	E01012875	Orchard Park and Greenwood	Kingston upon Hull, City of
81	E01005213	Hulme	Manchester
82	E01008012	Manor	Sheffield
83	E01011357	Chapel Allerton	Leeds
84	E01006638	Dovecot	Liverpool
85	E01013960	St. Ann's	Nottingham
86	E01012028	Clairville	Middlesbrough
87	E01004672	Church Street	Westminster
88	E01009488	Washwood Heath	Birmingham
89	E01014653	Lawrence Hill	Bristol, City of
90	E01012266	Portrack and Tilery	Stockton-on-Tees
91	E01006679	Granby	Liverpool
92	E01005612	Broughton	Salford
93	E01006630	Dingle	Liverpool
94	E01006732	Pirrie	Liverpool
95	E01005142	Cheetham	Manchester
96	E01008380	Kenton	Newcastle upon Tyne
97	E01006448	Northwood	Knowsley
98	E01008818	Southwick	Sunderland
99	E01005243	Moss Side	Manchester
100	E01006540	Anfield	Liverpool

[1] Where 1 is most deprived

Most deprived lower super output areas in England: 2007

Rank of IMD[1]	LSOA code	Ward name	LA name
1	E01006755	Speke	Liverpool
2	E01005204	Harpurhey	Manchester
3	E01021988	Golf Green	Tendring
4	E01012721	Park	Blackpool
5	E01006778	Vauxhall	Liverpool
6	E01006467	Princess	Knowsley
7	E01006559	Breckfield	Liverpool
8	E01006561	Breckfield	Liverpool
9	E01006469	Princess	Knowsley
10	E01012673	Bloomfield	Blackpool
11	E01005484	Central and Falinge	Rochdale
12	E01006676	Granby	Liverpool
13	E01024858	Bank Hall	Burnley
14	E01008836	Thornholme	Sunderland
15	E01005482	Central and Falinge	Rochdale
16	E01009585	Henley	Coventry
17	E01005466	Balderstone	Rochdale
18	E01009365	Sparkbrook	Birmingham
19	E01006647	Everton	Liverpool
20	E01006469	Princess	Knowsley
21	E01013137	East Marsh	North East Lincolnshire
22	E01007532	Central	Doncaster
23	E01012070	Middlehaven	Middlesbrough
24	E01006699	Clubmoor	Liverpool
25	E01006703	Melrose	Liverpool
26	E01007122	Bidston	Wirral
27	E01006740	St. Mary's	Liverpool
28	E01008380	Kenton	Newcastle upon Tyne
29	E01006646	Everton	Liverpool
30	E01012720	Park	Blackpool
31	E01012041	Gresham	Middlesbrough
32	E01006699	Melrose	Liverpool
33	E01006563	Breckfield	Liverpool
34	E01006560	Breckfield	Liverpool
35	E01012655	Wensley Fold	Blackburn with Darwen
36	E01013818	Aspley	Nottingham
37	E01006756	Speke	Liverpool
38	E01010606	Bowling	Bradford
39	E01005067	Ardwick	Manchester
40	E01005658	Langworthy	Salford
41	E01012875	Orchard Park and Greenwood	Kingston upon Hull, City of
42	E01006442	Longview	Knowsley
43	E01007127	Birkenhead	Wirral
44	E01012678	Brunswick	Blackpool
45	E01006674	Granby	Liverpool
46	E01006630	Dingle	Liverpool
47	E01005568	Newbold	Rochdale
48	E01024908	Trinity	Burnley
49	E01006777	Vauxhall	Liverpool
50	E01005256	Newton Heath	Manchester
51	E01006732	Pirrie	Liverpool
52	E01005655	Langworthy	Salford
53	E01006679	Granby	Liverpool
54	E01028276	Ravensdale	Mansfield
55	E01006704	Melrose	Liverpool
56	E01005350	Coldhurst	Oldham
57	E01005196	Gorton South	Manchester
58	E01006540	Anfield	Liverpool
59	E01013139	East Marsh	North East Lincolnshire
60	E01010485	Low Hill	Wolverhampton

Most deprived lower super output areas in England: 2007

Rank of IMD[1]	*LSOA code*	*Ward name*	*LA name*
61	E01013136	East Marsh	North East Lincolnshire
62	E01024877	Daneshouse with Stoneyholme	Burnley
63	E01005228	Lightbowne	Manchester
64	E01006515	Abercromby	Liverpool
65	E01010617	Bowling	Bradford
66	E01009488	Washwood Heath	Birmingham
67	E01025041	Central	Hyndburn
68	E01008291	Benwell	Newcastle upon Tyne
69	E01012266	Portrack and Tilery	Stockton-on-Tees
70	E01020909	Woodhouse Close	Wear Valley
71	E01012069	Middlehaven	Middlesbrough
72	E01010823	Undercliffe	Bradford
73	E01012114	Grangetown	Redcar and Cleveland
74	E01005096	Beswick and Clayton	Manchester
75	E01009358	Soho	Birmingham
76	E01006779	Vauxhall	Liverpool
77	E01006677	Granby	Liverpool
78	E01009476	Washwood Heath	Birmingham
79	E01006558	Breckfield	Liverpool
80	E01012897	Southcoates East	Kingston upon Hull, City of
81	E01008011	Manor	Sheffield
82	E01006598	Clubmoor	Liverpool
83	E01005099	Blackley	Manchester
84	E01005203	Harpurhey	Manchester
85	E01006760	Tuebrook	Liverpool
86	E01009379	Sparkbrook	Birmingham
87	E01025286	Ribbleton	Preston
88	E01006417	Cherryfield	Knowsley
89	E01005667	Ordsall	Salford
90	E01005612	Broughton	Salford
91	E01007132	Birkenhead	Wirral
92	E01008214	Felling	Gateshead
93	E01015842	Kursaal	Southend-on-Sea
94	E01005205	Harpurhey	Manchester
95	E01007133	Birkenhead	Wirral
96	E01006470	Princess	Knowsley
97	E01007128	Birkenhead	Wirral
98	E01015155	St. Peter and the Waterfront	Plymouth
99	E01006746	Smithdown	Liverpool
100	E01005613	Broughton	Salford

[1] Where 1 is most deprived

Regional Spatial Strategies: Eco-towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W, on eco-towns, whether regional spatial strategies will include plans for eco-town developments where the development is not supported by the local planning authority. [213932]

Caroline Flint: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) set out a vision for how a region can tackle housing shortages and affordability. New eco-towns could be part of how regions meet their housing shortfall.

The 15 shortlisted eco-town locations have only reached the first stage. Bids that have cleared the first hurdle will face considerably tougher tests ahead if they progress and will need to improve proposals still further. All the shortlisted locations will face further examination including public consultation and a detailed sustainability appraisal which will test the merits and challenges for each one. Importantly no new eco-town housing will be on the green belt.

All proposals for eco-towns will be subject to the planning process and subject to local planning decisions. However it is too early to speculate on what may happen in each local area and on local planning authority support.

Rented Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation governs regulation of the private rented sector; and what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals affecting regulation of the sector. [219521]

Mr. Iain Wright: Primary and secondary legislation flowing from the Housing Acts of 1985, 1988, 1996 and 2004 govern the regulation of the private rented sector. In January of this year we announced an independent review of the private rented sector to be carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes at the university of York. The review has a wide ranging terms of reference including regulation of the sector and will report in October 2008. We will consider any proposals for legislation that emerge as part of work on the Housing Green Paper due later this year.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations have *(a)* met the team leading the independent review of the private rented sector announced by her Department on 23 January 2008 and *(b)* been invited to contribute to the review of houses in multiple occupation announced by the Housing Minister on 9 April 2008. [219532]

Mr. Iain Wright: The independent review of the private rented sector is not due to report until October this year and, therefore, it is not possible to give a full list of organisations that the review team have met. So far the team have met over 200 stakeholders, ranging from Government interests and consumer groups to landlords and institutional investors, through one to one and round table meetings. A list of all organisations which have had an input to the team's evidence gathering will be included in the report on the review when it is issued in October.

ECOTEC Research and Consulting, the organisation undertaking research into high concentrations of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) on behalf of the Department, has spoken to a range of stakeholders including representatives of local authorities, universities, housing providers and their representative bodies, members of the national HMO lobby and colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive. A full list of organisations that took part in interviews and focus groups will be published as part of the research.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions for (i) being drunk and disorderly, (ii) being found drunk on a highway, public place or on licensed premises and (iii) being drunk in or when entering a designated sports event there have been in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [219162]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court for the offences of (i) being drunk and disorderly (ii) being drunk on a highway, public place or on licensed premises and (iii) being drunk in or when entering a designated sports event can be found in the following tables. Data have been broken down by police force area in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006.

The arrests collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Details of the circumstances of an arrest are not collected centrally. Summary offences of 'being drunk and disorderly' are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selected alcohol related offences, broken down by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2]

	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour[3]									
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	361	374	383	363	399	408	427	371	226	187
Bedfordshire	166	314	220	186	187	197	219	136	84	80
Cambridgeshire	122	144	159	148	151	154	189	167	169	132
Cheshire	586	714	652	590	563	648	652	505	84	111
City of London	26	31	54	43	44	53	70	53	51	61
Cleveland	774	707	708	684	621	630	715	631	205	95
Cumbria	808	812	802	521	558	514	525	471	328	322
Derbyshire	294	286	231	254	292	357	425	342	211	228
Devon and Cornwall	888	771	709	704	817	895	672	477	365	480
Dorset	272	390	343	406	469	551	520	166	98	87
Durham	406	504	491	538	563	541	603	406	378	286
Essex	515	490	553	584	513	409	194	204	183	255
Gloucestershire	147	200	153	158	164	180	201	139	62	44
Greater Manchester	1,415	1,307	1,206	1,215	1,067	1,005	965	505	260	183
Hampshire	1,270	1,393	1,306	1,133	1,072	1,117	977	590	455	251
Hertfordshire	296	337	388	381	406	508	449	365	255	79
Humberside	250	225	255	234	247	213	213	127	163	138
Kent	560	720	865	900	911	928	1,107	1,118	532	436
Lancashire	1,618	1,673	1,827	2,165	2,366	2,210	2,180	908	615	560
Leicestershire	27	27	37	24	26	26	19	18	12	16
Lincolnshire	478	624	584	458	506	528	556	484	70	60
Merseyside	2,967	2,940	2,151	1,979	1,926	2,118	2,039	1,348	692	765
Metropolitan Police	1,449	1,550	1,440	1,219	1,494	2,464	2,466	1,182	908	1,104
Norfolk	108	114	115	131	146	151	183	94	58	51
North Yorkshire	342	382	411	459	482	452	512	195	202	212
Northamptonshire	26	24	21	29	33	29	25	32	41	31
Northumbria	3,122	3,567	3,548	3,859	3,516	3,587	3,944	3,939	4,532	4,352
Nottinghamshire	563	570	526	482	529	507	501	261	224	262
South Yorkshire	1,186	968	1,148	1,264	1,248	1,271	1,497	1,204	551	544
Staffordshire	320	305	247	[4]	215	251	343	223	209	160
Suffolk	269	212	213	228	267	333	357	337	217	201
Surrey	208	208	280	412	473	477	439	289	247	121
Sussex	522	512	398	512	631	733	801	474	266	371
Thames Valley	1,086	1,305	1,161	979	997	979	1,090	895	282	232
Warwickshire	309	666	286	228	195	125	162	111	27	35
West Mercia	654	574	561	488	543	455	413	483	516	437
West Midlands	1,102	846	522	472	437	463	307	531	373	797
West Yorkshire	2,655	2,764	3,097	2,809	2,101	2,071	2,260	714	687	1,384
Wiltshire	370	426	267	275	262	284	426	290	147	105
Dyfed-Powys	200	198	153	145	162	173	223	214	162	122
Gwent	748	532	420	360	308	273	207	263	238	209
North Wales	824	1,006	949	799	839	669	545	436	220	222
South Wales	1,582	1,583	1,212	1,162	998	802	725	903	737	335
England and Wales	31,891	33,295	31,052	29,980	29,744	30,739	31,343	22,601	16,342	16,143

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level.

Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premise[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	62	65	94	83	74	86	85	93	97	81
Bedfordshire	54	153	96	52	31	20	48	28	31	17
Cambridgeshire	37	31	39	46	51	51	71	48	55	59
Cheshire	73	63	50	36	18	24	26	13	3	19
City of London	5	1	1	7	1	—	—	2	—	1
Cleveland	4	13	—	2	3	2	3	4	3	5
Cumbria	43	42	25	14	18	16	9	24	21	19
Derbyshire	38	43	47	64	60	53	40	11	6	8
Devon and Cornwall	284	300	332	249	216	228	185	106	77	81
Dorset	13	15	18	29	12	13	15	11	4	—
Durham	24	39	38	22	45	22	7	8	16	14
Essex	230	209	173	137	117	53	12	15	5	10
Gloucestershire	53	90	57	34	35	34	20	14	14	17
Greater Manchester	7	15	12	6	9	4	11	6	7	3
Hampshire	355	488	350	240	166	131	77	58	55	22
Hertfordshire	21	47	66	43	32	21	18	19	14	1
Humberside	12	13	14	6	5	6	5	2	1	—
Kent	157	148	148	148	144	154	154	123	58	47
Lancashire	216	222	191	249	186	181	71	37	45	16
Leicestershire	—	1	6	5	—	3	1	1	1	1
Lincolnshire	36	51	27	26	15	16	10	9	3	4
Merseyside	50	56	40	36	41	33	19	13	8	8
Metropolitan Police	263	289	251	172	316	191	150	119	128	100
Norfolk	66	66	68	68	58	58	72	40	27	14
North Yorkshire	82	95	87	136	138	146	120	59	37	32
Northamptonshire	7	6	6	7	1	9	3	5	3	4
Northumbria	25	34	48	32	22	21	16	34	36	47
Nottinghamshire	2	12	7	6	11	9	12	—	4	3
South Yorkshire	19	17	22	33	14	9	6	13	5	2
Staffordshire	82	71	41	[2]—	17	17	37	41	43	39
Suffolk	108	81	97	72	53	61	57	66	27	29
Surrey	92	97	108	121	122	83	88	93	89	75
Sussex	226	226	130	81	130	102	88	44	56	82
Thames Valley	215	247	207	173	145	123	128	98	51	51
Warwickshire	8	99	17	9	7	7	6	2	1	—
West Mercia	99	65	78	20	23	10	6	10	1	10
West Midlands	61	53	31	21	12	9	26	22	46	52
West Yorkshire	53	107	73	71	29	37	92	76	35	44
Wiltshire	68	73	66	52	60	53	50	66	80	72
Dyfed-Powys	93	153	134	138	77	72	78	63	37	66
Gwent	21	25	21	25	38	50	25	11	7	2
North Wales	17	18	15	8	4	9	9	1	3	7
South Wales	114	243	251	252	229	206	218	207	213	76
England and Wales	3,495	4,182	3,582	3,031	2,785	2,433	2,174	1,715	1,462	1,240

[1] Includes all under S12 of the Licensing Act 1872.
(a) Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
(b) Being drunk while in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage horse, cattle or steam engine.
(c) Being drunk when in possession of any loaded fire arms.
[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level.

Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	6	23	6	5	3	3	9	10	3	2
Bedfordshire	15	5	11	9	4	2	2	3	4	4
Cambridgeshire	9	6	5	5	8	4	2	4	2	—
Cheshire	4	3	2	3	1	2	5	4	—	1

Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cleveland	9	7	26	4	15	26	14	13	20	23
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	4	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1
Derbyshire	2	5	—	5	3	11	4	15	8	2
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	—	6
Dorset	6	13	3	11	12	8	3	1	3	—
Durham	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	2	5	—
Essex	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	8
Gloucestershire	—	—	3	7	6	7	1	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	9	28	9	13	7	13	11	14	28	32
Hampshire	41	15	8	16	16	9	19	22	14	11
Hertfordshire	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	2	1	3
Humberside	—	—	5	3	5	1	2	1	3	3
Kent	2	1	10	3	3	—	—	1	—	3
Lancashire	61	33	24	26	26	23	16	11	22	43
Leicestershire	—	2	2	3	—	—	4	2	4	3
Lincolnshire	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	—
Merseyside	3	9	13	10	9	8	7	7	7	2
Metropolitan Police	198	191	115	73	37	61	72	59	17	30
Norfolk	12	14	7	1	11	10	7	8	21	4
North Yorkshire	6	2	3	15	13	4	3	1	2	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Northumbria	102	43	26	20	44	42	44	16	21	24
Nottinghamshire	40	34	42	19	26	20	13	28	13	17
South Yorkshire	48	20	27	23	41	31	17	30	26	40
Staffordshire	3	1	—	[2]—	—	5	2	5	6	2
Suffolk	5	5	3	2	7	5	6	29	4	11
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
Thames Valley	15	21	6	3	9	3	2	4	5	2
West Mercia	2	—	1	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
West Midlands	59	52	25	15	55	85	72	84	103	199
West Yorkshire	32	33	30	53	68	47	25	34	49	46
Wiltshire	12	22	2	18	11	1	1	5	6	3
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	2	3	7	5	—	2	4	1	—	—
South Wales	2	6	3	2	5	—	3	3	7	3
England and Wales	713	601	430	381	452	439	376	432	409	528

1 Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 S 2(2)
2 Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of crimes in which alcohol was a contributory factor in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [215021]

Mr. Coaker: The Ministry of Justice does not hold statistics on convictions in which alcohol has been a contributory factor.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fixed penalty notices were issued and *(b)* prosecutions were brought for the offences of (i) selling alcohol to a person under age, (ii) buying alcohol under age and (iii) buying alcohol on behalf of someone under age in the last year for which figures are available. [206386]

Mr. Coaker: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued, and the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court for the offences of selling alcohol to a person under the age of 18, purchasing alcohol while under the age of 18, and purchasing alcohol on behalf of someone under 18 can be found in the following table.

Number of defendants[1] *proceeded against at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for selected alcohol related offences*[2,3,4] *England and Wales, 2006*[5,6]

Offence code	*Offence*	*Proceeded against*	*PNDs issued*
142/03,143/52,143/79 and 143/80	Selling alcohol to a person under 18[2]	1,199	3,195

Number of defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for selected alcohol related offences[2,3,4] England and Wales, 2006[5,6]

Offence code	*Offence*	*Proceeded against*	*PNDs issued*
143/16 and 143/82	Buying alcohol when under 18[3]	15	73
143/17 and 143/83	Buying alcohol on behalf of person under 18[4]	32	467
	Total	1,246	3,735

[1] Includes other defendants, for example companies and public bodies.
[2] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
(Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1))
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
(Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1))
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18
(Licensing Act 1984 Sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17)
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18
(Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) & (5))
[3] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor.
Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises
(Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2)
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2))
Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18
(Licensing Act 2003 S. 149(1X7a))
[4] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under 18
Purchasing intoxicating liquor for consumption by person under 18 in bar
(Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(3)
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(3))
Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18
(Licensing Act 2003 S149(3,4,7b))
[5] These data are on the principal offence basis
[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in each borough in London in each of the last five years. [209842]

Mr. Coaker: The number of *(a)* cautions, *(b)* prosecutions at magistrates courts for the years 2002 to 2006 and *(c)* penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for the years 2004 to 2006 for the offence of selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in the City of London and Metropolitan Police force areas can be viewed in the following table.

We are unable to provide figures on individual London boroughs as data are not collected at this level of detail by the Ministry of Justice.

Number of cautions issued, defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, and issued with a penalty notice for disorder for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 18 years, in the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Cautions[5]	*Proceeded against*	*Penalty notices for disorder*
2002	0	12	[6]—
2003	0	113	[6]—
2004	0	167	21
2005	0	253	161
2006	0	236	252

[1] Cautions and proceeded against data are on the principal offence basis. Data on PNDs are a straight count of the number issued during each year.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 schedule (s. 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 s. 169(1).
Sale of alcohol to person under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 s.146(1)
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Licensing Act 1964 s. 181A (1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 s. 17.
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 s. 147(1) and (5)
Sell alcohol to under 18
s.169A, Licensing Act 1964
Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18.
s. 146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003
[3] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the data.
[6] There are no data for 2002 and 2003 as the PND scheme was rolled out in 2004
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS— Office for Criminal Justice Reform— Ministry of Justice

Corporate Alliance on Domestic Violence

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the members are of the Corporate Alliance on Domestic Violence; what the outcomes of *(a)* meetings and *(b)* initiatives of the alliance have been over the last five years; and when it last met. [218818]

Mr. Coaker: In September 2005 the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV) was launched by the Home Secretary and taken forward by Baroness Scotland.

Since its launch over 160 new companies have joined the Alliance, which has an executive board including, The Body Shop International, KPMG, the NHS Employers organisation and AOL.

Key outcomes and initiatives have been the development of online resources such as a workplace policy template, strategic communications toolkit, case studies and information on employee training:

www.corporatealliance.co.uk

We are working with CAADV to review its terms of reference and work programme for this year.

Crime

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the performance of local authority areas in England and Wales in implementation of local crime and disorder reduction audits against objectives; and which local authorities were found to have the best audits in terms of *(a)* clarity, *(b)* mapping and *(c)* methodology in the last year for which details are available. [218536]

Mr. Coaker: Following a review of the partnerships provisions of the Crime and Disorder 1998 Act, the duties to produce three yearly audits and to report annually to the Secretary of State on a partnership's work and progress were repealed in 2007. They were replaced by new statutory requirements in 2007 to introduce minimum standards for partnership working based on six hallmarks of effective partnerships, providing clear statements of the core functions of crime and disorder reduction partnership or community safety partnership in Wales. These include producing a strategic assessment identifying local community safety priorities and a partnership plan which sets out the approach for addressing these priorities. Partnerships have a duty to publish a summary of the partnership plan in a format of their choice but in a way that makes it available to diverse groups in their communities.

We do not intend to introduce a compliance regime to oversee the implementation of the standards or the hallmarks. However, we will want to carry out a programme to review whether or not the statutory requirements of national minimum standards are in place and produce a preliminary report later in 2008.

We are also developing a self-evaluation toolkit so that partnerships can identify their own areas for improvement. Regional Government offices are also available to offer advice and assistance to partnerships and we are taking forward work with the Association of Chief Police Officers on how best to make available local crime information including mapping.

Crimes of Violence: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people under the age of 18-years-old in criminal gangs in each of the last 10 years. [218381]

Mr. Coaker: There are no reliable estimates of the number of young people involved in "gangs".

The 2004 OCJS survey estimated that 6 per cent. of young people aged 10 to 19 were classified as belonging to a "delinquent youth group" (involving a group of more than three members who had been involved in delinquent or criminal behaviour in the previous 12 months, the group also having other structural features). However, these groups are not necessarily involved in violence and would not all be considered to be "street gangs".

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the minutes of meetings of the Inter-ministerial Group on Domestic Violence; what the outcomes of *(a)* meetings and *(b)* initiatives of the group have been over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [218817]

Mr. Coaker: We do not publish the minutes of the Inter-ministerial Group on domestic violence (set up in 2003). This is because the minutes often record the considerations made when formulating and developing Government policy. Any premature disclosure may result in closing off alternative decisions or courses of action.

A report on the progress made against the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan, which the IMG oversees, is published annually. The annual reports for 2005-06; 2006-07 are on the website and the report for 2007-08 will be published shortly.

Key initiatives have been: the development of the Specialist Domestic Violence Programme; developing the co-ordinated Community Response to domestic violence; supporting the roll-out of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences; and the establishment of the Forced Marriage Unit.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to establish a register of domestic violence offenders; and if she will make a statement. [218819]

Mr. Coaker: The Government do not have any current plans to establish a register of domestic violence offenders. The Tackling Violence Action Plan however does ask crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) to develop mechanisms for sharing personal information between agencies to monitor the behaviour of potentially violent offenders and move to protect those victims most at risk.

Domestic Violence: Curriculum

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the treatment of domestic violence issues within the curriculum. [218820]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Affairs Committee Report into Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and "Honour"-Based Violence published in June this year made recommendations on the treatment of domestic violence

issues within the curriculum. The Home Office and DCSF have been working together on the Government's response to the report.

The curriculum already provides scope for the exploration of issues relating to domestic violence principally, although not exclusively, within personal, social and health education (PSHE), which includes sex and relationship education (SRE). It is important that we focus efforts on raising the overall standard of teaching in PSHE and SRE, where issues to do with healthy relationships, managing conflict and aggression would be addressed, and alerting schools to ways in which domestic violence can be used as context for exploring key concepts within the PSHE curriculum. To raise the standard of teaching we are already training teachers on PSHE, rolling out the Healthy Schools Programme and providing advice and guidance through bodies such as the QCA and PSHE Association.

We are also currently conducting two parallel reviews on how to improve the teaching of sex and relationships education and drug education within the context of PSHE. We will give careful consideration to all of the recommendations from the reviews when they report later this summer.

Domestic Violence: Re-offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the levels of reoffending rates by perpetrators of domestic violence. [218832]

Mr. Coaker: We do not collect information on re-offending by perpetrators of domestic violence centrally.

However we do have measures in place to reduce re-offending of domestic violence offenders. Firstly by focusing on the protection of victims through Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) which identify those victims most at risk of serious harm and develop interventions to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation and by managing the offender.

Secondly, three accredited domestic abuse perpetrator programmes have been developed for convicted domestic abuse perpetrators. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) and the Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP) have been fully implemented in all probation areas in England and Wales. The Healthy Relationships Programme (HRP) is run in custody. To ensure the effectiveness of the programmes, a range of evaluation projects has been commissioned.

Thirdly, we are funding RESPECT to develop national standards for perpetrator programmes outside of the criminal justice system.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to begin the new scheme targeted at domestic violence victims with no recourse to public funds, which will pay their housing and living costs if they are granted indefinite leave to remain; [217327]

(2) if her Department will establish a working group with members drawn from non-governmental organisations and women's groups to advise it on policy on women with no recourse to public funds who have experienced domestic violence. [217376]

Mr. Coaker: The development of the new scheme which will provide support to victims of domestic violence who are successful in applying for indefinite leave to remain is currently being negotiated and will be implemented later in the year. The proposals under the new scheme will strengthen the way in which domestic violence cases are considered, enabling those victims who are vulnerable to access additional support. Details of the scheme will be made available shortly.

We have established a national stakeholder advisory group on domestic violence which includes representation from organisations supporting women with no recourse to public funds. We will soon also set up a national Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) working group of Government, statutory agencies and third sector organisations that will promote a partnership approach to issues on domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, so called honour crimes and female genital mutilation. The aim of the group will be to identify and develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims of these crimes.

Drugs: Misuse

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs that benzodiazepines should be included in Schedule II of the 1985 Drugs Misuse Regulations was not accepted. [208545]

Mr. Coaker: Benzodiazepines have been controlled as Class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 since 1986. The availability of benzodiazepines for legitimate medicinal use is regulated by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. Most benzodiazepines are regulated under schedule 4, part 1 of the regulations, with the exception of temazepam, flunitrazepam and midazolam which are regulated under schedule 3. Diazepam is also subject to instalment dispensing arrangements.

In 1998, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs advised the Government that all benzodiazepines should be placed into schedule 3 subject to due consideration of the accompanying prescription and safe custody requirements under the regulations. In response to these concerns, the Government decided that rescheduling of benzodiazepines should be made on a case by case basis, with additional controls on the import, export and possession of all benzodiazepines. These controls were introduced in February 2002.

In 2004, the Advisory Council concluded that the controls for the schedule 4, part 1 benzodiazepines were sufficient, endorsing the Government's response to its earlier recommendation.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has conducted or evaluated on possible links between skunk cannabis use and employment rates. [218420]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not conducted any research or evaluation of possible links between skunk cannabis use and employment rates.

Firearms: Theft

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotguns, *(b)* rifles and *(c)* handguns were stolen in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997; and how many were subsequently (1) recovered and (2) returned to the owner. [219103]

Mr. Coaker: Data on 'misappropriated' firearms (i.e. stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly) for England and Wales are given from 1997 to 2006-07. Breakdowns of these weapons by police force area are not available centrally for years up to and including 2002-03; therefore force data levels are given only from 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Information on whether or not stolen firearms are subsequently recovered and returned to the owner is not collected centrally.

Table A: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1997 to 2002-03

Weapon type	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Shotguns	539	524	395	447	431	423	462
Rifles	193	155	179	200	172	139	129
Handguns	305	270	242	219	167	79	85

Table B: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police, England and Wales, by police force area, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04			*2004-05*			*2005-06*			*2006-07*		
Force	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*
Avon and Somerset	31	4	1	11	7	0	11	1	0	2	4	6
Bedfordshire	0	2	1	6	12	19	1	2	0	2	1	0
Cambridgeshire	9	4	2	8	0	0	7	3	0	7	9	4
Cheshire	8	1	0	13	3	1	2	1	0	6	3	3
Cleveland	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	3	3	1	2	0
Cumbria	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Derbyshire	4	0	2	35	1	0	7	1	1	7	11	4
Devon and Cornwall	4	4	0	30	7	2	11	1	11	7	8	29
Dorset	9	11	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	0
Durham	5	3	1	15	3	0	2	1	3	1	0	0
Essex	11	0	0	7	0	0	7	3	3	9	2	2
Gloucestershire	3	2	2	4	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	1
Gtr. Manchester	7	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hampshire	10	0	8	8	1	1	22	12	4	8	2	3
Hertfordshire	5	0	2	7	1	1	6	8	2	2	6	1
Humberside	19	23	0	4	12	1	3	5	4	11	20	6
Kent	16	11	3	23	1	6	2	23	0	16	9	2
Lancashire	8	1	2	7	4	1	14	2	1	2	1	3
Leicestershire	12	2	0	11	0	5	1	1	27	7	0	0
Lincolnshire	12	2	0	10	1	0	8	1	2	19	2	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Merseyside	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	3	4
Metropolitan	10	11	8	11	0	2	15	11	12	19	22	9
Norfolk	23	0	0	12	5	0	6	4	1	10	2	0
Northamptonshire	21	0	8	24	0	1	11	0	0	6	1	0
Northumbria	2	2	1	0	1	2	7	6	1	14	10	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	1
Nottinghamshire	13	1	1	10	3	18	2	1	7	1	5	3
South Yorkshire	4	0	0	7	0	0	12	4	2	6	0	5
Staffordshire	9	3	2	12	6	0	3	3	5	5	25	4
Suffolk	15	2	0	6	1	0	4	0	0	8	5	3
Surrey	6	2	0	6	3	0	9	0	0	8	7	0
Sussex	5	2	7	17	5	4	7	0	0	8	15	2
Thames Valley	49	16	12	40	18	7	10	7	6	19	7	2
Warwickshire	18	0	0	10	3	2	9	7	0	12	6	1
West Mercia	11	12	10	15	15	0	4	24	11	13	11	1
West Midlands	11	2	1	9	12	1	8	2	1	5	2	0
West Yorkshire	6	1	0	7	2	3	9	2	0	15	3	0
Wiltshire	2	2	1	6	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	1
Dyfed Powys	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

Table B: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police, England and Wales, by police force area, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
Force	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*
Gwent	2	1	2	4	0	3	0	0	2	7	0	0
North Wales	8	0	5	0	6	0	1	7	0	4	0	0
South Wales	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	397	130	96	403	140	81	243	147	110	282	210	103

[1] Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of human trafficking for sexual purposes were discovered in each of the last three years; from which countries the persons arrived; and how many successful prosecutions resulted. [219056]

Mr. Coaker: Under Operation Pentameter 1 (which concluded in 2006) there was a total of 88 victims recovered who originated from a number of countries primarily in Eastern Europe, the far east and South East Asia, Africa and South America. Under Operation Pentameter 2 (which concluded in 2008) there was a total 167 victims recovered from similar regions.

Since the inception of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 there have been 84 successful prosecutions of people for human trafficking offences, many of whom also received sentences for related offences. Under Pentameter 2 there were 528 arrests. We therefore expect the number of successful prosecutions to rise in the forthcoming months as such cases progress though the criminal justice system.

Human Trafficking: Repatriation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 167 women and children recovered under Operation Pentameter 2 have been removed from the UK; and what arrangements have been made for those who have not been removed. [218211]

Mr. Coaker: Under Pentameter 2, 31 victims of trafficking have already returned to their country of origin voluntarily. We are aware that a number of non-EEA nationals initially believed by the police to be victims have been returned to their country of origin using immigration powers. Removal of individuals confirmed to be victims of trafficking would only be sanctioned if it was considered safe and reasonable to do so in accordance with the UK's domestic and international obligations.

Adult victims who chose to accept support in the United Kingdom will have been offered a reflection and recovery period of a minimum of 30 days, support and accommodation.

Of the 13 children recovered in the operation, nine remain in the care of local authorities and four returned home voluntarily following an assessment concluding that it was safe to do so.

Money Laundering

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency has made of the extent of money laundering from social housing sales. [218278]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office looks to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to make such assessments. On 6 June 2008, SOCA published its unrestricted version of the UK Threat Assessment of Serious Organised Crime which noted the attraction property has for money launderers. SOCA continues to monitor new and emerging threats to the UK from money laundering, including the abuse of 'right to buy' property.

Police Deaths on Duty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* social workers were unlawfully killed while carrying out their duties in each year since 1997. [219007]

Mr. Coaker: Available data are from the Homicide Index and relate to offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales as at 12 November 2007. This is in the following table.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide where victim was killed in the course of their employment, by selected occupations, England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2006-07[2, 3]

Number

	Victim occupation	
Year recorded[2]	*Police officer*	*Social worker*
1997-98	1	0
1998-99	0	1
1999-2000	2	0
2000-01	3	0
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	4	0
2003-04	2	0
2004-05	1	0
2005-06	1	0
2006-07	1	1

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and account forms have been issued since their introduction, broken down by police force area. [219146]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data on stops and account are collected by police force area and are published in the 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System—2006-07' report for the first time this month

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

This information is contained in the following table, but can also be found in Table 4.9 of the report.

Total stops, by police force 2005-06 to 2006-07

Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	7,501	8,043	15,544
Bedfordshire	11,114	7,745	18,859
Cambridgeshire	4,506	17,708	22,214
Cheshire	48,113	75,167	123,280
Cleveland	61,618	70,279	131,897
Cumbria	7,091	18,698	25,789
Derbyshire	14,960	20,159	35,119
Devon and Cornwall	2,924	3,266	6,190
Dorset	1,694	2,144	3,838
Durham	7,675	16,017	23,692
Essex	45,251	62,946	108,197
Gloucestershire	5,158	12,789	17,947
Greater Manchester	54,188	77,549	131,737
Hampshire	43,006	59,328	102,334
Hertfordshire	28,984	43,326	72,310
Humberside	11,782	30,575	42,357
Kent	12,865	14,200	27,065
Lancashire	47,673	60,742	108,415
Leicestershire	11,568	17,453	29,021
Lincolnshire	16,525	30,268,	46,793
London, City of	61,853	28,583	90,436
Merseyside	96,878	164,715	261,593
Metropolitan Police	176,278	244,571	420,849
Norfolk	5,749	9,504	15,253
Northamptonshire	12,651	24,329	36,980
Northumbria	56,446	88,361	144,807
North Yorkshire	10,261	23,688	33,949
Nottinghamshire	25,499	24,413	49,912
South Yorkshire	19,018	36,174	55,192
Staffordshire	15,985	21,154	37,139
Suffolk	5,522	6,647 =	12,169
Surrey	10,819	19,529	30,348
Sussex	78,103	90,685	168,788
Thames Valley	29,371	56,782	86,153
Warwickshire	6,806	3,857	10,663
West Mercia	17,492	20,514	38,006
West Midlands	147,861	142,998	290,859
West Yorks	88,794	104,167	192,961
Wiltshire	6,410	6,763	13,173
Dyfed Powys	28,955	27,148	56,103
Gwent	8,810	12,434.	21,244
North Wales	8,025	14,277	22,302
South Wales	38,963	48,875	87,838
England and Wales	1,400,745	1,868,570	3,269,315

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will increase the fixed penalty for offences under section 14(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1998 to £80; what recent representations she has received about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [219571]

Mr. Coaker: The penalty levels associated with all fixed penalty offences are kept under review. We are currently considering a proposal from the Association of Chief Police Officers that for the offence of failure to comply with seat belt legislation the level of fixed penalty should rise from £30 to £60. Before any change is made section 88(2) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 requires consultation with such representative organisations as the Secretary of State thinks fit.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W, on sexual offences, how many and what proportion of visas issued were accompanied by notification orders in each of the last three years. [217636]

Mr. Coaker: Notification orders are issued by courts. This is a separate process from the issuing of visas. While figures for the number of notification orders issued are collected by local MAPPA responsible authorities, these authorities do not collate information on the proportion of orders issued for persons who had been granted a visa to enter the UK. It is not therefore possible to say how many visas were followed by notification orders.

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group in Wales were placed on (i) List 99 and (ii) the sex offenders register in each year since 1997. [218771]

Mr. Coaker: (i) The details held by the Department of Children, Schools and Families of individuals on List 99 were recorded at the time these people were placed on the list. Identifying the age, sex and number of individuals who had home addresses in Wales at the time of listing would require individual case records to be checked and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Once an individual is on List 99, a standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure will reveal the barred status of that individual to an employer together with details of any criminal convictions. Information on an individual's address at the time of listing is not necessary in order to check whether that person is barred.

(ii) Information on the number of registered sexual offenders (RSOs) has been reported annually by multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) responsible authorities since 2002 and is as follows:

RSOs in Wales

	Number
2002	1,131
2003	1,370
2004	1,465
2005	1,794
2006	1,774
2007	1,805

Data on RSOs was not collected centrally before 2002 and is not broken down routinely by gender and age group. Work is currently under way to amend ViSOR (the national database of sexual and violent offenders and other dangerous persons) to support more detailed standardised reporting in relation to RSOs, including their age and gender. The intention is to have this facility available by early 2009.

TRANSPORT

A36

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Highways Agency spent £449,000 on work associated with the construction of the roundabout on the A36 at Ower in New Forest East constituency; for what reasons the roundabout has not been built; and if she will break down by category the expenditure incurred on the project in each year since 2002. [218456]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The Highways Agency has spent approximately £449,000 on preparatory work for a proposed roundabout scheme with an estimated cost of £2.5 million to improve safety for road users at the junction of Whinwhistle Road and the A36 Salisbury Road. This work was carried out due to the very poor accident history at this T junction on the trunk road prior to 2003.

The roundabout has not been built at this highly sensitive rural location because since it was proposed, several other measures have been implemented. Subsequent monitoring shows that these measures have been effective and reduced the number of accidents by 50 per cent. and their severity to more satisfactory, national norms.

The breakdown of expenditure by category type for this scheme between financial year 2002-03 and financial year 2007-08 is as follows:

HA activity description	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£Total*
Surveys-Topographical/Ecological/Drainage/ Archaeological	—	—	—	7,330	26,510	13,030	46,870
Outline Design/Lighting	—	—	—	20,676	50,771	4,144	75,591
Value Engineering Design/CDM	—	—	—	562	22,348	46,002	68,912
Scheme Management	—	—	—	1,429	34,915	62,644	98,988
Studies/Surveys Traffic	790	26,276	28,553	15,870	78,347	1,057	150,893
Safety Audits/Specialist	—	—	—	857	1,043	755	2,655
Supervision	2,908	—	—	—	—	1,061	3,969
Total	3,698	26,276	28,553	46,724	213,934	128,693	447,878

Aviation: Luggage

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the changes to aviation carry-on luggage rules since January 2008. [218659]

Jim Fitzpatrick: From 7 January 2008, airports were permitted to lift the one-bag restriction, provided they were able to demonstrate that in doing so it would not have an adverse impact on security. The benefit of allowing more than one bag per passenger has been passed on to the majority of passengers departing airports in the UK. As with all security measures, their effectiveness is subject to regular monitoring to ensure that standards are maintained.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how long on average applications have taken for an airport wishing to end the one-bag rule between the application being made and permission being granted or denied. [218660]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The length of time taken to process applications has varied considerably depending on the quality and accuracy of applications received.

Aviation: Pollution

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has had discussions with the European Commission on a possible derogation from the NOx provisions of the EU Air Quality directive. [218585]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not had discussions with the European Commission on this matter.

Aviation: Royal Family

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1W, on Royal and Ministerial air travel, if she will place in the Library copies of the cost-benefit analyses undertaken on the procurement of *(a)* a short haul plane and *(b)* a long haul plane for Ministerial and Royal travel in the last nine months. [214747]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As the consideration of security for royal and ministerial air travel was integral to our analysis of costs and benefits, it would not be appropriate to publish this material. Similarly, as much of our cost data were derived from readily identifiable commercial

sources, and were shared with us on the understanding that they would be protected, publication of this information would prejudice commercial interests.

Bus Services: Private Sector

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many private bus companies are in operation. [220045]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not hold this information centrally. However, there are currently some 1,500 local bus service operators claiming bus service operators grant (BSOG) from the Department.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217385]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following number of early retirements in the last two financial years:

Early retirements

	Number
2006-07	274
2007-08	239

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pages have been added to her Department's website in the last 12 months. [218787]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For the period 11 July 2007 to 10 July 2008, the Department published 1,655 specific web pages. In addition, we published 2,174 files on the website, which comprised a mix of PDF documents of various sizes, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, audio and video files.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media for each of her Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214703]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The extent of information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has a standard retirement age. [218404]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has a standard retirement age of 65. Employees may however request to continue working beyond age 65, subject to the normal requirements of attendance, efficiency and conduct procedures.

Departmental Travel

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008 to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet, (Mr Villiers) *Official Report*, column 400W, on departmental travel, on what date DFT(C) data will be available. [217520]

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the figures for staff travel costs for her central Department to be available. [218792]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Temporary difficulties were experienced in extracting some detailed information from a legacy accounting system which was replaced at the beginning of the current financial year. It is anticipated that these difficulties will be overcome by the end of July.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what income her Department received from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's 0870 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217543]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency income received from 0870 number rebates in each of the last three financial years is as follows:

Financial year	*Revenue received (£)*
2007-08	3,387,603
2006-07	2,894,284
2005-06	2,423,517

Driving Tests

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what increase in the driving test fee would be required to raise the amount of money expected to be saved through closures of driving test centres. [218769]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The Driving Standards Agency does not have this information. To collate it would incur disproportionate costs.

Eurostar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to develop a regional Eurostar link. [218992]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any changes to Eurostar service patterns are a matter for Eurostar. The Department for Transport does not have any proposals to develop a regional Eurostar link.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much fish was procured by her Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and

value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217887]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions staff employed by her Department defrauded her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [214630]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The answer covers the period since the Department was formed on 29 May 2002. Since that date, the number of occasions staff have defrauded the Department is as follows:

	Number of occasions
2002-03	5
2003-04	31
2004-05	25
2005-06	22
2006-07	20
2007-08	20

The number of occasions for years 2003-04 and 2004-05 also includes fraud committed by staff at South Eastern Trains when the rail franchise was under the direct control of the Strategic Rail Authority.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the losses to her Department from fraud committed by staff of her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [214637]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The answer covers the period since the Department was formed on 29 May 2002. Since that date, the estimated cost of fraud committed by staff (including theft) in the Department is as follows:

	Estimated amount (£)
2002-03	15,600
2003-04	51,663
2004-05	27,035
2005-06	11,990
2006-07	3,866
2007-08	9,124

Assets have been valued at cost, net book value or replacement cost depending on the circumstance of the individual case.

The estimated amount for years 2003-04 and 2004-05 also includes fraud committed by staff at South Eastern Trains when the rail franchise was under the direct control of the Strategic Rail Authority.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [214640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The answer covers the period since the Department was formed on the 29 May 2002. Since that date, the number of staff prosecuted for defrauding and attempting to defraud the Department is as follows:

	Number of staff prosecuted
2002-03	3
2003-04	11
2004-05	3
2005-06	5
2006-07	0
2007-08	2

It has not been possible to differentiate between staff prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding my Department as to do so would involve a disproportionate cost.

The numbers provided for years 2003-04 and 2004-05 also includes the prosecution of staff at South Eastern Trains when the rail franchise was under the direct control of the Strategic Rail Authority.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of her Department were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in her Department in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [214644]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The answer covers the period since the Department was formed on 29 May 2002. Since that date, the number of staff responsible for each instance of fraud in the Department is as follows:

	Number of staff
2002-03	5
2003-04	31
2004-05	25
2005-06	23
2006-07	20
2007-08	22

The number of staff involved for years 2003-04 and 2004-05 also includes fraud committed by staff at South Eastern Trains when the rail franchise was under the direct control of the Strategic Rail Authority.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 939-40W, on Heathrow Airport, which of her Department's staff worked with BAA on the work specified in the answer. [218786]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The technical work which underpinned the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation was managed by the Department's Aviation Directorate. The relevant directors and heads of division leading this were:

Jonathan Moor—Director, Airports Strategy

John Parkinson—Head of Airports Policy Division (from July 2007)

Jonathan Sharrock—Head of Airports Policy Division (up to June 2007)

Martin Capstick—Head of Aviation Environment Division

David Hart—Head of International Networks Analysis and Support Division.

High Speed Trains: EC Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the costs of implementing Commission Decision 2008/164/EC on the high speed rail network; and if she will make a statement. [217981]

Mr. Tom Harris: As a result of Commission Decision 2008/164/EC, the Technical Specification for Interoperability—Persons with Reduced Mobility ('PRM TSI') came into force in the UK on 1 July 2008. The PRM TSI sets out accessibility standards for passenger trains and stations on both the conventional and high speed Trans-European Network.

The PRM TSI replaces very similar domestic access standards for stations and trains which had been in place for several years. We do not, therefore, expect that its implementation will have a significant impact on costs.

Highways Agency: Complaints

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, Question 209057, whether the Putting Things Right procedure is made available to the public in hard copy. [218793]

Mr. Tom Harris: Yes. Members of the public may request a hard copy of the "Putting Things Right" leaflet from any Highways Agency office or their information line on 08457 50 40 30.

Leicester to London Railway Line

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) who the main service provider of the Leicester to London high speed train will be; [218182]

(2) what effect the construction of the high speed train link will have on travel times between Leicester and London until the link has been completed; and what plans she has to reduce adverse effects on travel times during this period. [218184]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network. As part of this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. It will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland Main Lines. It is too early to say what the results of this study will be or where any potential new lines might go. The study is expected to be complete in July 2009.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the railway track improvements between Leicester and London will be completed. [218183]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE.

London to Cardiff Railway Line

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 745W, on the London to Cardiff railway line, where the potential new rail line along the Great Western main line being examined by Network Rail would end. [219083]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network. In response to this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. It will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland main Lines. It is too early to say what the results of this study will be or where any potential new lines might go. The study is expected to be complete in July 2009.

Lorries: Accidents

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many serious injury accidents left-hand drive heavy goods vehicles were involved in each of the last three years. [218466]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported serious road accidents involving at least one foreign registered left hand drive heavy goods vehicle in Great Britain in 2005-07 are shown in the following table.

	Number of serious injury accidents
2005	93
2006	77
2007	93

Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 88-90WS, on new cars: emissions targets, what position she has taken in discussions with the EU in respect of a possible derogation for Jaguar and Land Rover. [219801]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK is not seeking a derogation for any one specific automotive manufacturer. The UK position is that manufacturers that only produce a narrow range of products, while still being subject to challenging mandatory targets, should not be unfairly disadvantaged as compared to their competitors who produce a wider range of vehicle types. Our position on this is set out in more detail in the new car CO_2 consultation document on the DfT website.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency spent on its vehicle testing centres in 2007-08. [218788]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of running Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's testing centres in 2007-08 was £6.9 million, this includes rent, rates and maintenance and other locally incurred costs such as telecommunications. This figure excludes staff related costs and major improvement programmes.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle test centres are managed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [218789]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) manages 89 goods vehicle testing stations, with a further five single vehicle approval/vehicle identity check sites.

Motorways: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents involving stationary vehicles on motorway hard shoulders were reported in each year since 2004, broken down by motorway; and how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in each case. [219554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total number of road traffic accidents on motorway hard shoulders that have resulted in personal injury (PIAs) in each year since 2004, are listed in the following table. The statistics include all motorways that are the responsibility of the Highways Agency, with at least one accident.

	Accidents				*Killed casualties*				*All casualties*			
Road	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
M1	12	19	7	7	1	7	0	1	21	32	12	9
M2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
M3	5	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	5	4	6	1
M4	6	9	0	3	2	3	0	0	14	10	0	4
M5	6	4	5	2	0	0	1	0	11	5	8	4
M6	6	11	5	8	0	1	1	0	7	24	12	12
M11	9	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	12	4	4	0
M20	1	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	8	1	6
M23	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
M25	4	7	5	16	0	2	4	3	15	20	11	31
M26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
M27	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
M40	4	5	5	4	0	0	0	1	9	10	9	5
M42	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0
M56	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
M57	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
M60	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0
M61	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
M62	3	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	8
M180	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
M602	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
M621	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
A1(M)	2	2	2	6	0	0	0	1	4	5	3	17
A194(M)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
A404(M)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	65	75	43	62	3	15	11	6	114	137	75	104

Park and Ride Schemes

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage the operation of park and ride schemes. [220047]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Park and ride schemes play an important part in helping to tackle congestion in many local areas. They are one of a range of policy tools suggested by the full guidance on the second Local Transport Plans (2006-11), published in December 2004.

Most schemes are funded through the integrated transport block, which the Department allocates to support local transport plans (LTPs). This totals £576 million for 2008-09.

During the first LTP period (2001-06), local transport authorities in England (outside of London) spent a total of £72.5 million of LTP funding on improving 92 existing park and ride facilities and delivering 76 new park and ride schemes.

Railways

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger delay minutes for Virgin Trains there were in each quarter since January 2006; and what proportion of these delays were caused by *(a)* Virgin Trains and *(b)* Network Rail in each quarter. [218676]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is in the following table.

	Delay minutes caused by Virgin Trains services	Proportion of delay caused by Network Rail (percentage)	Proportion of delay cause by Virgin Trains (percentage)
Q4, 2005-06	131,712	71	16
Q1, 2006-07	125,949	67	19
Q2, 2006-07	151,340	67	20
Q3, 2006-07	205,026	68	16
Q4, 2006-07	158,011	74	14
Q1, 2007-08	144,987	74	14
Q2, 2007-08	160,235	73	16
Q3, 2007-08	269,973	70	14
Q4, 2007-08	183,881	75	12
Q1, 2008-09	166,608	79	9

Note:
Remaining percentage is accounted for by delays to Virgin Trains caused by other train operators

'Quarterly' data are reported in four weekly periods. Quarter 3 of each year comprises four four-weekly periods and the other quarters comprise three four-weekly periods.

A proportion of delays are caused by other train operators rather than Network Rail or the operator of the train affected.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger delay minutes for Arriva Trains Wales there were in each quarter since January 2006; and what proportion of these delays were caused by *(a)* Arriva Trains Wales and *(b)* Network Rail in each quarter. [218677]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is in the following table:

	Q4 2005-06	Q1 2006-07	Q2 2006-07	Q3 2006-07	Q4 2006-07	Q1 2007-08	Q2 2007-08	Q3 2007-08	Q4 2007-08	Q1 2008-09
Delay minutes caused to Arriva Trains Wales' services	208,447	244,250	277,951	331,242	182,356	143,412	160,811	210,637	139,037	142,437
Proportion of delay minutes caused by Network Rail (%)	36	35	42	42	47	45	48	43	46	48
Proportion of delay minutes caused by Arriva Trains Wales (%)	55	57	51	50	45	47	44	45	44	41

Note: Remaining percentage is accounted for by delays to ATW trains caused by other train operators.

'Quarterly' data are reported in four weekly periods. Quarter 3 of each year comprises four four-weekly periods and the other quarters comprise three four-weekly periods. A proportion of delays are caused by other train operators rather than Network Rail or the operator of the train affected.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account her Department takes of the provision of unadvertised rail services to compensate for network repairs or other unforeseen events when evaluating the performance of train operating companies. [219133]

Mr. Tom Harris: The public performance measure for rail takes account of service alterations made in advance, in order to reflect properly how trains have run compared with the train service plan for any particular day.

Services are measured against the plan in place for that day, and the evaluation of a train operating company's performance will therefore reflect events where services may be disrupted.

Railways: Electrification

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential for electrification of those main line railway lines served exclusively by diesel locomotives at present. [217718]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to re-examine the business case for electrification, explore how costs can be reduced and to agree priority schemes. This assessment will include those main line railway lines served exclusively by diesel locomotives at present. The aim is to produce an indicative implementation plan by the end of 2008.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on railways: rolling stock, whether her Department previously held or collated this information. [217641]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information was previously collated on an ad hoc basis for specific requirements. This information can be accessed via the Railway Press, from individual train operating companies or from ATOC which can be contacted at the following address:

ATOC
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London
WC1N 1BY

Roads

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking with local authorities to ease traffic congestion in local communities. [220009]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement, 'Roads—Delivering Choice

and Reliability', made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS.

Roads: Accidents

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities there have been in road traffic accidents per hundred thousand passenger miles in each year since 1995. [219878]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The fatality rates per billion passenger kilometres by road user type in Great Britain from 1995 to 2006 are given in the table.

Number of fatalities per billion passenger kilometres[1]

	Car	*Van*	*Bus or coach*	*Motorcycle*	*Pedestrian*	*Pedal cycle*
1995	2.9	1.2	0.8	109.9	56.7	51.4
1996	3.0	1.0	0.2	108.4	55.9	49.8
1997	2.9	1.0	0.3	119.0	57.5	44.8
1998	2.8	1.0	0.4	112.2	50.1	40.0
1999	2.7	0.9	0.2	112.7	50.0	42.2
2000	2.7	0.9	0.3	122.5	49.0	30.5
2001	2.8	0.9	0.2	112.1	47.5	32.6
2002	2.7	1.0	0.4	111.0	42.0	29.4
2003	2.7	0.9	0.2	114.4	41.3	25.3
2004	2.6	0.8	0.4	105.1	35.3	31.8
2005	2.6	0.6	0.2	97.0	36.2	33.4
2006	2.5	0.6	0.3	107.0	35.5	32.0

[1] Car, van, bus or coach, motorcycle and pedal cycle passenger kilometres are derived from Traffic data. Pedestrian kilometres are derived from National Travel Survey data.

The information is published on the Department's website in table 7.1a and 7.1b in Transport Trends 2007 edition, at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trends/current/section7safety.xls

Roads: Gloucestershire

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much extra funding has been requested by Gloucestershire County Council under the emergency capital highways maintenance scheme in the last two years; [218661]

(2) on what date Gloucestershire County Council last applied for extra funding under the emergency capital highways maintenance scheme; [218662]

(3) when she expects to make a decision on the *(a)* eligibility for and *(b)* level of any extra support available to Gloucestershire County Council under the emergency capital highways maintenance scheme. [218663]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have today announced £6.5 million of capital highways maintenance funding for Gloucestershire county council to assist with their recovery from last summer's floods. This is in addition to £10.048 million that I announced in March this year, and brings the total funding from my Department to £16.548 million. This sum represents the total amount of funding requested by the county council in their claims of 20 December 2007 and 13 June 2008.

Roads: Safety Measures

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements her Department has made to road safety since 2005. [219920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Safety Strategy includes three targets.

By 2010 we want to achieve, compared to the average for 1994-98:

a 40 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents (KSIs);

a 50 per cent. reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured; and

a 10 per cent. reduction in the slight casualty rate, expressed as the number of people slightly injured per 100 million vehicle kilometres.

The second review of the Government's Road Safety Strategy details the actions taken towards achieving the casualty reduction targets for 2010 and is published on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategytargetsperformance/

The latest results on road safety statistics for 2007 have been published on the DFT website. Overall, deaths have fallen by 7 per cent. compared to 2006, to 2,943. Serious injuries were down 3 per cent. KSIs are now 36 per cent. below the 1994-98 average baseline, and child KSIs fell by 6 per cent. and are now 55 per cent. below the baseline.

Roads: Surveying

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what reason the CHART visual survey data collected by local highway authorities on principal and classified roads across England for the 2007 national road conditions survey were not collated and published; [213386]

(2) for what reason the CHART visual surveys on all roads were discontinued; what account was taken of the advice of highways officers on the UK Roads Board road performance management group in making the decision; and if she will make a statement; [213387]

(3) what consultations her Department conducted with professional groups and local highway authorities before the decision to discontinue CHART visual surveys on all roads was taken; [213388]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effects of the lack of 2007 visual survey data for principal and classified roads on long-term trend studies into road condition; and if she will make a statement; [213389]

(5) what methodology will be used to survey the condition of unclassified roads in 2008; [213390]

(6) what information is available for members of the public to determine whether road conditions, other than for roads under the control of the Highways Agency, are improving or deteriorating. [213516]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government recognise the need for national data which may be used to monitor whether the condition of roads is improving or deteriorating. But there has been mounting dissatisfaction over a number of years with the quality of CHART visual surveys, which are based on judgments of conditions by engineers, and a programme of work is taking place supported by the Department and the UK Roads Board to develop more sophisticated machine-based surveys.

The 2006 statistical report on road conditions stated that CHART data would not be collected in 2007 for classified roads. More extensive and detailed data would instead become available from machine scans of the road surface (SCANNER surveys), the same source used by local authorities for reporting best value performance indicators (BVPIs) on classified road condition. This same source will be used for authorities reporting against their local area agreements. The Department has commissioned research to develop appropriate methods for producing national estimates from these complex data, which should be available in 2009. At that point, it will be possible to produce several years' results at once to allow analysis of trends in the condition of classified roads.

Indicators from the BVPI reporting regime were also included in the statistical report "Road Conditions in England 2007". These can be compared with the BVPI results which were reported in previous statistical reports.

CHART visual surveys for the unclassified network continued until 2007-08, but, following consultation with the LGA and with the UK Roads Board, have not been requested in 2008-09. Most local authorities rely on their own programme of inspection and asset management to determine the condition and maintenance needs of unclassified roads, and there has been a declining response rate to the request for CHART data to support the national survey, with only two-thirds of local authorities responding in 2007-08.

The Road Conditions in England statistical report published in June 2008 provided members of the public and highway officers with the latest information on road conditions. The next statistical report, intended for publication in 2009, will include several years' data on classified roads. For unclassified roads, DFT will continue to work with the UK Roads Board to determine how best to measure and survey road conditions with an intention of national surveys every three to five years.

Members of the public interested in the condition of their own authority's roads will have available annual indicators published as part of local area agreements. Many authorities also publish their own local data. We have encouraged authorities to prepare asset management plans for local authority, and have announced that at least £15 million will be available to help them do so in 2009-10.

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether her plans for a national road pricing scheme will be limited to roads under the jurisdiction of the Highways Agency; [209464]

(2) how much her Department has spent on identification and development of the technologies required to implement a national road pricing scheme in the last five years; [209465]

(3) what her most recent estimate is of the cost of implementing a national road pricing scheme; [209466]

(4) which consultants and contractors her Department is working with on matters relating to a national road pricing scheme; and which were so engaged by her Department in each of the last five years; [209468]

(5) whether her Department has identified preferred bidders for implementation of national road pricing trials; [209469]

(6) how much her Department has allocated for trials of a national road pricing scheme; and how much of this has been spent to date; [209470]

(7) when she expects work to commence on the installation of equipment required for national road pricing trials. [209472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the four years since work began on following up the Feasibility Study of Road Pricing in the UK, the Department has spent £9.3 million on technical and professional advice to inform the way that pricing could be used to tackle road congestion; for example in the local charging schemes that are being developed by local authorities.

Our priority, now and over the next decade, is to tackle congestion, focusing on where it is a problem—in towns and cities and on motorways. The Command Paper 'Roads—Delivering Choice and Reliability', published on 16 July, sets out how we intend to do this.

Our plans for testing technology are set out in the same document. We expect that the Demonstrations Project we are about to commission will lead the way to developing better systems that could support urban schemes, possibly over a wider area than have been developed to date, as well as informing our thinking on managing motorway capacity.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which areas road pricing trials will take place. [209471]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement, 'Roads—Delivering Choice and Reliability', made by the Secretary of State for Transport, on 16 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 32-34WS. It will be for the contractors to propose how and where best to demonstrate their capabilities.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 1194W, on rolling stock, if she will publish the quantitative analysis her Department

carried out to determine how many new rail carriages should be provided to tackle capacity problems on the rail network under the High Level Output Specification statement of July 2007. [218839]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Illustrative train service enhancement options were developed by the Department for Transport to demonstrate that the HLOS capacity requirements can be delivered. This analysis was published on the Department's website in July 2007 to accompany the Rail White Paper. It can be accessed at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/railwphlsospecimen

Exact detail of estimated deployment of rolling stock numbers is not given for commercial reasons.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage of forecast passenger growth to 2014 which will be carried by the 1,300 new carriages planned to be provided by that date. [218840]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The 1,300 extra carriages are estimated to be sufficient to carry the forecast growth of an extra 80,700 morning peak passengers in London and English urban areas between 2009 and 2014. They will also meet the majority of the peak growth on the long distance routes.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 1194W, on rolling stock, what estimates her Department made in preparation of the 2007 Rail White Paper, of the proportion of the 1,300 extra carriages announced in the White Paper that would be *(a)* Pendolinos for the West Coast Main Line and *(b)* Thameslink Programme carriages. [218841]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Of the 1,300 carriages, 106 are estimated to be Pendolinos for the West Coast Main Line. The extent to which the Thameslink carriages overlap with the 1,300 cannot yet be accurately estimated since it depends on a number of factors including the outcome of the High Level Output Specification agreed with the Train Operating Companies.

Schools: Speed Limits

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has conducted research into the likely effect on the number of children and parents choosing to walk or cycle to school of the speed limit around their schools and homes being reduced to 20 miles per hour. [220008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not carried out specific research on the impact that 20 mph zones would have on increasing walking and cycling. However, the hon. Member may be interested in our Links to Schools programme, which provides walking and cycling routes from residential areas to schools via the National Cycle Network. Our monitoring of these links shows twice as much cycling to school and 8 per cent. more walking to school. We have already spent over £18 million on this programme since 2005 linking up over 600 schools and plan to extend it to a further 500 schools by 2011.

The Department has commissioned a new research project on local road safety policy and practice, and information about the implementation of 20 mph zones will be collected from local authorities as part of this study.

This new project, titled "Local road safety evaluation and action learning" was commissioned in February 2008 and will take three years, with an interim report due in March 2009. The research is likely to include a survey of local authorities, which will cover 20 mph zones and other local road safety issues.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of implementing 20 mph zones in the vicinity of *(a)* nurseries and *(b)* schools. [220137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There has been no assessment of the effectiveness of 20 mph zones specifically in the vicinity of nurseries and schools. However, the Transport Research Laboratory conducted two reviews of 20 mph zones in 1996 and again in 1998.

The 1996 review found that 20 mph zones which incorporated traffic calming measures achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, annual accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and overall reduction in child accidents of 67 per cent.

The 1998 review looked at wider issues in terms of vehicle speeds and included 20 mph zones and 20 mph limits where there was lesser or no traffic calming. This found reductions in vehicle speeds were minimal without traffic calming.

The Department has however recently commissioned a new research project on local road safety policy and practice, and information about the implementation of 20 mph zones will be collected from local authorities as part of this study.

Stansted Airport

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of conditions in the economy on proposals to build a second runway at Stansted Airport. [219340]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent assessment of the economic case for the additional capacity at Stansted airport supported in the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper was reported in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

We expect to provide an update to this report, taking account of revised economic projections, when we announce policy decisions on the future development of Heathrow airport later this year.

Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to make a decision on whether to introduce national road pricing. [210602]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her today (UIN 209464).

Transport: Greater London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next expects to meet the Mayor of London to discuss transport in London. [217773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State met with the Mayor of London recently and expects to continue the programme of regular meetings established with his predecessor.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what requirements there are on 10 Downing Street to make Gershon efficiency savings. [217399]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The original requirements for Departments were set out in Sir Peter Gershon's "Releasing resources for the frontline: Independent Review of Public Sector Efficiency", published by HM Treasury as part of SR2004. The review, including the original Cabinet Office requirement, can be found on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_sr04/associated_documents/spending_sr04_efficiency.cfm

Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Codes of Practice

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he issues to special advisers on compliance with the provisions of the Civil Service Code in respect of online participation. [219608]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Blaydon (Mr. Anderson) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 929.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Food Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the World Food Programme's programme of food aid to Africa has cost in each of the last 10 years; and what his Department's contribution to the programme was in each year. [219130]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows how much the UN World Food Programme's (WFP) food aid programmes in sub-Saharan Africa cost over the last 10 years and the Department for International Development's (DFID) direct bilateral contributions in each year.

	Expenditure	*Million USD DFID contributions*
1997	501.7	n/a
1998	646.9	n/a
1999	633.0	n/a
2000	637.5	3.8
2001	885.6	6.6
2002	899.4	71.4
2003	1,514.0	64.6
2004	1,381.7	76.7
2005	2,042.9	67.1
2006	1,761.9	92.7
2007	1,831.6	48.8
Total	12,736.3	—

n/a = Not available.

The DFID contributions shown do not take account of significant UK funding to WFP through the following multilateral channels:

The European Commission

The EC is a very significant donor to WFP, contributing USD 250 million to WFP's global operations in 2007 alone. Approximately. 18 per cent. of EC funds come from the UK.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund

The UK is the largest donor to the CERF, which allows the UN to allocate resources to under-funded and rapid onset emergencies. DFID has provided over £100 million to the CERF since its establishment in 2006. WFP have received some USD 328 million of funding from the CERF for their global operations over this time.

Pooled funds

All of DFID's humanitarian funding to WFP in Sudan and DRC is now channelled through pooled funds, which are managed by the UN. DFID has provided £129 million in Sudan and £90 million in DRC through the pooled funds since their creation in 2006. WFP has received USD 54 million and USD 16 million respectively from these funds. This change in funding channels in the two largest humanitarian operations partly accounts for the apparent downturn in DFID's bilateral support to WFP operations in Africa from 2006 to 2007 in the aforementioned table.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on research in each of the last 10 years. [218067]

Mr. Malik: The proportion of Department for International Development (DFID) Programme expenditure used for research in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

Table 1: Proportion of DFID programme expenditure used for research since 2002-03

	Programme expenditure (Percentage)
1998-99	2.39
1999-2000	2.77
2000-01	2.58
2001-02	3.17
2002-03	3.08
2003-04	2.58
2004-05	2.46
2005-06	2.37
2006-07	2.40
2007-08	2.61

Developing Countries: Land

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of those regions which will be worst affected by land degradation between 2008 and 2015; and if he will make a statement. [218027]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not undertake its own assessment of regions that will be worst affected by land degradation. However, we work closely with organisations, funded by DFID, that have expert capacity in this area (such as the International Institute for Environment and Development). We also draw on recent international assessments; for example, the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Global Assessment of Land Degradation and Improvement (GLADA) that was released on 2 July. Based on quantitative analysis, and use of satellite imagery, this identifies southern Africa, Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia and south China as areas particularly affected by degradation. 1.5 billion people depend on degrading areas for their livelihoods. The 2007 United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environmental Outlook 4 (GEO-4) included an assessment of land degradation and concluded that demands on land resources and risks to sustainability are likely to intensify.

Better land management can prevent and reverse degradation leading to improved agricultural production and availability of other resources such as forest products. The recent GLADA provides positive examples of land improvement such as land reclamation in north China. DFID has worked with the World Bank in its projects to better manage land and reduce poverty in the degraded and remote Loess Plateau region of north China. The World Bank funded improved land use and erosion control, boosting incomes for farmers, with DFID assistance focused on improved benefits for the poorest.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what models his Department uses to project the effects of *(a)* food shortages, *(b)* fuel price increases, *(c)* climate change and *(d)* water distribution issues in developing countries; and what contribution such modelling makes to the process of policy formulation in his Department. [218506]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on estimates made by credible and expert international development organisations and research institutions. In particular:

(a) On food shortages, the World Food Programme, International Food Policy Research Institute and the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Integrated Phase Classification (a predictive food security tool).

(b) On fuel prices the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Their models consider supply and demand expectations as well as other relevant factors such as geopolitics, policies of national governments and technical and geological factors. We also make use of robust models employed by the World Bank and the IMF to understand the impact of the fuel price increases on developing countries.

(c) On climate change, the Hadley Centre's Providing Regional Climates for Impacts Studies (PRECIS), the Global Carbon Finance Model (GLOCAF), an economic model developed by the UK Office of Climate Change (OCC), and the impact assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

(d) On water we use the UN's data for monitoring progress towards the MDGs, including financial models which estimate the cost of achieving the MDGs. For water resources we use the United Nations World Water Development Report, which uses a number of hydrological and water resources models to assess supply and demand.

DFID development policies and assistance are formulated mainly at country level. Information from models feeds directly into our development policies, for example we use climate models to propose actions to reduce climate related risks to partner countries and DFID programmes, to estimate the costs to developing countries of moving to a low carbon global economy and inform the UK position at the climate negotiations.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the situation of British aid workers in Somalia; and whether all British aid workers known to be working in Somalia are accounted for. [218323]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government work in close liaison with the Somalia non-governmental organisation (NGO) consortium who maintain a register of all international aid workers present in Somalia. They also circulate frequent security reports which highlight any incidents involving international aid workers.

One UN-contracted British aid worker was kidnapped on 1 April 2008. The UK Government are working with United Nations (UN) authorities to secure his release. Otherwise all British aid workers are accounted for under the auspices of the Somalia NGO consortium and UN agencies. The UK Government have no resident presence on the ground and any staff visits are subject to rigorous security clearance.

Zimbabwe: Sanitary Protection

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help women in Zimbabwe access sanitary protection. [219413]

Gillian Merron: The problem of sanitary provision in Zimbabwe is part of the wider political and economic crisis which has led to an acute shortage of basic and essential goods.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) current programme of assistance aims to protect the livelihoods of more than 1.5 million poor people in Zimbabwe, tackle HIV/AIDS, and help meet humanitarian needs. Although there is no specific allocation, some of our NGO partners are providing sanitary products to girls and young women as part of a £22 million programme of support to orphans and vulnerable children. Our £5 million programme with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to support internally displaced people and deportees is also providing sanitary wear in non-food emergency packs. To date 2,092 female victims of the recent wave of political violence have received sanitary wear from IOM.

TREASURY

Double Taxation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many reports he received under the terms of each double taxation agreement with a non-EU tax jurisdiction in each of the last five years. [219800]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not release statistics on the number of exchanges of information with individual countries and territories, as release of this information may be detrimental to tax enforcement and the operation of the relevant arrangements under which the information is exchanged.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce levels of fuel tax. [219844]

Mr. Darling: I am postponing the 2p per litre increase in fuel duty that was planned to take place on 1 October 2008 to support motorists and businesses in the face of sharp rises in world oil prices.

This means that main road fuel duty rates will remain at 50.35p per litre after 1 October this year. The duty is 17 per cent. lower in real terms than in 1999.

Consequential increases in road fuel gases, biofuel duty rates and rebated oils rates will also be postponed.

Postponing the planned increase in fuel duty is consistent with the Government's commitment to support the Bank of England in maintaining low inflation.

Investment Income Surcharge

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the income to the Exchequer in 2007-08 had an investment income surcharge of the form in existence until 1983 been in place. [219777]

Jane Kennedy: Applying a surcharge of 15 per cent. to individuals' investment income above an exemption limit of £19,000 would yield around £4.9 billion in respect of the 2007-08 tax year, although most of this income would not be received until the following year.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the minimum wage on *(a)* child poverty, *(b)* pensioner poverty and *(c)* poverty in working age households without children in each year from 1997 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [218286]

Jane Kennedy: Since its introduction in 1999 the national minimum wage has increased by 59 per cent. It has helped to narrow the regional pay gap and had a positive effect on the earnings gap of disadvantaged groups such as workers with disabilities, women (around two thirds of the workers who stand to benefit from the October 2008 rise are women) and certain ethnic minorities. Through the introduction of tax credits and the NMW, this Government provided a minimum income guarantee for the first time. In October 2008 this will guarantee that every family with one child and one person working 35 hours a week will receive a minimum income of £295 per week. For the similar families without children, this figure is £225.

National Insurance Contributions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the flyer that employers were asked to pass to married women with their pay slips in the 1970s with an election to pay the reduced rate of national insurance, to inform them about the phasing out of the reduced rate contribution. [219778]

Jane Kennedy: Copies of all the extant documentation relating to this matter were placed in the House of Commons Library in 2003—20 January 2003, *Official Report*, column 86W.

PAYE

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many PAYE records have not been clerically reviewed for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06. [216620]

Jane Kennedy: At 27 June 2008 the number of PAYE records that have not yet had any clerical review was.

	Number
2003-04	361,548
2004-05	1,889,148
2005-06	2,514,023

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of increased travel allowances for staff relocated from HM Revenue and Customs' Brecon office to an alternative tax office. [217250]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* Financial considerations are examined in detail in the feasibility phase of reviews, and maximum costs of extra travel for staff are published in the impact assessments produced by HMRC once closure decisions have been announced for particular buildings. These can be found on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/local/change-programme.htm.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of closures of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices in Wales, including the impact of additional travel by HMRC staff. [219639]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to reducing its environmental footprint. Although closure of offices may mean additional travelling time for some people, by reducing the number of offices HMRC occupies and using the remaining office space more efficiently, it will reduce its heating, lighting and IT equipment emissions, and so reduce its carbon footprint.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what visits have been made by the workforce change team to each HM Revenue and Customs office in Wales which is proposed for closure; and what the date of each visit was. [219640]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently consulting with staff, trade unions and other key stakeholders on the proposals for those offices in cluster and individual locations in Wales. Before HMRC put recommendations to me for decision, extensive feasibility work is completed which includes visits to sites where appropriate. To date visits have been made by HMRC officials to all offices in Cardiff and Swansea urban centres where the decisions have already been announced. Visits have also been made to the cluster and individual offices in the east and south west of Wales including offices along the west coast of Wales and visits are planned for the remaining offices in mid and north Wales. Details of the specific dates when these visits took place could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs in the debt management field force in Wales are fluent in the Welsh language. [219641]

Jane Kennedy: The Debt Management and Banking (DMB) field force in Wales currently have two staff members who are fluent in Welsh. There are also approximately 15 office based staff within Debt Management and Banking who provide support to Welsh speakers. DMB plan to provide the same level of service to Welsh speakers in future as it currently does and is working with other parts of HMRC to ensure this happens.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings it is estimated will be made from the proposed closure of each HM Revenue and Customs office scheduled for closure in Wales. [219642]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated estate savings for offices in the Cardiff and Swansea urban centres which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to vacate are shown in the following table and were published in impact assessments on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

on 29 February 2008. Final decisions on the future of other HMRC offices in Wales, will not be made until the findings of the consultation exercise and detailed feasibility work has been completed.

	Potential estate savings from vacation (£)
Cardiff urban centre	
Portcullis House, Cardiff	657,000
Crown Buildings, Newport	470,000
Taff Vale House, Pontypridd	154,000
Swansea urban centre	
Crown Buildings, Llanelli	138,000
Custom House, Swansea	41,000
Total	1,460,000

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the assessment he has made of the effect on local economies of closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Wales. [219643]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) specifically comments on socio-economic issues in its impact assessments which are completed for every building where a decision has been made to vacate. Decisions have been announced on the Cardiff and Swansea urban centres and those impact assessments are available on HMRC's internet site:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Revenue and Customs: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual estate cost is of *(a)* Swinson House, York, *(b)* Hilary House, York, *(c)* Cherry Court, Hull and *(d)* Custom House, Hull; and until what dates the Government have contractual obligations to rent or lease each building. [217940]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is unable to disclose the annual estate costs for the buildings listed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

All four of the buildings were included in the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley STEPS Contractor Limited in April 2001. HMRC now occupies each building under the terms of the STEPS contract. The contract expires on 1 April 2021 but HMRC will be able to continue to occupy beyond this date and also has flexibility within the contract to vacate properties prior to the expiry date.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff Hilary House, York can accommodate; whether the Government intend to retain this building until 2011; whether they are considering sub-leasing any part of the building before 2011; and if he will make a statement. [217941]

Jane Kennedy: York was included in the announcement of 11 June 2008 of the next stage of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) review as part of its change programme.

HMRC's planning assumption for Hilary House shows approximately 200 workstations. However, staff occupancy figures will vary depending on the operational requirements of the specific HMRC business units to be accommodated in the property.

HMRC has proposed the retention of Hilary House under the change programme and once the current stage of the review process concludes HMRC will be able to determine the final requirements for this building and will consider at that time any options for disposal of space that is identified as surplus to requirements.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people used the HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centre at Swinson House in York in each of the last three years. [217942]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

HMRC Enquiry Centre in Swinson House, York, customers 2005-08

	Number of customers
2005-06	17,895
2006-07	20,284
2007-08	15,364

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Government will retain in York an HM Revenue and Customs inquiry centre, open to the public from 8.30am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday providing the current range of services, until 2011 at least; and what estimate he has made of the annual estate cost of doing so would be. [217943]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC will retain an inquiry centre in York. They review their opening hours regularly to ensure that they match customer demand and there are no plans to reduce the full time service they offer in York.

As the accommodation review is ongoing, the final decision for the relocation of the inquiry centre has yet to be determined. This will impact on annual estate costs. An estimate of potential costs, however, taken from two inquiry centres recently set up by HMRC is for annual estate costs of approximately £52,500. The annual estate cost comprises rent, landlord service charge, rates and utilities.

Stamp Duties: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received in stamp duty from Scotland in each year since 2002. [219128]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the amount of stamp duty land tax received in Scotland in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0506.xls

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0607.xls

respectively.

Reliable estimates for Scotland for stamp duty land tax received are not available for earlier years.

A table showing estimates of stamp duty land tax for 2007-08 for the local authorities, counties and countries of the United Kingdom will be published in September.

No information is available for stamp taxes on shares receipts below the UK level.

Tax Avoidance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct HM Revenue and Customs to seek information from the US Internal Revenue Service on the sale of illegal tax shelters; and what information he has received on the availability in the UK of the VIPER products marketed by Ernst and Young. [219760]

Jane Kennedy: Under the terms of the bilateral double taxation convention between the United Kingdom and the United States, the tax authorities of the two states have regular discussions about tax avoidance schemes, exchanging any information that is necessary for the assessment, collection and enforcement of the taxes covered by the convention.

Trusts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs have made of the implications for the Exchequer of new forms of trust created by the states of Jersey and other tax jurisdictions since 2005; and what representations the Government have made in response. [219799]

Jane Kennedy: The question of whether the income and gains of a trust are liable to United Kingdom taxes depends on a number of factors such as whether the trustees are treated as being resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes, what connection the settler has to the trust, and what the beneficiaries of the trust are entitled to under the terms of the trust. The particular structures provided for by non UK law do not determine residence or chargeability to UK tax and HMRC has not carried out detailed analysis of these particular types of trust.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Citizens' Advice Bureaux: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional *(a)* funding and *(b)* other support his Department plans to provide to Citizens Advice Bureaux in anticipation of the introduction of the employment and support allowance. [219444]

Mr. Timms: Employment and support allowance (ESA) will be introduced on the 27 October 2008 and the ESA programme is working with a range of customer representative groups including Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB). Through this forum the ESA programme is committed to assist Citizens Advice Bureaux in introducing ESA into their organisation including the sharing of products to support implementation activity. The programme is working on areas highlighted through this group as areas of particular interest. This level of engagement will increase as we approach 27 October. The ESA programme Director, Phil Bartlett has met with senior CAB colleagues, to agree how we can work together to ensure the delivery of ESA is a success. This does not include any additional funding for the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Crisis Loans

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were subject to a county court claim by his Department for defaulting on repayments of a *(a)* crisis loan and *(b)* budget loan in each year since 2003, broken down by the (i) on benefit caseload and (ii) off benefit caseload; and if he will make a statement; [215893]

(2) how many people have been subject to a county court judgment as a result of a county court claim by his Department for defaulting on repayments of a

(a) crisis loan and *(b)* budgeting loan in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) on-benefit caseload and (ii) off-benefit caseload; and if he will make a statement; [215982]

(3) how many people have had items repossessed for defaulting on repayments of *(a)* a crisis loan and *(b)* a budgeting loan in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) on-benefit caseload and (ii) off-benefit caseload; and if he will make a statement; [215990]

(4) in how many cases his Department has taken action against people who have defaulted on repayments of *(a)* a crisis loan and *(b)* a budgeting loan in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) on-benefit caseload and (ii) off-benefit caseload; and if he will make a statement. [216082]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where a person is in receipt of benefit, recovery is by means of deductions from benefit only.

Court action is only taken against those no longer on the benefit caseload. Such action is taken only should a voluntary arrangement not be possible, or if there is a default on that arrangement. The Department does not seek repossession of items in default cases.

The number of people subject to a county court claim by the Department for Work and Pensions for defaulting on Social Fund repayments is set out in the following table. The information cannot be separated between budgeting loans and crisis loans. No action has been taken to enforce recovery of outstanding loans through the courts since 2005-06.

	Number of court claims and judgements in Social Fund cases
2003-04	6,009
2004-05	3,792
2005-06	1,076

As part of the Department's programme to bring increased focus to the management and recovery of debt generally, the decision was made to transfer, from 2005, the management and recovery of Social Fund off-benefit cases to the Department's specialist Debt Management unit. Referring the outstanding Social Fund loans to Debt Management has enabled the use of their specialist skills in pursuing recovery from customers who are no longer in receipt of benefit.

This transfer of cases to Debt Management is ongoing, and has already resulted in significant recoveries on loans from those no longer in receipt of benefit, without a need to refer for court enforcement.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of crisis loan applications were alignment payments in each of the last five years; and, if he will make a statement. [215923]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Crisis loan applications for Great Britain

	Estimated applications for alignment payments processed	*Estimated proportion of applications processed which were for alignment payments*
2003-04	582,000	42
2004-05	586,000	44
2005-06	588,000	43
2006-07	603,000	42
2007-08	905,000	43

Notes:
Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
The DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS) does not hold data on crisis loan applications by the reason for the application. However, the proportion of applications processed which were for alignment payments can be estimated from scans of crisis loan applications. Each such scan consists of applications processed in the relevant financial year and held on the Social Fund Computer System at the end of that year. (Each scan records the latest decision on each application; this may be an initial decision or a review decision.) These estimated proportions have then been applied to the numbers of applications processed obtained from PBMIS.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* crisis loans and *(b)* budgeting loans were being repaid at (i) 12 per cent., (ii) 10 per cent. and (iii) five per cent. in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [215927]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available for budgeting loans before 2006-07; or for crisis loans. The available information is given in the tables.

Budgeting loans for Great Britain for 2006-07

Repayment rate (%)	*Number of initial awards*	*Proportion of all initial awards (%)*
12	434,000	33.4
10	297,000	22.9
5	324,000	25.0

Budgeting Loans for Great Britain for 2007-08

Repayment rate (%)	*Number of initial awards*	*Proportion of all initial awards (%)*
12	401,000	34.3
10	277,000	23.7
5	298,000	25.5

Notes:
1. Figures are based on (initial) awards made in each year, not on awards being repaid in each year.
2. Figures are for initial awards only. Awards made after review are not included.
3. The current standard repayment rates are 12 per cent, 10 per cent and five percent. These rates were introduced for applications received on or after 3rd April 2006. Some awards made in the early part of 2006-07 were for applications received before 3 April 2006, to which the previous standard repayment rates of 15 per cent. 10 per cent. and five per cent. applied.
4. When a standard repayment rate is used, the weekly repayment amount for a budgeting loan is calculated by multiplying the repayment rate by the weekly available income, then rounding to the nearest penny. For each award, the scan does not give the repayment rate, but only the weekly repayment amount and the weekly available income. The repayment rate calculated from these two quantities may differ slightly from the true repayment rate, because of the rounding of the repayment amount. To allow for this, the stated number of awards with a repayment rate of 12 per cent is actually the number with a calculated repayment rate of 12 per cent ± 0.05 per cent. Similarly, for the other standard repayment rates, 10 per cent ± 0.05 per cent and five per cent ± 0.05 per cent have been used.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
6. Proportions have been calculated using non-rounded numbers.
Source:
Analysis of scans of the Social Fund Computer System (SFCS) taken at the end of each month, showing Budgeting Loan initial awards recorded on SFCS during the month.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217873]

Mrs. McGuire: Statistics on the numbers of instances (and therefore any total related costs) are not available, and to obtain them would be at disproportionate cost. The Department for Work and Pensions recognises that PCs being left on overnight waste energy and as a result, instructs and regularly reminds staff to turn off PCs at the close of their working day.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have access to his Department's IT infrastructure at their home. [216382]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people authorised to work from home within the Department for Work and Pensions is not collated centrally. It is controlled and managed locally and the collation of such information would involve disproportionate cost.

In addition to those who work at home normally, the Department for Work and Pensions currently has 7,536 members of staff who have been supplied with an approved laptop computer that is able to provide secure access to the Department's IT infrastructure, for example to e-mail, from their home.

All remote access is provided via a secure electronic gateway that is provided by BT.

In addition to the secure electronic gateway, all of the Department's laptop computers have encrypted internal hard drives and access to any computer services provided by the Department's IT infrastructure, such as e-mail, requires the use of a personal access card that utilises "Chip and Pin" technology.

Departmental Information Communications Technology

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's proposals to replace progressively its IT contracts by 2015, if he will list *(a)* the contracts in place, *(b)* the value of each contract and *(c)* the expected date of termination of each contract when entered into; whether any costs are expected to arise from early termination of contracts; and what assessment he has made of the value for money offered by each contract. [217682]

Mrs. McGuire: The IT contracts that the Department is progressively replacing are:

Standard Services Business Allocation (SSBA);

Integrated Communications Network Services Business Allocation (ICONS) contract; and

the Unity Framework Agreement.

Value of each contract:

SSBA expected spend will be £2.9 billion;

ICONS expected spend will be £0.9 billion; and

The Unity Framework Agreement allows for service orders to be let within it; the value of those awarded to date is £65.5 million.

The expiry of each of these agreements is as follows:

SSBA expires in August 2010, but can be extended to February 2015.

ICONS expires in March 2011, but can be extended to February 2015.

The Unity Framework agreement expires in February 2009, however contracts placed within that term may have an expiry beyond February 2009. The only contract that currently falls into that category is in respect of the Employment and Support Allowance, whose expiry is June 2011.

The Department has no plans to terminate any of these contracting arrangements earlier than the contracted expiry date. Should it become necessary, the SSBA, ICONS and Unity contracting arrangements have the appropriate provisions for early termination.

Value for Money:

The SSBA and ICONS contracts prior to their agreement were benchmarked by external specialists; the resultant contracts have delivered substantial savings on IT costs and have also provided improved service levels for the Department.

The Unity Framework Agreement:

Which was itself the outcome of an open competition—comprises multiple suppliers in differing categories; requirements being sourced through Unity are competed through the relevant category, thus driving out value for money for the Department.

Additionally, the SSBA, ICONS and Unity arrangements have 'Benchmarking' clauses that can be utilised at certain times to test their value for money relative to the market.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215581]

Mrs. McGuire: As at 31 May 2008 there were 368 permanent members of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions who were without a permanent post. The following table shows the number of staff in each business area of the Department.

Business area	*Staff without a permanent post*
Jobcentre Plus	273
Pensions, disability and carer services	41
Child Support Agency	5
Rest of the Department	49

Staff without permanent posts are actively engaged in delivering a range of departmental projects and duties while seeking a new permanent position. They are given priority for posts in this Department and other Government Departments.

This Department does not have any people action teams.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215238]

Mrs. McGuire: Records of expenses are available from 1 April 2002 and are shown in the following table:

Period of the claim	*Amount claimed (£)*
1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008	0
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	215.21
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	2,024.18
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	435.50
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	0
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	64
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	121.65
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	[1]—
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	[1]—
1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000	[1]—
1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999	[1]—

[1] No records available

These figures represent expenses that have been incurred and claimed individually in respect of the special advisers concerned, as part of their role in supporting Ministers on official business.

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in departmental guidance and are in line with the provisions set out in the civil service management code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department's budget and that of its predecessor Department was spent on research in each of the last 10 years. [218069]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's expenditure on social research for the last seven financial years is given in the following table:

Financial year	*Research expenditure (£ million)*	*Research expenditure as percentage of DEL*
2001-02	11.8	0.24
2002-03	10.2	0.17
2003-04	12.5	0.21
2004-05	14.2	0.24
2005-06	16.9	0.29
2006-07	15.2	0.26
2007-08[1]	15.0	0.26

[1] estimated outturn for DEL

The figures on DWP research spend are supplied to the Office for National Statistics on an annual basis. The figures for Department of Work and Pensions DEL spend are taken from table 5 of the annual departmental report. DWP was only established in 2001 and so it is not possible to go back 10 years.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enquiries his Department received through its 0800 and 0845 numbers in each of the last three years. [214295]

Mrs. McGuire: Inquiries to the Department of Work and Pensions through 0800 and 0845 numbers for the last three years are:

DWP contact centres

	Total inquiries[1] to DWP contact centres during normal opening hours Year (April to March)		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
0800	2,994,064	1,944,284	1,550,576
0845	21,322,774	22,064,546	22,519,633
(0800 and 0845)[1]	18,950,827	19,920,108	18,905,753
Total	43,267,665	43,928,938	42,975,962

[1] Inquiries, is defined as total calls offered to DWP contact centres during their normal hours of opening. Information is not available in all cases to distinguish between those calls received to 0800 numbers and those to 0845 numbers.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215884]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the total waste produced, the amount of waste recycled and the amount sent to energy recovery facilities/landfill for the past two years for the Department for Work and Pensions, as reported against the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) waste target. Information for the baseline year (2004-05) has also been included to facilitate comparisons.

	[1]2004-05	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total waste produced (metric tonnes)	30,411	22,365	20,343
Recycling (metric tonnes)	15,643	14,881	12,952
Recycling as percentage of total waste produced	51.4	66.5	63.7
Waste sent to energy recovery facilities and landfill as percentage of total waste produced	48.6	33.5	36.3

[1] Baseline year.

Total waste arisings have fallen by over 33 per cent. since the baseline year. The Department aims to be an exemplar of sustainable procurement, and we actively encourage good demand management, to procure only the goods (or services) that we need to support the delivery of our business.

We are also committed to working with our suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce the amount of waste that is produced—for example by reducing packaging where feasible. Where delivery of contracts take place on the DWP estate there is a requirement for all our suppliers to help meet the SOGE targets, including those for waste.

Our rate of recycling has grown and remains well in excess of the 2010 target to recycle 40 per cent. of total waste. This has been mainly due to the implementation of the Total Paper Recycling Scheme across the estate over the last five years by Land Securities Trillium and their service partners. We also operate an intranet based "Swap Shop" which enables staff across DWP to redistribute surplus goods, which might otherwise have been sent to landfill. During 2008, 500 "lots" were found new homes.

A pilot is under way across the Yorkshire and Humber region to further enhance our recycling performance by introducing a new initiative "Recycle It—DWP" This will provide additional paper and cardboard recycling facilities, as well as providing opportunities to recycle other waste such as glass, cans and some plastic. If successful, it will be extended across the entire estate wherever viable.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219018]

Mrs. McGuire: None. The requirement to prepare Home Information Packs applies to the marketing for sale of residential properties. This Department has not been involved in any such transactions since 1 August 2007.

Incapacity Benefit: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working age population of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency receive incapacity benefit. [218615]

Mrs. McGuire: At November 2007, 4.7 per cent. of the working age population of the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were in receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS and ONS experimental small area population estimates (2005)

Incapacity Benefit: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children who were aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* five to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16 years living in households in receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in each London local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [218616]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in each parliamentary constituency in London in each of the last 10 years. [218617]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Hyndburn

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working population of Hyndburn constituency received incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [218290]

Mrs. McGuire: At November 2007, 10.9 per cent. of the working age population of the Hyndburn parliamentary constituency were in receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS and ONS experimental small area population estimates (2005)

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place for the medical assessment of persons in receipt of incapacity benefit; which companies are used to carry out such assessments; what the terms of reference for such assessments are; and how their fees are calculated. [219450]

Mrs. McGuire: The arrangements in place for the medical assessment of persons in receipt of incapacity benefits are for a health care professional to provide an independent, impartial opinion on the medical aspects of the claim. The evidence they provide forms just one part of the evidence that the Department for Work and Pensions decision maker uses to decide entitlement. The company used to carry out these medical assessments is Atos Healthcare, a division of Atos Origin IT Services Ltd.

The terms of reference for medical assessments are included in the Medical Services contract. A copy of the contract, excluding those paragraphs which are considered commercially sensitive, is available in the Library.

The health care professionals who conduct the medical assessments are employed by Atos Healthcare. The remuneration received by Atos Healthcare employees is a matter between Atos Healthcare and its employees.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons in receipt of incapacity benefit were required to attend a medical assessment in the last year for which figures are available; and what the cost of such assessments was. [219452]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. In the year April 2007 to March 2008, 535,077 medical assessments were completed for incapacity benefits customers.

The individual unit price for such assessments is held commercial in confidence.

Incapacity Benefit: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* between five and 11 and *(c)* between 12 and 16 years living in households in receipt of incapacity benefit in each local authority area in the North East. [219092]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, is in the following table.

Number of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance by north east local authority—April 2007

	Aged 0-4	*Aged 5-11*	*Aged 12-16*
Alnwick	65	85	75
Berwick-upon-Tweed	40	65	75
Blyth Valley	250	480	460
Castle Morpeth	60	120	145
Chester-le-Street	165	280	300
Darlington	290	470	440
Derwentside	300	550	560
Durham	220	375	370
Easington	700	1,300	1,200
Gateshead	665	1,160	1,025
Hartlepool	420	775	765
Middlesbrough	575	945	970
Newcastle upon Tyne	855	1,585	1,480
North Tyneside	470	865	875
Redcar and Cleveland	510	880	815
Sedgefield	395	665	630
South Tyneside	420	790	860
Stockton-on-Tees	500	845	890
Sunderland	985	1,885	1,955
Teesdale	35	90	65
Tynedale	50	125	140
Wansbeck	205	405	370
Wear Valley	255	460	425

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Data represent children who are dependent on a parent/guardian claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
4. The Department does not have complete information on child dependents on the benefit computer systems, therefore children have been merged onto incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of incapacity benefit in each parliamentary constituency in the North East in the most recent period for which figures are available. [219094]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in parliamentary constituencies in the North East; as at November 2007

	Number
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,920
Bishop Auckland	6,170
Blaydon	4,140
Blyth Valley	4,770
City of Durham	4,500
Darlington	4,970
Easington	8,570
Gateshead East and Washington West	5,270
Hartlepool	7,190
Hexham	2,320
Houghton and Washington East	6,430
Jarrow	5,050
Middlesbrough	7,250
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	5,470
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	4,650
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	5,780
Newcastle upon Tyne North	4,790
North Durham	5,770
North Tyneside	5,300
North West Durham	5,480
Redcar	5,910
Sedgefield	6,080
South Shields	5,610
Stockton North	5,610
Stockton South	4,270
Sunderland North	6,120
Sunderland South	6,300
Tyne Bridge	7,100
Tynemouth	3,800
Wansbeck	4,960

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants by parliamentary constituency at November 2007 are published on the NOMIS website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 890-1W, on income support: disabled, if he will investigate the reasons for the inability of a constituent of the hon. Member for Torbay to receive income support with disability element on a weekly basis. [217727]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobcentre Plus wrote to the hon. Member on 30 June 2008 explaining what action his constituent needed to take to receive weekly payments of income support. The situation has now been rectified and the constituent is receiving their income support weekly.

It has been brought to my attention that the reply I gave the hon. Member for Torbay, on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 890-1W, incorrectly stated that

all claims to income support are paid weekly, the answer should have read as follows. I apologise for this oversight.

Most claims to income support are paid on a weekly basis in arrears. However, income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for work is generally paid fortnightly in arrears (except where the case has been continuous since before April 1995). Customers receiving income support with widows or bereavement benefit are normally paid in advance.

From April 2009 all new claims to income support will be paid fortnightly in arrears in line with employment and support allowance (ESA) which will be introduced in October 2008.

Weekly payments will be considered in exceptional circumstances and for up to 26 weeks. A customer's disability would not, of itself, justify weekly payment.

Post Office Card Accounts: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit paid to residents in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency was paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [218396]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in Bexleyheath and Crayford in each of the last five years.

	December 2003		*December 2004*		*December 2005*		*December 2006*		*December 2007*	
	Total	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Percentage*
Attendance Allowance	10	1	100	11	120	15	110	15	110	15
Bereavement Benefit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Living Allowance	10	1	270	11	330	13	330	12	340	12
Incapacity Benefit	10	1	110	9	150	12	150	12	140	11
Carers Allowance	—	—	70	14	80	14	70	13	80	13
Industrial Injuries	20	4	50	16	50	18	60	20	60	19
Income Support	30	1	320	14	490	22	480	21	450	20
Jobseeker's Allowance	30	4	90	11	140	16	110	13	70	12
Pension Credit	—	—	500	19	810	29	780	28	720	26
State Pension	90	1	1,350	9	2,130	15	2,000	14	1,860	13
Severe Disablement Allowance	—	—	10	6	20	15	20	15	20	14
Widows Benefit	10	2	20	9	20	13	20	11	20	13
Total	220	1	2,880	11	4,340	17	4,140	16	3,850	15

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:
DWP, Information Directorate

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff at each of his Department's offices were employed to process *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grant applications in each month since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [214919]

(2) how many staff were employed in running the Social Fund in each month since April 2003, broken down by site and scheme; and if he will make a statement; [215984]

(3) how many staff were employed to process *(a)* crisis loan, *(b)* budgeting loan and *(c)* community care grant applications in each month since 2003, broken down by location of employment; and if he will make a statement. [216081]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 17 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent questions on staff allocations for social fund application processing

asking: how many staff at each of his Department's offices were employed to process (a) crisis loans (b) budgeting loans and (c) community care grant applications in each month since 2003: how many staff were employed in running the Social Fund in each month since April 2003 broken down by site and scheme: how many staff were employed to process (a) a crisis loan (b) a budgeting loan and (c) community care grant applications in each month since 2003 broken down by location of employment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We began centralising benefit delivery in April 2006. Prior to this staff were working on social fund applications at Jobcentres and Social Security offices throughout the country and we did not keep staffing data specific to these job roles.

The available information is for the total number of staff employed nationally on each Social Fund type and is set out in the following table.

Staff employed to process community care grants, crisis loans and budgeting loans (full-time equivalents)

	April 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006	September 2006
Process SF Community Care Grants	578.73	585.9	600.77	635.11	626.29	614.39
Process SF Crisis Loans	658.69	855.61	847.62	849.55	860.16	848.97
Process SF Budgeting Loans	899.59	960.35	981.1	994.18	988.03	986.72

	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007
Process SF Community Care Grants	632.6	634.7	634.32	645.43	637.5	635.45
Process SF Crisis Loans	1,018.64	1,042.34	1,076.91	1,041.20	1,014.04	1,017.65
Process SF Budgeting Loans	980.35	970.1	952.6	935.79	947.16	931.5

	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007
Process SF Community Care Grants	639.18	639.49	653	648.19	611.38	609.07
Process SF Crisis Loans	1,018.04	1,053.50	1,128.56	1,541.62	1,560.06	1,814.32
Process SF Budgeting Loans	890.81	900.05	875.61	800.82	669.16	629.31

	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008
Process SF Community Care Grants	610.43	573.17	559.96	560.99	560.16	553.43
Process SF Crisis Loans	1,814.23	1,833.30	1,823.42	1,825.56	1,799.51	1,754.12
Process SF Budgeting Loans	631.57	555.62	597.05	561.08	558.84	525.17

	April 2008	May 2008
Process SF Community Care Grants	561.4	579.97
Process SF Crisis Loans	1,261.68	1,311.28
Process SF Budgeting Loans	470.9	455.44

Source:
Activity Based Management Data.

Social Security Benefits: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children under 16 years old in London parliamentary constituencies had at least one parent or guardian who was claiming one or more of incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, jobseekers allowance, income support and pension credit in each of the last 10 years. [218613]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available prior to 2004; the available information is in the following table.

Proportion of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support, jobseekers allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, by parliamentary constituency in London

Percentage

Parliamentary constituency	April 2004	April 2005	April 2006	April 2007
Barking	38.9	38.0	38.1	35.3
Battersea	27.1	25.8	25.8	25.0
Beckenham	18.5	18.0	17.9	16.1
Bethnal Green and Bow	48.9	46.4	45.7	44.7
Bexleyheath and Crayford	17.4	17.4	17.4	16.8

Proportion of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support, jobseekers allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, by parliamentary constituency in London

Percentage

Parliamentary constituency	April 2004	April 2005	April 2006	April 2007
Brent East	35.2	34.6	34.1	32.2
Brent North	23.7	23.5	23.8	22.9
Brent South	37.4	36.8	36.1	34.0
Brentford and Isleworth	23.0	22.9	22.7	22.0
Bromley and Chislehurst	16.1	15.6	15.2	14.6
Camberwell and Peckham	41.8	40.1	38.7	37.2
Carshalton and Wallington	21.2	20.4	20.3	20.2
Chingford and Woodford Green	19.9	19.8	20.6	21.4
Chipping Barnet	17.2	17.3	17.1	16.7
Cities of London and Westminster	24.0	23.9	23.9	22.8
Croydon Central	31.3	31.2	31.0	29.4
Croydon North	29.2	29.5	29.3	27.8
Croydon South	15.1	14.9	14.9	14.7
Dagenham	35.5	35.7	35.5	34.0
Dulwich and West Norwood	29.0	27.4	27.2	25.3
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	35.8	35.3	35.0	33.6
Ealing North	27.9	27.7	27.6	25.8
Ealing Southall	27.3	27.1	26.6	25.7
East Ham	36.9	35.7	35.4	33.1
Edmonton	35.9	37.0	38.0	37.1
Eltham	28.9	28.5	28.0	27.6
Enfield North	31.7	32.9	33.6	33.8
Enfield Southgate	17.4	18.1	17.5	17.3
Erith and Thamesmead	34.0	33.3	33.3	31.8
Feltham and Heston	29.8	29.4	29.1	28.4
Finchley and Golders Green	18.5	18.3	18.0	16.3
Greenwich and Woolwich	40.5	38.9	38.4	36.4
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	34.2	32.7	31.5	30.2
Hackney South and Shoreditch	48.9	47.3	47.3	44.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	31.4	30.5	29.9	29.1
Hampstead and Highgate	32.5	31.9	30.9	29.1
Harrow East	22.3	22.6	22.6	23.0
Harrow West	18.8	18.8	18.1	17.9
Hayes and Harlington	31.2	30.8	30.8	30.4
Hendon	27.1	27.0	26.9	25.6
Holborn and St. Pancras	45.2	44.6	44.0	41.2
Hornchurch	16.3	16.5	17.1	17.2
Hornsey and Wood Green	29.7	29.0	28.3	26.9
Ilford North	21.5	21.6	21.3	21.4
Ilford South	28.0	28.6	29.3	29.6

Proportion of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support, jobseekers allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, by parliamentary constituency in London

Percentage

Parliamentary constituency	April 2004	April 2005	April 2006	April 2007
Islington North	43.7	42.8	42.6	41.4
Islington South and Finsbury	47.7	47.1	46.8	45.8
Kensington and Chelsea	17.7	16.2	15.6	15.1
Kingston and Surbiton	15.6	15.5	15.4	14.5
Lewisham Deptford	36.2	34.9	34.7	33.9
Lewisham East	32.5	32.8	33.2	33.6
Lewisham West	30.9	30.0	30.6	30.3
Leyton and Wanstead	32.1	31.5	30.1	28.4
Mitcham and Morden	26.6	26.3	26.2	24.5
North Southwark and Bermondsey	42.6	41.0	39.3	37.4
Old Bexley and Sidcup	11.8	11.3	10.9	10.8
Orpington	18.0	17.9	17.7	17.5
Poplar and Canning Town	51.2	48.7	48.2	46.8
Putney	26.3	25.2	24.3	23.9
Regent's Park and Kensington North	45.4	44.5	44.1	43.0
Richmond Park	11.2	11.2	10.6	10.0
Romford	17.8	17.9	17.6	17.6
Ruislip-Northwood	15.0	14.7	13.6	12.9
Streatham	33.8	32.8	32.9	31.3
Sutton and Cheam	11.0	11.6	11.8	11.6
Tooting	22.6	21.9	21.8	20.8
Tottenham	48.8	48.0	46.6	43.5
Twickenham	11.2	11.2	11.1	10.7
Upminster	20.6	20.1	19.1	18.8
Uxbridge	23.3	22.9	22.4	22.9
Vauxhall	40.0	39.1	39.1	37.7
Walthamstow	34.2	34.2	33.1	32.9
West Ham	41.1	39.4	38.1	36.1
Wimbledon	10.5	10.0	9.4	8.5

Notes:
1. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
2. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system. Children have been merged onto income support/jobseeker's allowance/incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance/pension credit claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
3. The total number of children aged 0-15 on child benefit in each parliamentary constituency at the relevant year has been used as the denominator for the percentages given.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of all children under 16

years old were living in households in receipt of benefits in each parliamentary constituency in the North East in 2008. [219095]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit, is in the following table.

Percentage of children aged 0 to 15 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or pension credit: North East region parliamentary constituencies April 2007

	Percentage
Berwick-upon-Tweed	14.3
Bishop Auckland	24.5
Blaydon	18.0
Blyth Valley	21.1
Darlington	23.0
Durham, City of	17.4
Easington	31.8
Gateshead East and Washington West	23.4
Hartlepool	28.6
Hexham	7.8
Houghton and Washington East	24.1
Jarrow	24.2
Middlesbrough	35.0
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	23.6
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	26.0
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	31.5
Newcastle upon Tyne North	23.4
North Durham	21.5
North Tyneside	23.9
North West Durham	19.1
Redcar	27.7
Sedgefield	21.8
South Shields	31.0
Stockton North	27.9
Stockton South	15.8
Sunderland North	26.1
Sunderland South	27.9
Tyne Bridge	34.6
Tynemouth	15.2
Wansbeck	23.0

Notes:
1. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
2. The Department does not have complete information on child dependents on the benefit computer systems, therefore children have been merged onto income support, jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and pension credit claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
3. The total numbers of children aged 0 to 15 on child benefit in each parliamentary constituency at the relevant year have been used as the denominator for the percentages given.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working age households were in receipt of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in each constituency in the North East in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [219097]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the number of people claiming one or more of incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, income support or jobseeker's allowance, is shown in the following table.

Number of working age incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, income support or jobseeker's allowance claimants in the north east parliamentary constituencies

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance			*Income support*			*Jobseeker's allowance*		
	November 2005	*November 2006*	*November 2007*	*November 2005*	*November 2006*	*November 2007*	*November 2005*	*November 2006*	*November 2007*
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3,090	3,010	2,850	1,710	1,670	1,630	960	1,040	790
Bishop Auckland	6,230	6,190	6,080	3,820	3,860	3,810	1,340	1,290	1,160
Blaydon	4,300	4,190	4,050	2,540	2,570	2,490	1,050	990	930
Blyth Valley	5,230	5,010	4,690	3,230	3,140	3,090	1,460	1,560	1,330
City of Durham	4,720	4,610	4,430	2,340	2,380	2,240	970	930	840
Darlington	5,090	4,980	4,880	3,840	3,900	3,870	1,550	1,590	1,560
Easington	9,410	8,800	8,480	4,630	4,510	4,370	1,190	1,220	1,150
Gateshead East and Washington West	5,550	5,410	5,190	3,690	3,610	3,530	1,240	1,300	1,130
Hartlepool	7,430	7,170	7,100	5,090	5,120	5,130	2,190	2,300	2,220
Hexham	2,590	2,450	2,270	1,200	1,170	1,130	560	560	540
Houghton and Washington East	6,880	6,640	6,330	4,070	4,070	3,850	1,310	1,420	1,260
Jarrow	5,270	5,130	4,970	3,800	3,800	3,660	1,720	1,900	1,690
Middlesbrough	7,890	7,520	7,180	7,100	6,880	6,740	2,920	3,220	3,020

Number of working age incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, income support or jobseeker's allowance claimants in the north east parliamentary constituencies

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance			*Income support*			*Jobseeker's allowance*		
	November 2005	*November 2006*	*November 2007*	*November 2005*	*November 2006*	*November 2007*	*November 2005*	*November 2006*	*November 2007*
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	5,770	5,590	5,390	4,080	4,110	3,960	1,690	1,830	1,740
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	4,850	4,680	4,580	4,010	3,960	3,810	1,610	1,620	1,540
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	6,090	5,880	5,700	5,040	5,070	4,990	1,900	2,140	1,960
Newcastle upon Tyne North	5,060	4,930	4,700	3,590	3,620	3,500	1,090	1,170	1,100
North Durham	6,060	5,910	5,670	3,630	3,630	3,500	1,270	1,220	1,120
North Tyneside	5,650	5,480	5,210	4,050	3,990	3,780	1,590	1,790	1,570
North West Durham	5,630	5,540	5,370	3,260 j	3,220	3,180	1,150	1,180	1,070
Redcar	6,420	6,220	5,820	4,750	4,680	4,500	2,180	2,140	2,100
Sedgefield	6,530	6,300	6,000	3,400	3,440	3,320	1,110	1,090	1,010
South Shields	5,730	5,600	5,530	4,760	4,800	4,640	2,320	2,510	2,320
Stockton North	5,860	5,620	5,540	4,700	4,630	4,590	1,970	2,150	1,880
Stockton South	4,360	4,240	4,220	2,840	2,860	2,910	1,500	1,620	1,490
Sunderland North	6,170	6,030	6,030	4,290	4,300	4,260	1,640	1,790	1,680
Sunderland South	6,800	6,530	6,210	4,750	4,710	4,520	1,920	2,070	1,990
Tyne Bridge	7,510	7,260	7,030	6,520	6,440	6,190	2,640	2,650	2,400
Tynemouth	4,020	3,960	3,730	2,570	2,580	2,530	1,270	1,290	1,120
Wansbeck	5,420	5,200	4,860	3,250	3,260	3,190	1,680	1,820	1,690

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers of working age incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance claimants by parliamentary constituency, are published on the NOMIS website at www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Figures cannot be summed across the different benefits due to overlaps.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive the UK state pension in a form which *(a)* is and *(b)* is not frozen, broken down by country of residence.[1] [216748]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in countries and territories where the state pension is up-rated (EEA and Switzerland and countries and territories covered by a reciprocal agreement which allows for up-ratings)

Country	*Number of recipients*
Austria	4,930
Barbados	5,120
Belgium	4,560
Bermuda	610
Bulgaria	220
Cyprus	14,490
Denmark	1,950
Finland	700
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50
France	42,790
Germany	33,690
Gibraltar	1,130
Greece	3,960
Guernsey	6,210
Hungary	770
Iceland	50
Ireland	108,290
Isle of Man	210
Israel	4,070
Italy	35,370
Jamaica	21,460

1. *[Official Report, 29 September 2008, Vol. 479, c. 15MC.]*

Table 1: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in countries and territories where the state pension is up-rated (EEA and Switzerland and countries and territories covered by a reciprocal agreement which allows for up-ratings)

Country	Number of recipients
Jersey	8,720
Liechtenstein	30
Luxembourg	280
Malta	4,130
Mauritius	550
Netherlands	8,360
Norway	1,860
Philippines	1,190
Poland	1,380
Portugal	7,150
Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	20
Republic of Croatia	340
Republic of Estonia	40
Republic of Latvia	110
Republic of Lithuania	50
Republic of Slovenia	150
Romania	40
Serbia and Montenegro	420
Spain	86,670
Sweden	2,470
Switzerland	6,770
The Czech Republic	230
The Slovak Republic	20
Turkey	1,070
USA	132,080

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
Albania	10
Alderney	550
Algeria	10
Andorra	200
Anguilla	150
Antigua	450
Antilles (Netherlands)	40
Arab Emirates	390
Argentina	250
Australia	246,110
Bahamas	250
Bahrain	80
Bangladesh	2,570
Belize	70
Bolivia	30
Botswana	140
Brazil	550
Brunei	20
Cameroon	10
Canada	156,230
Cape Verde Islands	10
Cayman Islands	130
Chile	210
China People's Republic	150
Colombia	110
Cook Islands	10
Costa Rica	50
Cuba	10
Djibouti	90
Dominica Commonwealth	1,100
Dominican Republic	40

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
Ecuador	50
Egypt	210
El Salvador	10
Ethiopia	20
Falkland Islands + Deps	50
Faroe Islands	10
Fiji	90
French Overseas Departments	20
Gambia	80
Ghana	850
Grenada	1,520
Guatemala	10
Guyana	430
Honduras	10
Hong Kong	1,330
India	4,680
Indonesia	120
Iran	20
Japan	780
Jordan	70
Kampuchea	10
Kenya	650
Kuwait	50
Laos	10
Lebanon	60
Lesotho	10
Macau	10
Malawi	80
Malaysia	590
Mexico	340
Monaco	330
Montserrat	130
Morocco	100
Mozambique	10
Namibia	60
Nepal	30
New Zealand	46,430
Nicaragua	10
Nigeria	3,040
Norfolk Island	10
Oman	80
Pakistan	4,960
Panama	40
Papua New Guinea	10
Paraguay	20
Peru	100
Qatar	50
Republic of Azerbaijan	10
Republic of Belarus	20
Republic of Yemen	2,920
Saudi Arabia	150
Senegal	10
Seychelles	120
Sierra Leone	80
Singapore	370
Solomon Islands	10
Somalia	50
South Africa	37,740
South Korea	20
Sri Lanka	730
St. Helena and Deps	80

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
St. Kitts and Nevis	500
St. Lucia	1,380
St. Vincent and Grenadines	840
Swaziland	100
Syria	30
Taiwan	20
Tanzania	60
Thailand	1,560
The Russian Federation	90
Togo	10
Tonga	10
Tours	40
Trinidad and Tobago	1,430
Tunisia	30
Turks and Caicos Islands	20
Uganda	70
Ukraine	180
Uruguay	50
Vanuatu	20
Venezuela	80
Vietnam	20
Virgin Islands (British)	50
Zambia	190
Zimbabwe	2,270

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures as at November 2007. They do not necessarily denote a recipient's permanent place of residence.
3. The agreement with USA covers also American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.
4. UK figures not included.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

State Retirement Pensions: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Bexley receiving the 25 pence age allowance. [218518]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at November 2007, there were 9,700 state pension claimants aged 80 or over receiving the age addition in the local authority area of Bexley.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from five per cent. extracts of the Pensions Strategy Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. Local authorities are allocated using the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

State Retirement Pensions: Eligibility

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British nationals over state pension age failed the habitual residence test when resuming a residence in the UK in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007. [219543]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Number of British nationals over state pension age who have passed or failed the habitual residence test in relation to pension credit

	Passed	Failed
2004	2,431	276
2005	2,850	717
2006	2,667	572
2007	1,161	237

Note:
Some of those recorded as passing the test may have previously failed it. Records do not show when the test has been applied to the same person on a previous occasion.

Source:
DWP management information.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the habitual residence test is applied to older British nationals who are returning to live in the UK. [219546]

Mr. Plaskitt: Everyone claiming income-related benefits when arriving or returning to the UK is required to show that they are habitually resident in this country and have a settled intention to remain. The habitual residence test is applied irrespective of age.

However, returning British nationals re-establishing their ties with the UK may be able to satisfy the test immediately.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is contributing to the £140 million fund announced on 6th June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming. [219730]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has committed £22 million towards the £140 million fund over the period of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Vaccination: Compensation

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments have been made under the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme in each year since its inception; and for which vaccines the payment was awarded in each case. [216559]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of payments made under the Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979, in each financial year since 1979 is listed in the following table.

The Department does not hold information about the specific vaccines linked to a successful vaccine damage payment claim. Claimants are asked to specify on the claim form all the vaccinations the disabled person received. However, as many vaccinations can be given in close proximity to each other it is not always possible to state categorically which vaccine caused the adverse reaction. Where a payment is made disability is not attributed to any specific vaccination.

Vaccine damage payments: awards made in each year since 1978-79

Year (1 April to 31 March)	Number of payments made
1978-79	36
1979-80	317

Vaccine damage payments: awards made in each year since 1978-79

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of payments made*
1980-81	256
1981-82	68
1982-83	38
1983-84	40
1984-85	36
1985-86	24
1986-87	17
1987-88	10
1988-89	3
1989-90	3
1990-91	1
1991-92	7
1992-93	13
1993-94	3
1994-95	7
1995-96	6
1996-97	5
1997-98	3
1998-99	0
1999-2000	4
2000-01	2
2001-02	3
2002-03	5
2003-04	5
2004-05	4
2005-06	5
2006-07	4
2007-08	2
Total	927

Note:
When the scheme was established in 1978 there was a large backlog of cases that had to be dealt with. This accounts for the large number of awards made in the early years of the scheme. One of the main reasons for the decline, over time, in the number of awards made is that medical knowledge and understanding has significantly advanced since 1978. Additionally, many reliable research papers since then have demonstrated that a clear link between vaccines and adverse reactions, sufficient to accept causation on the balance of probabilities, is not as great as had been previously thought.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits have been made by personnel from his Department to detainees transferred from the custody of British forces to the government of Afghanistan in each month since December 2007; and what the purpose of each visit was. [214375]

Des Browne: Records show that, since December 2007, UK armed forces personnel have made nine visits to see Afghan detainees transferred to the custody of the government of Afghanistan, normally seeing several detainees in one visit. The visits are broken down by month as follows:

Month	*Number of visits*
December 2007	1
January 2008	0
February 2008	0
March 2008	3
April 2008	1
May 2008	1
June 2008	2
July 2008	1

The purpose of the visits was to check on the welfare and status of the detainees.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of enhancement provided by the British armament package to the operational abilities of the Mastiff in Afghanistan. [218485]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Fuels

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning assumptions his Department made regarding the unit cost of principal hydrocarbon fuels used by HM Armed Forces in determining its budget allocations for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [219233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The final Defence Corporate Planning Assumptions used when setting budget allocations for 2007-08 and 2008-09 were as follows:

Propulsion fuel prices

	£ per cubic metre	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Aviation Fuel	350	440
Marine Fuel	280	360
Road Diesel	880	1090
Other Propulsion Fuel	860	1020

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the user capability statement of the MOD Mastiff is; and what role it is to perform in Afghanistan. [218484]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Mastiff is used to provide armoured protection for troops. I am withholding further details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles have been provided out of the future rapid effect system budget. [218491]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Defence Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost of equipping an individual serviceman or woman is with *(a)* basic, *(b)* specialist and *(c)* personal kit. [218498]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The approximate cost of basic uniform issued to service personnel during their recruitment stage is shown as follows:

£

	Army	RAF	RN
Officers	900	[1]1,100	[3]1,700
Other ranks	760	[2]1,200	470

[1] Includes mess dress.
[2] Includes tropical clothing.
[3] Includes RAF Blues.

There are hundreds of specialist trades across the three services and well over 1,000 items of specialist equipment. It is therefore not possible to provide an average cost of specialist kit. The cost of the personal kit issued to all those deploying on operations, which includes enhanced combat body armour and Mk6a helmet, is approximately £2,500.

Departmental Computers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225, on MOD (data loss), how many of the 347 laptops stolen or lost from the Ministry of Defence since 2004 have been recovered. [182359]

Des Browne: As a result of the theft of the Royal Navy laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all computers lost or stolen since 2003. This investigation is under way and I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and arrange for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Mark Pritchard:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 29 January 2008, (Official Report, column 184W) about the number of laptops stolen or lost from the Ministry of Defence since 2004 that had subsequently been recovered.

The figure of 347 laptops that you quote can be derived from information provided in answer to the hon Member for Rayleigh (Mr Francois) on 19 January 2007, (Official Report, column 1363-4W) and the hon Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke) on 10 December 2007, (Official Report, column 58W) and relates only to stolen laptops.

Revised figures have been taken from the data collated in the course of the investigation into details of computers and other electronic media lost/stolen since 2003 and provided to Sir Edmund Burton as part of his review. For all years they show an increase in the number of stolen laptops from the numbers previously reported is because the Burton Review investigation revealed anomalies in the reporting process. Instructions have been issued to remedy these shortcomings.

Revised figures as at today are set out below.

	Previously reported stolen laptops	Updated stolen laptops	Updated lost laptops	Updated total stolen and lost laptops	Updated laptops recovered (stolen/ lost)
2004	173	272	22	294	6
2005	40	130	18	148	11
2006	66	155	27	182	6
2007	68	101	22	[1]123	9
Total	347	658	89	747	32

[1] A corresponding figure of 230 was given in Burton Report (Summary, Paragraph 38c, Page 9.) Subsequent reclassification and clarification of incidents has reduced the figure to 123.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on urgent operational requirements in near cash terms in each financial year since 2001-02. [217254]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The amount of fish procured since the start of the current MOD food supply contract on 1 October 2006 is approximately 1,300 metric tonnes. The cost, broken down by species, is as follows:

Species	October 2006 to September 2007	Spend (£) October 2007 to June 2008
Prawn (including scampi)	661,335	414,370
Cod	606,468	413,163
Canned fish	485,090	301,628
Haddock	197,265	145,982
Salmon	184,652	113,611
Plaice	134,917	75,544
Tuna	41,182	26,764
Hoki	30,515	28,672
Halibut	28,687	23,615
Mackerel	30,219	21,996
Hake	28,894	16,242
Pollock	16,629	16,896
Scallops	21,596	9,848
Kippers	15,707	8,550
Trout	10,293	13,454
Blanchbait	2,787	875
River Cobbler	—	1,890

All fish purchased through the MOD food supply contract is subject to extensive and stringent quality standards. These are comparable to, or exceed, extant EC and legislative standards.

Further detailed information in respect of fish procured outside of the MOD food supply contract, such as contract catering/pay as you dine establishments and the spend prior to October 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The value of fish procured that meets the Marine Stewardship Council Standard is not held.

Flag Office Sea Training: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign naval vessels and auxiliaries visited HM Naval Base Devonport under the auspices of Flag Office Sea Training in each of the last five years. [219456]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of foreign naval vessels and auxiliaries that have undertaken training at Flag Office Sea Training (South) over the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Ships*	*Auxiliaries*
2003-04	15	0
2004-05	18	2
2005-06	16	2
2006-07	14	0
2007-08	18	2
2008-09[1]	4	1

[1] To date.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Naval vessels have taken part in training exercises in Plymouth under the auspices of Flag Office Sea Training for each of the last five years. [219457]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessels that have undertaken training exercises at Flag Office Sea Training (South) over the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*RN*	*RFA*
2003-04	28	13
2004-05	29	8
2005-06	27	17
2006-07	23	11
2007-08	25	13
2008-09 (to date)	6	2

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Naval personnel and *(b)* civilian staff are employed in Plymouth by Flag Office Sea Training. [219458]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Flag Office Sea Training (South) employs 373 Royal Navy personnel and 40 civil servants in Plymouth. These figures include staff supporting training and resettlement in HMS Drake. The civil service figure includes 14 Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.

Fuels: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on fuels in the financial year 2008-09; and what his Department's budget allocation for expenditure on fuel for 2008-09 was. [219236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Initial, verified estimates for expenditure on fuel during the current financial year will be available later in the year. We keep the price of fuel under regular review and adjust our budget allocations accordingly.

Gazelle Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans are in place to cover capability gaps left by the withdrawal from service of the Gazelle helicopter in 2012. [218393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1174-75W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W, on military aircraft: helicopters, by what means his Department plans to replace the *(a)* flying capacity and *(b)* skill base once the Gazelle helicopter has been taken out of service. [218400]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1174W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). With the planned decommissioning of the Gazelle Fleet, there will be no requirement to maintain experience of flying this type of helicopter beyond 2012.

HMS Vivid

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the trained strength of HMS Vivid is. [219459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 30 June 2008, the trained strength of HMS Vivid was 99 (30 officers and 69 ratings).

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the contents of the review of detention practices in Iraq and Afghanistan he disclosed in his letter to the hon. Member for Chichester of 7 July 2008. [219251]

Des Browne: 17 per cent. of the report on the review of detention practices was disclosed in my letter of 7 July. If the annexes are added, then about 4 per cent. of the overall review concerning detention practices was disclosed. As I explained in my letter, much of the information requested was exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Navy: Antiship Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Sea Skua system entered service with the Royal Navy; [218752]

(2) what improvements have been made to the Sea Skua system since it entered service with the Royal Navy; and what the cost of each has been; [218753]

(3) what the planned out-of-service date of the Sea Skua system is; [218754]

(4) whether his Department plans to make further improvements to the Sea Skua system. [218755]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Sea Skua Missile entered service with the Royal Navy in 1982.

In order to extend the operational life of the missiles, some component change and re-qualification programmes have been carried out. These included replacing the energetic material used in both rocket motors, at a cost of about £11 million; and refurbishment of the missile's motor ignition delay unit, at a cost of £0.9 million. In addition, Sea Skua was subject to a life extension programme at a cost of £0.8 million. There are currently no plans to make further improvements to the Sea Skua system.

On present planning assumptions, which may change, Sea Skua will be withdrawn from service by approximately the middle of the next decade.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to upgrade the training facilities at RAF Halton; and if he will make a statement. [217579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have plans for a range of improvements to the training facilities at RAF Halton. The capability of training facilities at RAF Halton is kept under continuous review to ensure the station is able to deliver its outputs.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to upgrade the accommodation facilities at RAF Halton. [217595]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have plans for a range of improvements to the accommodation and working facilities at RAF Halton.

RFA Fort Victoria

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status of RFA Fort Victoria is; and for what reasons it has been alongside for an extended period in Portsmouth Dockyard. [218751]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: RFA Fort Victoria remains within the fleet operational cycle. In addition to providing a training facility, the time alongside in Portsmouth has been fully utilised to increase the ship's material state prior to an upkeep period next year.

Tanks

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* in-service date of the (i) Chieftain, (ii) Challenger I and (iii) Challenger II main battle tanks was. [218236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The unit costs and historical financial records of the Chieftain and Challenger I are no longer held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The unit cost for Challenger II was listed as £3.5 million in 1999.

The in-service dates were Chieftain 1965, Challenger I 1984 and Challenger II June 1998.

Upholder Class Submarines

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of each Upholder Class submarine was. [218232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The upholder class of four submarines was commissioned in the early 1990s and the exact dates are shown in the following table. This class was sold to the Canadian Navy in 1998.

Due to the length of time that has elapsed since their commissioning, the unit cost is no longer held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Upholder class	*Commissioning dates*
HMS Upholder	9 June 1990
HMS Ursula	8 May 1992
HMS Unicorn	25 June 1993
HMS Unseen	7 June 1991

Warships

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unit cost of *(a)* HMS Astute, *(b)* HMS Ambush and *(c)* HMS Artful was. [218230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract with BAES (Submarine Solutions) is for design and manufacture of the three astute class submarines. The National Audit Office's Major Project Report for 2007 reported a total cost of £3,798 million.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unit cost of *(a)* HMS Daring, *(b)* HMS Dauntless and *(c)* HMS Diamond is. [218235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As published in the NAO's Major Projects Report 2007, the unit production cost for one Type 45 Destroyer is £650 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Office in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213772]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1625W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff he plans to employ in 10 Downing Street in 2009-10. [219701]

The Prime Minister: The number of No. 10 staff is published annually.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister what vehicle excise duty band his official car falls into. [217772]

The Prime Minister: As has been the practice of successive Governments, for security reasons the Prime Minister's car is provided by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many reviews of regulation Downing Street has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210814]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the staff cost of his Office was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [217340]

The Prime Minister: The total staff costs for the Office for the financial year 2006-07 were £11.6 million. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 are not yet available.

Honours

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the procedure is for a *(a)* Canadian and *(b)* British citizen to return an honour; and if he will make a statement; [219556]

(2) how many honours were returned by *(a)* Canadian and *(b)* British citizens since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [219557]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally. There is no specific procedure for people appointed to an honour to return their medals.

Intelligence and Security Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that the secretariat of the Intelligence and Security Committee is staffed by officials under the authority of the Clerk of the House. [219091]

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what steps have been taken to implement the proposals to bring the work of the Intelligence and Security Committee into line with that of Select Committees as far as possible in line with the proposals in the Green Paper, the Governance of Britain; and if he will make a statement. [218859]

The Prime Minister: Plans for the Intelligence and Security Committee were set out in the Governance of Britain White Paper (Cm 7342-1, paragraphs 235-244). On the issue of staffing, I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 920-1W, on the Olympic games, what estimate he has made of the cost of his officials' attendance at the Beijing Olympic games. [219531]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W.

Oman: Diplomatic Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to meet representatives of the Government of Oman in Muscat. [217502]

The Prime Minister: I met the Sultan of Oman in London on Tuesday; we discussed a wide range of issues. The Government are in regular contact with Government of Oman at all levels. For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

HEALTH

Antidepressants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been prescribed anti-depressant medication in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what percentage of the population of each region each represents. [218862]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine is not collected centrally therefore we are unable to provide the information requested. However, the number of prescription items prescribed for antidepressant medication[1] is shown in the following table.

[1] Antidepressant medication has been defined as those products included in the British National Formulary chapter 4.3—antidepressant drugs.

Thousand

Strategic health authority	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East Midlands	2,524.3	2,670.7	2,962.7
East of England	3,301.6	3,516.2	3,851.0
London	2,692.2	2,863.7	3,114.1

Thousand

Strategic health authority	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	1,995.4	2,130.2	2,344.5
North West	5,085.7	5,297.8	5,704.4
South Central	2,240.8	2,376.3	2,583.4
South East Coast	2,233.2	2,375.3	2,591.3
South West	3,071.3	3,269.8	3,590.5
West Midlands	2,839.3	3,006.4	3,277.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,406.0	3,531.6	3,820.8
Total	29,389.8	31,038.0	33,839.8

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Care Homes: Elderly

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many registered care homes for the elderly there were in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 2001; [219120]

(2) how many people were resident in registered care homes for the elderly in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 2001. [219121]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Until 2001, information on the numbers of care and nursing homes were collected by the Department. At 31 March 2001, there were 10,535 care and nursing homes for older people aged 65 or over in England.

Data on the total number of care and nursing homes for older people in Lancashire are not held centrally. However, data are available showing there were 259 care homes for older people age 65 and over in Lancashire local authority area at March 2001. In addition, there were 172 nursing homes, but this figure includes all homes for adults and can not be broken down further to give numbers for older people aged 65 and over. Data for Ribble Valley constituency are not held centrally.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) produces data on the number of care homes and places registered as at 31 March each year, beginning with 2002-03. There are some definitional differences between these data and those for the years up to 2001.

I have been informed by CSCI that care homes are not registered as, for example, care homes for older people. CSCI inspectors will decide at the time of an inspection whether to inspect a home against the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people or younger adults. This decision is based on the age profile of the residents of the home.

The following table shows the number of care and nursing homes which were active in Lancashire council area and England on 31 March at the end of each financial year shown, that had been inspected at some point prior against the NMS for older people (though not necessarily during the year in question).

CSCI is unable to provide separate data for Ribble Valley constituency.

Number of homes

Lancashire council area	
2002-03	345
2003-04	364
2004-05	333
2005-06	325
2006-07	320
England	
2002-03	10,049
2003-04	11,167
2004-05	10,865
2005-06	10,671
2006-07	10,565

Notes:
1. Figures are at 31 March for each year.
2. Information on numbers of residents in care homes is not collected centrally.

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary sector homes in (i) the London Borough of Bexley and (ii) Greater London were inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [218398]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the number of care homes registered with and inspected by CSCI in London and Bexley during the years 2004 to 2008 were as shown in the following table.

Registered care homes in London and Bexley, 2004-08

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
London					
Public[1]	140	144	137	131	121
Private	1,155	1,168	1,170	1,216	1,240
Voluntary	755	720	686	632	585
Other	4	3	28	40	45
Total	2,054	2,035	2,021	2,019	1,991
Bexley					
Public[1]	0	0	0	0	0
Private	15	16	15	18	17
Voluntary	21	21	20	17	16
Other	0	0	0	1	3
Total	36	37	35	36	36

[1] Figures for publicly owned homes include those owned by the national health service and those owned by councils.

Notes:
1. Figures are calculated using registration details on a static cut of the CSCI registration and inspection database taken on 2 May 2008.
2. Figures are for 31 March of each year.

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database, 2 May 2008.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department selected Cervarix as the vaccine for cervical cancer protection. [219781]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Members for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) and for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Cord Blood

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who has been consulted as part of his Department's review of the collection and use of cord blood; and if he will make a statement; [219358]

(2) when the findings of his Department's review of the collection and use of cord blood will be published. [219379]

Dawn Primarolo: The review on the collection and use of cord blood will report in the autumn and any findings will be published in due course.

As part of the review, an expert workshop was held on 28 May 2008. Participants included international cord blood experts, public and private cord blood banks, the royal colleges, regulatory agencies, research councils, charities and Government Departments. Further to this, a series of interviews and questionnaires have been completed by various individuals and organisations, both in the United Kingdom and internationally, who have an interest in this area.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166653]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is given in the 'Proportion of Domestically Produced Food used by Government Departments and also supplied to Hospitals and Prisons under contracts negotiated by the NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service' report (published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), copies of which have already been placed in the Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change has been in the number of employees of *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* his Department and its agencies since July 2006. [217066]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2007, there was a fall of 6,113 (-0.6 per cent.) in the total national health service work force (full-time equivalents) from 1,095,163 to 1,089,050.

The number of staff (full-time equivalents) in the Department and its agencies at the end of June 2006 (the nearest quarter to 1 July) and the end of March 2008 (the latest quarter for which information is available), and the change between the two dates, are presented in the following table.

	30 June 2006	*31 March 2008*	*Change*
Department	2,288.0	2,203.1	-84.9
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	758.9	865.3	106.4
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	334.4	258.5	-75.9

Notes:
1. Numbers in MHRA have risen because of an increase in business associated with licensing applications.
2. Data for the Department are collected quarterly.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care: non-medical workforce census and medical census collected on 30 September each year.

Epilepsy: Drugs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects on people's health of taking anti-epileptic drugs unnecessarily as a result of misdiagnosis. [219471]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been made of the effects on people's health of taking anti-epileptic drugs unnecessarily as a result of misdiagnosis.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217884]

Mr. Bradshaw: Records of fish purchases made on behalf of the Department by its catering contractor are only available for the three years to 2008.

Where available, it is the first choice of our contractor to source seafood from Marine Stewardship Council certified fisheries.

The breakdown of these purchases are shown in the following tables.

	Fish quantities and values	
Type	*Portions*	*Value (£)*
2008		
Cod	2,515	2,371
Cod—Fish Fingers	1,320	121
Cod—Fish Cakes	616	151
Hoki Fillets	630	486
Snapper	192	327
Haddock	1,548	1,271
Hake	50	49
Mackerel	396	233
Plaice	430	367
Salmon Fish Cakes	720	247
Salmon	560	505
Tuna	760	987
Sub total	9,737	
2007		
Cod	2,159	2,377

Fish quantities and values

Type	*Portions*	*Value (£)*
Cod—Fish Fingers	2,160	159
Cod—Fish Cakes	1,054	176
Hoki Fillets	180	130
Snapper	40	78
Haddock	1,517	1,334
Hake	480	168
Monk Fish Tails	40	46
Barracuda	74	74
Hoki Fillets	60	49
Lemon Sole	175	197
Pollack	330	169
Mackerel	72	39
Plaice	136	128
Salmon Fish Cakes	1,480	181
Salmon	667	1,451
Tuna	306	364
Sub total	10,930	
2006		
Cod	2,862	3,272
Cod—Fish Fingers	3,000	269
Cod—Fish Cakes	656	146
Hoki Fillets	30	21
Lemon Sole	110	98
Snapper	—	—
Haddock	1,742	1,351
Hake	—	—
Mackerel	90	51
Marlin	150	150
Plaice	498	537
Grouper	34	34
Salmon Fish Cakes	1,400	208
Salmon	640	636
Tilapia	162	145
Sole	240	212
Tuna	60	115
Trout	30	46
Sub total	11,704	

Fish quantities and values

Type	*Weight—kilogram (KG)*	*Value (£)*
2008		
Coley	9.08	38
Calamari	1	6
Seafood Sticks	12	46
Mussels Greenlip	4	21
King Prawns	58	659
Prawns	128	912
Smoked Salmon	14	260
Sub Total	226.08	—
Total	—	9,057
2007		
Coley	44.7	192
Crab Claws	5.4	82
Calamari	—	—
Seafood Sticks	11	33
Mussels Greenlip	13	36

Fish quantities and values

Type	*Weight—kilogram (KG)*	*Value (£)*
King Prawns	76	904
Prawns	150	850
Smoked Salmon	77	734
Scampi	9	66
Squid	10	11
Sub Total	396.1	—
Total	—	10,027
2006		
Coley	4.54	50
Calamari	—	—
John Dory	20	120
Seafood Sticks	4	21
Mussels Greenlip	3	20
King Prawns	80	1,824
Prawns	60	389
Smoked Salmon	73	603
Sword Fish	150	80
Scampi	0	0
Scallops	1	17
Sub Total	395.54	—
Total	—	10,415

General Practitioners: Standards

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts carried out appraisals of all GPs in their area in the last three years; [218899]

(2) which primary care trusts have appraised every general practitioner in their area in each of the last three years. [219231]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Our plans to introduce appraisal and revalidation for all doctors will mean that all doctors, whatever their location, will have to participate in appraisal in order to obtain relicensure from the GMC.

Health Centres

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to review the effectiveness of new GP-led health centres; [219635]

(2) when he expects the first GP-led health centre to open; [219636]

(3) what percentage of primary care trusts have identified sites for GP-led health centres. [219637]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government's policy intent is to increase access to and convenience of general practitioner (GP) services. There are a number of ways of measuring the impact that a new GP-led health centre will have on the delivery of services to patients, which will be monitored centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) as the responsible commissioners of services will review improvements against their strategic needs assessments and patient satisfaction with the services being delivered to ensure local needs are being met and the public's health and well-being improves.

The first GP-led health centre opened on 1 July 2008 in Bedfordshire.

PCTs will decide on the location of their new GP-led health centres and the services within them and will be engaging local people and other stakeholders in these matters to ensure they meet local needs.

Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* health promotion centres and *(b)* health promotion resource centres have been (i) opened and (ii) closed in England in each of the last five years; [212221]

(2) how many *(a)* health promotion centres and *(b)* health promotion resource centres are operating in England. [212222]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information centrally or at regional level on the number of health promotion centres and health promotion resource centres opened and closed in England over the last five years, nor on those that are currently operating. It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to make decisions on the provision of services for their communities, taking into account the needs and well-being of their local populations.

Hospitals: Leasehold

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to extending leasehold enfranchisement to NHS hospitals occupying sites on long leases; and if he will make a statement. [218468]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where a national health service trust occupies a building for operational purposes under a leasehold interest, it relies on Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 to acquire continuity of occupation. There are no proposals to seek further protection under these or other statutory provisions.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether those born before 1 October 1991 and who are aged between 18 and 25 years will be offered the Cervarix vaccine. [220019]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is still considering the position with regard to those born before 1 October 1991.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's June 2008 consultation on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, whether his Department has made a competition impact assessment on the use of sponsored nurses; and if he will make a statement. [218495]

Dawn Primarolo: No competition impact assessment has been made of the use of sponsored nurses as sponsorship of such posts is outside the scope of the review.

Intensive Care: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many level three intensive care cots were available for neo-natal care in each of the acute hospital trusts in the South Central Strategic Health Authority area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [218627]

Ann Keen: The average daily number of available beds in neonatal intensive care wards (also known as level three wards) for national health service acute providers in the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area can be found in the following table. There have been concerns raised recently about the definitions used for neonatal intensive care cots in the KH03 data return. The concerns have been around the use of the ward type where the cot is located as part of the definition. This has caused confusion amongst some trusts about where to record their neonatal intensive care cots and has caused inconsistency in reporting. These concerns will be investigated with the view of ensuring a robust and clear definition is developed for the 2008-09 collection.

It is for the neonatal networks, commissioners and SHAs to work together to ensure there is sufficient capacity within the system to meet local demand.

Average daily number of available beds in wards open overnight, ward classification 'Intensive care: Neonates', acute NHS providers in South Central SHA area

Organisation name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	0	14	14	14	14	11	14
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	3	3	3
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5	5	5	5	5	4	6
Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust	9	9	9	9	0	0	0
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	8	8	8	7	6	5	8
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	25	26	25	10	10	10	10
Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4	4	7	4	3	4	4

Average daily number of available beds in wards open overnight, ward classification 'Intensive care: Neonates', acute NHS providers in South Central SHA area

Organisation name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	25	26	26	26	26	28	28
South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust	2	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stoke Mandeville Hospital NHS Trust	2	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. In April 2003 South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust and Stoke Mandeville Hospital NHS Trust merged to form Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust became a Foundation Trust on 1 December 2006 and changed its name to Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Source:

Department of Health form KH03

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Hospital Beds

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days have been lost due to delayed discharges in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust since the year to 14 October 2007. [218464]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of bed days lost at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust due to delayed discharge from 15 October 2007 to 6 July 2008 is 6,467. These are the latest figures available. All delayed transfers of care for this trust for this period are for acute patients.

Source:

Department of Health, Weekly Situation Reports

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has received from the West Kent Primary Care Trust on the financial support it provided to the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust in 2007-08 to assist that trust reduce the number of bed days lost due to delayed discharges. [218465]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not received any information on financial support West Kent primary care trust (PCT) has provided to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust in 2007-08 to reduce the number of bed days lost due to delayed discharges. The right hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of the PCT.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were allocated an individual budget in the pilot sites during the Individual Budget Pilot Programme; and how many were eligible for a budget, broken down by location. [219445]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A report of the evaluation of the individual budget pilot programme will be published later in the year.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require NHS organisations to follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's technology appraisals, ethical guidelines and other guidance. [219470]

Dawn Primarolo: The Healthcare Commission's annual health check requires national health service organisations to declare the extent of their compliance with a range of core standards. These include a requirement that primary care trusts are complying with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal and interventional procedures guidance. Clinical guidelines and public health guidance are developmental standards in the annual health checks in recognition of the more complex nature of the guidance. However, NHS organisations are expected to demonstrate that they are, working towards full implementation of NICE's guidance.

In addition, there is a statutory funding direction which applies to NICE technology appraisal guidance. This requires NHS organisations to fund health care interventions recommended by NICE within three months of NICE issuing final guidance.

Nicotine

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for the establishment of a body with responsibility for the regulation of all nicotine products; and if he will make a statement. [219749]

Dawn Primarolo: Although the establishment of a body to regulate nicotine products has not been proposed in the Department's current "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", stakeholders are invited to respond to the consultation with suggestions on any aspect of tobacco control. This consultation document was published on 31 May 2008 and copies of this document have already been placed in the Library. The consultation will close on 8 September 2008.

The Government welcome responses from all interested stakeholders and will make decisions on future action on tobacco control with reference to the consultation responses. Consideration of whether to establish a regulatory body for nicotine products will not take place before the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" has ended.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 568, on the review of prescription charges, on what date he plans to publish the outcome of the review of prescription charges. [219530]

Dawn Primarolo: We will publish our planned consultation on cost neutral changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions in England in due course.

Smoking: Young People

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has conducted or evaluated on the influence of tobacco packaging on smoking rates in young people. [219735]

Dawn Primarolo: Packaging of tobacco products, and its influence on young people in particular, is a topic of consideration within the Department's current "Consultation on the future of tobacco control". This consultation document was published on 31 May 2008 and copies have already been placed in the Library. The consultation will close on 8 September 2008.

The Government welcome responses from all interested stakeholders and will make decisions on future action on tobacco packaging with reference to consultation responses.

Social Services

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on options for care and funding in respect of the (i) consultation and (ii) forthcoming Green Paper on the future of social care and support services. [219126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 527W, to the hon. Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney).

Tobacco: Sales

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he has taken of research on the effects in other countries of *(a)* prohibiting and *(b)* restricting the sale of tobacco from vending machines in formulating policy; and if he will make a statement. [219748]

Dawn Primarolo: The sale of tobacco from vending machines is a topic of consideration within the Department's current "Consultation on the future of tobacco control", copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. An overview of the evidence from other jurisdictions on restricting or prohibiting sale of tobacco from vending machines is set out in this consultation. This consultation document was published on 31 May 2008 and is in the Library and the consultation will close on 8 September 2008.

The Government welcome responses from all interested stakeholders and will make decisions on further controls on tobacco vending machines with reference to the consultation responses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Translation Services

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in Afghanistan in 2007-08. [216310]

David Miliband: In financial year 2007-08 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent a total of £93,033.56 on interpretation. This includes the salaries of five locally-engaged interpreters employed by our embassy in Kabul, four employed by our provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gah and a further five interpreters employed on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs.

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department plans to provide to the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool in 2008-09. [216300]

David Miliband: In April 2008 the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pools were merged to form a single combined Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). The CPP has a self-standing budget, provided by HM Treasury, which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. The Africa Programme, one of six-regional and two thematic programmes within the CPP, has been set an initial allocation of £62.5 million for financial year 2008-09 from the total CPP budget of £112 million.

Armenia: Turkey

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to Turkey on the issue of the Armenian massacres. [218204]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made recent representations to the Turkish Government on the issue of the Armenian massacres.

However, as part of our ongoing bilateral dialogue and in line with our longstanding policy on the massacres, we continue to encourage Turkey to work directly with Armenia to normalise their relations and to work together to build a better relationship for the future.

British Nationality: Torture

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many British nationals have asked the Government to espouse their claims for damages following allegations of torture by officials or agents of foreign governments, or have requested the Government to intervene on their behalf in these matters, since 8 December 1988; [218618]

(2) how many claims by British citizens of torture abroad have been espoused by the Government since December 1988; and what the criteria are for determining whether to espouse such a claim. [218807]

Meg Munn: The UK is opposed to torture and is one of the most active countries in the world in the fight to eradicate it. We provide consular assistance to British nationals detained abroad, which includes taking an interest in their welfare. We take allegations of mistreatment—including torture—very seriously and, with the permission of the individual concerned, can take up such allegations with the relevant authorities in the host state.

From 1 April 2005 we have collated statistics on the number of cases where we have, with the permission of the British national concerned, raised concerns with the detaining authorities over allegations of mistreatment, ranging from a lack of water to physical abuse. Records were not collated prior to April 2005.

Cases have been raised as follows:

April to December 2005: 39 allegations raised;

January to December 2006: 69 allegations raised; and

January to December 2007: 75 allegations raised.

Collated data are not broken down into specific details of the alleged mistreatment.

We do not centrally collate data on how many British nationals have asked the Government to formally espouse their legal claims for damages following allegations of torture by officials or agents of foreign governments.

We do not centrally collate data on legal claims by British nationals of torture abroad which have been formally espoused by the Government. We have formally espoused no such legal claims in recent years. Any request to formally espouse a legal claim of torture would be considered on a case by case basis.

To collate this information would therefore incur a disproportionate cost.

China: Population

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of China about trends in China's population since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [201936]

Meg Munn: We have discussed China's population mainly in terms of problems arising from the implementation of the One Child policy. We did this during the 16th Round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing in January. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion. We will continue to encourage the Chinese to meet international human rights standards at every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU.

A more detailed survey of all the exchanges between UK and Chinese authorities from 2006 would require a search of files held centrally and at all posts in China, which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Civil Disorder: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which countries he has received reports of riots because of the price of food in 2008. [218508]

Meg Munn: In 2008, Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have reported on a number of countries where food price inflation or insecurity of food supply have been central to concerns about social or political stability. These include Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Yemen. In some other cases we believe that high food prices have been part of the cause of social unrest but it is often difficult to separate the impact of food prices from other factors, including rising fuel costs and existing social or political tensions. We also examine information from a variety of sources, including the Department for International Development's country offices and international organisations.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210996]

Meg Munn: An electronic copy of the chart will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211118]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has, in the last five years, commissioned one independent inquiry.

In May 2007 UKvisas, a joint Directorate of the Home Office and the FCO, was made aware of security vulnerabilities in on-line visa application websites operated on their behalf by a commercial partner, VFS Global, in India, Nigeria and Russia. This meant that other internet users could potentially see applicants' personal data, in breach of the Data Protection Act.

On 17 May 2007 my noble Friend Lord Triesman appointed Linda Costelloe Baker, the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals, to carry out an independent investigation of this breach. She was not paid an additional fee on top of her remuneration as independent monitor for entry clearance refusals. Expenses, and the provision of legal and consultancy services to support the inquiry, are determined to have totalled £15,213.90.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary laid this report, and UKvisas' responses to the independent investigator's recommendations, before Parliament on 26 July 2007. I refer the right hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215919]

Meg Munn: In the last Sustainable Development in Government report (2007), the Sustainable Development Commission recognised the significant progress the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had made towards reducing its waste. The FCO reduced its waste by 3.2 per cent. in 2006-07 and recycled 41.2 per cent. of waste, exceeding the Government target on recycling.

The FCO has taken several measures to reduce its waste and increase the amount which is recycled and re-used. Since 2005 these include:

purchasing and installing cardboard bailing machines and waste compactors at our offices in London and Buckinghamshire;

introducing an incentive scheme to encourage re-use of cardboard and plastic items at office catering outlets;

introducing recycling bins in key locations to encourage recycling of plastic, glass and cans throughout our offices; and

in 2008 the FCO replaced bottled still water at meetings with jugs of chilled tap water.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215524]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) euro conversion plan is dated November 2004. The most recent review was in April 2007.

UK Trade and Investment, BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council plans are summarised in the FCO Plan.

The Plan is an internal planning document, however it has been made available to members of the public in response to specific requests. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Horn of Africa: Arms Trade

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of illicit trafficking of small arms and weapons from Somalia into neighbouring countries in the Horn of Africa; and what proposals the Government has put forward to reduce the trade. [218330]

Meg Munn: The availability of small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa region remains a serious problem. To help address this, the Government have committed £800,000 over a three year period (2007-10) to the Regional Centre on small arms and light weapons through the UK Conflict Prevention Pool's security and small arms control strategy. The aim is to combat the illicit proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa by assisting states, including Somalia, to implement the Nairobi Protocol. The Government are also currently considering a project proposal submitted by the Mines Advisory Group which would provide training to Somali troops and provide technical oversight to the ongoing destruction of stockpiled weapons and munitions.

Iran: Inspections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on Iran: inspections, whether it is Government policy to seek the adoption of agreed criteria to trigger the inspection of cargoes to and from Iran as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008) at *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement. [199081]

David Miliband: The UK is robustly implementing the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803. The Resolution already contains criteria for making inspections on the basis of having "reasonable grounds to believe" the aircraft or vessel is transporting prohibited goods. UK authorities routinely inspect cargoes from Iran. The EU is currently negotiating a new Common Position which the Government hope will build on the measures in UNSCR 1803.

Japan: Whales

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of Japan on the illicit trade in whale meat from Japan's scientific whaling programme. [218422]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not discussed the specific issue of an illicit trade in whale meat from Japan's scientific whaling programme with the Japanese Government but has taken note of the allegations made by Greenpeace. The Government continue to oppose all forms of whaling apart from some limited subsistence whaling when there is a substantiated need. The UK has also protested against Japan's whaling operations, which we argue are unjustified, cruel and unnecessary, at every appropriate opportunity. Most recently the UK maintained its strong anti-whaling position at the annual International Whaling Commission meeting which was held in Santiago, Chile, in June 2008.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Japan pressing for the immediate release of the two Greenpeace activists who have been held without charge since 20 June 2008. [218423]

Meg Munn: The court procedures being applied in the case of the two Greenpeace activists are standard in Japan, where those suspected of committing a crime can be held for up to 23 days without charge. The Government are unable to get involved in the criminal investigations of another country, but are following the issue closely. We remain of the view that the large-scale killing of whales—under the guise of 'scientific' research—is both unnecessary and deeply flawed, from a scientific point of view, and we will continue to make representations to the Japanese authorities on this.

Moldova: BBC External Services

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the BBC World Service's cessation of broadcasting to Moldova and Romania from 1 August 2008. [218545]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since Romania acceded to the EU in 2007 the scale of the competition in radio and all media has intensified. Additionally, mergers have meant that several major FM network partner stations which previously carried BBC Romanian output no longer do so. These FM partnerships are critical in a country where direct listening to the BBC via short wave is neither popular nor cost effective. Since 2007 there has been a significant drop in the audience—currently it is under 3 per cent. of the local radio market in Romania.

Romania will continue to be served by other BBC global news services in English including BBC World Service radio, BBC World News television and online (via bbc.com/news). The BBC's local FM relays (four in Romania and one in the Republic of Moldova), which currently broadcast a mixture of Romanian and English programmes, will broadcast English programmes exclusively (plus Russian and Ukrainian in Moldova), subject to agreement with local regulators.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the BBC World Service's policy on broadcasting to Eastern European countries is, with specific reference to Moldova and Romania; and if he will make a statement. [218546]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The BBC has announced that it will close its Romanian Service from August 2008. This change follows a review of the BBC World Service's language service portfolio after its overall funding levels, for the three year funding period between 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, were agreed with the Government in October 2007.

This decision, which has been endorsed by the BBC Trust and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, follows consideration of audience desire to continue broadcasts, the changing media landscape in Romania and the declining impact of the service.

Broadcasts in Romanian for the Republic of Moldova will also cease, as the Moldovan side of the operation cannot be sustained without the infrastructure of BBC Romanian.

Moldova: British Council

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to improve access to the services of the British Council for the people of Moldova. [218547]

Mr. Jim Murphy: While the British Council currently has no plans to open independent premises in Moldova, it already employs a member of staff who works out of our embassy in Chisinau to co-ordinate the delivery of British Council resources, programmes and services to the people of Moldova. This post, and the British Council activity in Moldova, is managed through the British Council operations in Romania and in Ukraine. The British Council currently provides the following programmes and services to the people of Moldova:

peacekeeping English Project;

John Smith Fellowship Programme;

Chevening scholarships (currently two scholarships per year);

the Moldova-UK alumni association, now established as a legal entity and receiving guidance from the British Council's Ukraine-UK Professional Network;

guidance in the establishment of an EU information centre and related activity in the break-away enclave of Transnistria;

information services for Moldovan students studying in Romania;

access to British Council electronic resources for people in Moldova;

Cambridge seminars for Moldovan teachers of English; and

English Language exams in Chisinau, and plans to provide a further exams service in Odessa.

Nigeria: Oil

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has held with Nigerian officials regarding military attacks on Shell Oil facilities recently; and if he will make a statement. [218162]

Meg Munn: Officials from our high commission in Abuja maintain good contacts with the Nigerian Government across a wide range of policy areas including the Niger Delta. Following the two most recent militant attacks (one against the Shell offshore Bonga platform on 19 June and another against a Chevron pipeline in Delta State on 21 June) staff from our high commission in Abuja discussed the incidents with senior advisers in the Presidency and also with senior military officials. During these meetings, our high commission officials stressed the negative impact of continuing insecurity in the Delta region. The Group of Eight leading industrialised nations (G8) stated earlier this month that it shared the concern of the Nigerian Government about the violence in the Delta region and supported the Nigerian Government's efforts to improve the security situation and prospects for development.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met President Yar'Adua of Nigeria in London on 16 July and discussed how the UK might help in Nigerian-led approaches to solving the underlying causes of instability in the Niger Delta.

Raoul Wallenberg

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent reports he has received on the case of Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement; [217917]

(2) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the case of Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement; [217912]

(3) what assistance his Department has *(a)* offered and *(b)* plans to offer to the Swedish Bilateral Commission on the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg; and if he will make a statement. [217911]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not received any recent reports on the case of the Swedish citizen Mr. Raoul Wallenberg.

The Government have no plans to raise the case of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg at the UN.

Records that might show whether the Swedish Bilateral Commission sought any assistance from the UK, or whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office might have information of use to the Commission, are not held centrally. To provide this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Somalia: Al-Qaeda

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the operations of al-Qaeda in Somalia and the influence of Abu al-Libi. [218329]

Meg Munn: Al-Qaeda has a long history of terrorist activity in east Africa, from the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings in 1998 to more recent activity in Somalia.

We believe that while al-Qaeda has exploited the absence of effective governance in Somalia to use the country as a base for both terrorist training and planning, the organisation has never established a formal franchise in Somalia.

Abu-Yahya al-Libi is a propagandist for al-Qaeda. He has released statements indicating al-Qaeda's continued support for the Islamic insurgency in Somalia, recognising the conflict as part of the "global jihad".

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond Yorks, (Mr. Hayne) of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 675W, what proposals the UK has put forward to strengthen the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Somalia. [218427]

Meg Munn: The UK provides significant financial (fifth largest donor) and political support to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The UK Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva is in regular contact with the OHCHR about its field activities.

The OHCHR has seconded a human rights adviser to the UN country team covering Somalia. This has resulted in a human rights based approach being reflected in policy and operational planning undertaken by the UN country team. The UK welcomes the OHCHR's intention to conduct an assessment mission to Somalia, as soon as the security situation will allow, in order to assess how it can most effectively improve the human rights situation.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* allegations of the International Criminal Court's prosecutors against the President of Sudan regarding responsibility for the situation in Darfur and *(b)* the effect of such allegations on the prospects for peace in the region. [219542]

Meg Munn: On 14 July the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor announced his application to the ICC judges for an arrest warrant against President Bashir of Sudan for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Prosecutor is completely independent and the court has its own procedures. It would therefore be inappropriate and premature to comment or speculate on the outcome of the ICC deliberations.

The UK has a long standing position of support for the work and purposes of the ICC. We also have a long standing position of calling on the Government of Sudan to co-operate with the ICC over the two existing indictments. My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this to the Sudanese President during his visit to Khartoum on 9 July.

We continue to urge all sides to show restraint, continue to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and engage in the African Union-UN led political process for Darfur.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further measures the EU plans to take against any party *(a)* impeding the joint UN-AU hybrid force for Darfur, *(b)* obstructing humanitarian access and (c) failing constructively to engage in the Darfur political process, as discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting in Luxembourg in June. [218326]

Meg Munn: The UK is ready to consider all available options to secure the effective deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur and full humanitarian access to promote a peaceful resolution to the situation in Darfur. Possible steps could include an assets freeze or travel ban against individuals engaged in violence, authorising it or impeding progress. Our preference for further measures, in common with many of our EU partners, would be for UN sanctions because of their universal coverage and because they could include, for example, extension of the existing UN arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan. The EU already has an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Tibetan monks held in prisons and detention centres by the Chinese authorities following the protests in March 2008. [218331]

Meg Munn: There has been no official confirmation of the number of Tibetans held in detention, following the protests in March and April 2008, and unofficial estimates vary considerably. We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to ensure due process for all Tibetan detainees, including that they be allowed access to lawyers of their choice. We have also stressed the need to differentiate between those who peacefully express their views and those who commit violent crimes. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on several occasions since the protests emphasising the need to respect human rights.

Our officials have raised the detentions directly with the Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London.

At the end of March, EU Foreign Ministers called for all Tibetan detainees to be treated in conformity with international standards. The rights of the Tibetan detainees were also raised at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue which took place in Slovenia on 15 May 2008.

Travel Restrictions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 770-71W, on UN resolutions: frontiers, how many further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006) from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons. [217393]

David Miliband: No further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Human Rights

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate allegations of corruption and intimidation of citizens in the British overseas territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands. [218635]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 13-14WS.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking against sources of funding for the Lord's Resistance Army, including from the Ugandan diaspora in the UK. [218298]

Meg Munn: The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is not a proscribed organisation in the UK or internationally and as such the Government are limited in what action they can take against those in the UK who support or profess membership of the LRA, if they have not broken British law.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the strengthening of the UN Mission in the Congo to act against the Lord's Resistance Army and its leader Joseph Kony. [218504]

Meg Munn: We support a political solution to end the conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda. International backing for a peaceful solution will be vital.

UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1794 in December 2007 renewed the mandate for the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC). It included a call for militia groups present in eastern DRC, including the LRA, to lay down their arms. MONUC works alongside the Congolese armed forces to contain the threat of the LRA and ensure the protection of civilians.

We note the UN Secretary-General's analysis in his report of 3 July to the UNSC that a strengthening of MONUC's capacity would be required, should the mission be tasked beyond its current activities against the LRA. In its discussions with UNSC partners and the UN on the mandating of peacekeeping missions, the Government carefully weighs political needs and capacity and budgetary implications. We believe that MONUC has the necessary resources to fulfil its current mandated tasks.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 201936 on China, tabled by the hon. Member for Southend, West on 22 April; what the reason for the time taken to respond is; and if he will make a statement. [216201]

Meg Munn: A reply was prepared but owing to an administrative error it was not transmitted to Parliament. A response to parliamentary written question 201936 has been sent today.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 199081, on Iran sanctions, tabled on 1 April 2008. [216296]

David Miliband: A reply was prepared but owing to an administrative error it was not transmitted to Parliament. A response to parliamentary written question 199081 has been sent today.

Zimbabwe: British Nationality

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Zimbabwe since the March 2008 elections. [218328]

Meg Munn: We estimate the number of British nationals currently resident in Zimbabwe to be approximately 14,000. We know from our network of consular correspondents in Zimbabwe that there has been a steady trickle of British nationals leaving the country since the March elections. During this period 70 British nationals have informed our embassy in Harare that they have left Zimbabwe, but many others could have left without informing either our embassy or their consular correspondent.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband: Elderly

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with industry representatives on measures to increase the affordability of access to broadband for *(a)* people with a disability and *(b)* older people. [184358]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofcom's report "The UK Communications Market 2007" shows that developments in technology have seen broadband reaching the majority of households and businesses in the UK and this has been reflected in widespread take-up (there are now over 16 million broadband connections in the UK). The UK has one of the fastest growing broadband markets in Europe and continues to have the most extensive availability, with 99.8 per cent. of households able to access broadband.

Statistics show that 53 per cent. of all UK adults lived in households with a broadband internet connection in Q4 2006—up from 39 per cent. in 2005 and seven times the 2002 penetration level.

The rising take-up of bundled services has contributed to the falling costs of all telecommunication services. The UK's 16 million broadband households are paying 36 per cent. less than they were four years ago, while headline connection speeds are up to 16 times faster—although actual speeds are often far slower than advertised. Competition has seen service providers differentiating in terms of price, speed, quality and in terms of product bundles.

52 per cent. of people in the UK with broadband purchased it in conjunction with another communications service, often receiving heavy discounts on the price of stand alone broadband. Some suppliers now offer standalone broadband for under £10 per month, while others provide free broadband when customers buy additional communication service, the cost of the broadband being subsidised by other services in the bundle. Prices for broadband will continue to fall as competition for subscribers intensifies.

I would be delighted to hear from industry about any plans they have to make broadband more affordable, including for the elderly or disabled.

Cambridge Online Learning Ltd

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will investigate the circumstances surrounding the transfer of funds related to EU Objective 1 from KMI Offshore Trust to Cambridge Online Learning Ltd; [218273]

(2) if he will investigate the role of the Federal Trust Bank, Guernsey in the transfer of EU Objective 1 funding from Cambridge Online Learning Ltd to KMI Offshore Trust; [218274]

(3) if he will investigate the loss of EU Objective 1 funding following the entering into administration in February 2006 of Cambridge Online Learning Ltd; [218294]

(4) if he will direct Yorkshire Forward to investigate the sale of assets of Cambridge Online Learning Ltd funded from EU Objective 1 funding; [218296]

(5) if he will investigate the circumstances surrounding the payment of EU Objective 1 funding to Cambridge Online Learning Ltd. [218322]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Implementation of the South Yorkshire Objective 1 programme for 2000-06 is the responsibility of Communities and Local Government as the managing authority for the European regional development fund in England. The Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber will investigate the circumstances leading to the award and potential loss of EU objective 1 funds in this case.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on economic and monetary union, for what reasons he is not willing to place a copy of his Department's euro transition plan in the Library. [217442]

Mr. Thomas: The BERR Euro Transition Plan is to be updated. A copy of the updated plan will be placed in the Libraries of the House when this work is completed.

Internet: Privacy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the implications for the privacy of British internet users of the requirement for Google to disclose to a third party the viewing log of people who have its YouTube service. [217419]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR officials made contact with the company on this issue and this is an unfolding situation which we are regularly monitoring. Although the US federal court granted Viacom's petition for disclosure of traffic log data including computer IP addresses, against Google, who own YouTube, the court has specified that Viacom cannot use the disclosed data for any commercial purposes, or to pursue individual users for copyright infringement whose computers might be identifiable from the log data. There is a protective order in the case that prevents information designated as highly confidential from disclosure to anyone but Viacom's lawyers and experts.

Manufacturing Industries: Shoes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of shoes purchased in the UK had been manufactured in the UK in each year since 1997. [181748]

Malcolm Wicks: It is not possible to determine precisely from official statistics how many shoes produced in the UK are sold in the UK market as footwear exports exceed UK production. The following table shows an implied figure if all UK produced footwear were sold in the UK market. However the British Footwear Association estimates that UK companies export up to 90 per cent. of production.

	Sale of goods (£ million)[1]	Imports (£ million)[2]	Exports (£ million)[2]	Implied UK consumption of UK production (percentage)
1997	970	1,909	603	43
1998	862	1,853	538	40
1999	805	2,020	531	35
2000	699	1,979	512	31
2001	692	2,217	481	29
2002	540	2,342	448	22
2003	369	2,354	426	16
2004	335	2,430	419	14
2005	260	2,537	468	11
2006	258	2,673	525	11

[1] ONS-ABI
[2] BOP basis ONS-MQ10

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letters of 4 March and 15 May from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on BT payment charges. [216764]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member. My noble Friend the Minister for Business and Competitiveness is currently reviewing Government policy on this issue, a response will be sent shortly.

Public Telephones

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to BT on its observance of its universal service obligation in its proposed payphone removal programme. [218203]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* No such representation has been made to BT. The Universal Service Obligation is administered by Ofcom (the independent regulator). Ofcom requires BT to ensure that there is adequate provision of public call boxes (PCBs) to meet the reasonable needs of end-users in terms of numbers, geographical coverage and quality of service.

Ofcom has set rules which ensure that BT cannot remove the last PCB from an area if the local authority objects. In its guidelines Ofcom has identified lack of mobile coverage as one of the reasons why the local authority might wish to consider objecting.

Radio Waves: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what EU legislation on the regulation of radio band waves has been agreed since 1997. [217987]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the following list that summarises the legislation affecting the use of radio spectrum. Further details can be found at the following websites:

http://rspg.groups.eu.int/ref_doc/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/radio_spectrum/ref_documents/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/RECH_celex.do

EU legislation decisions and directives on the regulation of radio spectrum (band waves) since 1997

30 June 2008: Decision 626/2008/EC on the selection and authorisation of systems providing mobile satellite services.

13 June 2008: Decision 2008/477/EC on the harmonisation of the 2500-2690 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems providing electronic communications services in the Community.

23 May 2008: Decision 2008/432/EC on harmonisation of the radio spectrum for use by short-range devices 'SRD'. 'Amending Commission Decision 2006/771/EC as below'.

21 May 2008: Decision 2008/411/EC on the harmonisation of the 3400 -3800 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in the Community.

23 April 2008: modifying Annex A to Decision 2006/679//EC concerning the technical specification for interoperability relating to the control-command and signalling subsystem of the trans-European conventional rail system and Annex A to Decision 2006/860/EC concerning the technical specification for interoperability relating to the control-command and signalling subsystem of the trans-European high-speed rail system 'GSM-R spectrum'.

7 April 2008: Decision 2008/294/EC on harmonised conditions of spectrum use for the operation of mobile communication services on aircraft (MCA services) in the Community.

16 May 2007: Decision 2007/344/EC on harmonised availability of information regarding spectrum use within the Community.

16 May 2007: Decision 2007/346/EC granting a derogation requested by France pursuant to Commission Decision 2006/804/EC on harmonisation of the radio spectrum for radio frequency identification (RFID) devices operating in the ultra high frequency 'UHF' band.

12 February 2007: Decision 2007/90/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 GHz frequency band for the implementation of Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks (WAS/RLANs). 'Amending Decision 2005/513/EC as below'.

14 February 2007: Decision 2007/98/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 2 GHz frequency bands for the implementation of systems providing mobile satellite services.

21 February 2007: Decision 2007/131/EC on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in a harmonised manner in the Community.

23 November 2006: Decision 2006/804/EC on harmonisation of the radio spectrum for radio frequency identification RFID devices operating in the 'UHF' band.

9 November 2006: Decision 2006/771/EC on harmonisation of the radio spectrum for use by short-range devices. 'Amended by Decision 2008/432/EC as above'.

20 December 2005: Decision 2005/928/EC on the harmonisation of the 169.4 MHz to 169.8125 MHz frequency band in the Community (frequency band originally designated for the ERMES paging system).

14 December 2005: Directive 2005/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council Repealing Council Directive 90/544/EEC on the frequency bands designated for the co-ordinated introduction of pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community.

25 July 2005: Directive 2005/49/EC amending, for the purposes of their adaptation to technical progress, Council Directive 72/245/EEC relating to the radio interference (electromagnetic compatibility) of vehicles and Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

11 July 2005: Decision 2005/513/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 GHz frequency band for implementation of Wireless Access Systems 'WAS' including Radio Local Area Networks (WAS/RLANs) 'Amended by Decision 2007/90/EC as above'.

18 March 2005: Decision ECC/DEC/(05)05 on harmonised utilisation of spectrum for systems (IMT-2000/UMTS) operating within the band 2500 to 2690 MHz.

17 January 2005: Decision 2005/50/EC on the harmonisation of the 24 GHz range radio spectrum band for the time-limited use by automotive short-range radar equipment in the Community.

8 July 2004: Decision 2004/545/EC on the harmonisation of radio spectrum in the 79 GHz range for the use of automotive short-range radar equipment in the Community.

26 July 2002: Decision 2002/622/EC establishing a Radio Spectrum Policy Group. L198/49 Official Journal of the European Union 'OJEU' published on 27 July 2002.

7 March 2002: Decision 676/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy in the European Community (Radio Spectrum Decision).

7 March 2002: Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (framework directive), 'OJEU' L108; relating on the same date to the authorisation Directive 2002/20/EC and universal service Directive 2002/22/EC. 'Noted that the Electronic Communication Framework (which Addresses spectrum issues) is currently under review in the Council and the European Parliament'.

14 December 1998: Decision 128/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of on the coordinated introduction of a third-generation mobile and wireless communications system (UMTS) in the Community. 'Noted that this Decision (128/1999/EC) is no longer in force'.

28 November 1997: Decision 97/838/EC concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community, as regards matters within its competence, of the results of the WTO negotiations on basic telecommunications services (OJEU L 347,18.12.1997).

24 March 1997: Decision 710/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a co-ordinated authorisation approach in the field of satellite personal-communication services in the Community.

Regional Planning and Development: Coastal Areas

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the surplus remaining unspent in the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund has been in each year since its inception. [217927]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The Marine Renewables Deployment Fund has several budget categories. These are:

Wave and Tidal-stream Energy Demonstration Scheme.

Budget: £42 million. Because no wave or tidal-stream energy technology has yet accumulated three months of continuous operation, which is a key eligibility criterion of the scheme, all of this budget remains unspent. However, one or possibly two technologies are expected to achieve eligibility in late 2008 or early 2009, with at least one other later in 2009.

Related research

Budget: Up to £360,000 depending on research needs identified. The total contractual commitment is £233,000 of which £209,000 has been spent to date. This is broken down by financial year as follows:

£000

Financial year	*Spent*	*Available for commitment*	*Committed but not yet spent*
2006-07	47	313	—
2007-08	156	157	—
2008-09	6	151	—
2008-09	—	127	24

Environmental research

Budget: £2 million. This research is planned for monitoring the environmental impacts of projects installed under the wave and tidal-stream energy demonstration scheme. The technologies' failure so far to qualify for this scheme has meant that all of this budget remains unspent, although work is expected to be able to commence this year.

Infrastructure support:

Budget: Up to £5.64 million. To date, £1,131,000 of this budget has been spent, broken down by financial year as follows:

£000

Financial year	*Spent*	*Available for commitment*
2005-06	831	4,809
2006-07	300	4,509
2007-08	0	4,509
2008-09	0	4,509

All of this money has been spent at EMEC in Orkney, Scotland, and represents a contribution towards the cost the construction of its tidal test site and improvements to its wave test site.

In addition to this, £4.5 million from this budget has been promised to the south west regional development agency as a contribution to its planned wave hub project. This was expected to have been spent by now but the start of wave hub has been delayed.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what spending from the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund has been in each year since its inception on *(a)* wave and tidal stream energy, *(b)* environmental research, *(c)* related research and *(d)* infrastructure support, broken down by region. [217928]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The information is as follows:

Wave and tidal-stream energy demonstration scheme.

Because no wave or tidal-stream energy technology has yet accumulated three months of continuous operation, which is a key eligibility criterion of the scheme, none of this budget has been spent to date. However, one or possibly two technologies are expected to achieve eligibility

in late 2008 or early 2009, and at least one other later in 2009. The location of these projects will depend on the applications received and approved.

Related research

The total contractual commitment is £233,000 of which £209,000 has been spent to date. This is broken down by financial year and region as follows:

£000

Financial year	Spent	Committed but not yet spent
Scotland		
2006-07	47	—
2007-08	24	—
2008-09	6	24
South East England		
2006-07	—	—
2007-08	132	—
2008-09	—	—

Environmental research

This research is planned for monitoring the environmental impacts of projects installed under the wave and tidal-stream energy demonstration scheme. The technologies' failure so far to qualify for this scheme has meant that all of this budget remains unspent, although work is expected to be able to commence this year. The monitoring work will happen at the deployment sites of the projects deployed under the wave and tidal-stream energy demonstration scheme.

Infrastructure support

To date, £1,131,000 of this budget has been spent, broken down by financial year as follows:

Financial year	Spent (£000)
2005-06	831
2006-07	300

All of this money has been spent at EMEC in Orkney, Scotland, and represents a contribution towards the cost of construction of its tidal test site and improvements to its wave test site.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many projects the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund has funded in each year since its inception, broken down by region; and how much funding was given in each case. [217930]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]*: The number of projects supported by the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund by region, funding and financial year are listed as follows:

Numbers of projects by financial year and region

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Related research (Scotland)	—	2	1	1
Related research (SE England)	—	—	1	—
Infrastructure support (Scotland)	2	—	—	—

Projects are allocated to the financial year in which they started.

Expenditure by financial year and region

£000

	2006-07 spent	2007-08 spent	2008-09 spent	2008-09 committed but not yet spent
Related research (Scotland)	47	24	6	24
Related research (SE England)	—	132	—	—
Infrastructure support (Scotland)	831	[1]300	—	—

[1] There were two infrastructure projects in Scotland, both at EMEC in Orkney, but BERR expenditure spanned two financial years.

Severn Barrage

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government and Ministerial colleagues on the environmental effects of the proposed Severn Barrage. [219306]

Malcolm Wicks: Ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government are involved in the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study and discussions are held through our feasibility study ad-hoc Ministerial Group. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, chair the quarterly parliamentary forum for all MPs, Lords and Welsh Assembly Members interested in the study. I chair the quarterly regional forum for the local authorities, local business and environmental organisations. The next meetings of the fora will take place in Cardiff on 24 October.

DEFRA and Welsh Assembly Government are fully involved with the environmental workstream of the study and together with other Government Departments are members of the feasibility study project board.

The feasibility study will include a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to ensure a detailed understanding of the estuary's environmental resource, recognising the nature conservation significance of the estuary.

The Welsh Assembly Government are involved in the SEA Steering Group which is made up of representatives from a wide group of stakeholders including statutory consultees, business and environmental NGOs.

Telephone Services: Fraud

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what consideration he has given to measures to outlaw unsolicited text messages which encourage people to return calls on premium rate lines; [189051]

(2) what estimate has been made of how many people have lost money by returning unsolicited text messages. [189052]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* Under the provisions of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, text messages should only be sent with the prior consent of the individual subscriber. However, there is an exemption where the subscriber has given his or her mobile telephone number direct to a company in the context of the purchase of a product or service. Enforcement is undertaken by the Information Commissioner.

Additional safeguards put in place by the regulator, PhonepayPlus and industry require that customers must be clearly informed by text about what they have subscribed to, the cost and how to stop the service. A consumer must be able to switch off the service with the universal 'stop' command. If they have inadvertently signed up to a reverse text service, they can cancel it. A message once a month reminds subscribers about the service and the cost and, for every £20 spent, customers must get a further reminder about how to turn off the service.

Information is not collected on the cost of returning unsolicited text messages.

Video Games

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people employed by *(a)* games developers, *(b)* games publishers, *(c)* games distributors, *(d)* games retailers and *(e)* other industries and services associated with the games industry in each year since 1997. [196876]

Malcolm Wicks: Accurate data describing the video and computer games sector are not regularly collated or in fact readily available to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code.

However, in 2002 the Department of Trade and Industry published "From Exuberant Youth to Sustainable Maturity", a full competitiveness analysis of the computer games sector carried out by independent consultants, Spectrum Strategy. According to this report, in 2000 employment in the computer games sector totalled over 20,000 broken down as follows :

	Number
Games developers	6,000
Games publishers	2,350
Games distributors	1,000
Games retailers	8,000
Associated sectors/services	3,000

In October 2007, UKTI published "Playing for Keeps", a report commissioned from independent consultants Games Investor which included a range of valuable new data on the competitiveness of the UK games development sector compared to key competitor territories including the US and Canada. This report confirmed that 8,000 people plus 700 freelancers were employed in games development in the UK in 2006.

New figures for employment in non-development roles were not collected as part of the "Playing for Keeps" study. However, "European Interactive Games - the 2005 State of the Industry Report" published by consultants Screen Digest in association with the Entertainment and Leisure Software Association suggested that by 2004 the total employment figure for the UK computer games industry had risen to 22,190, of which, 16,190 were in publishing, distribution, retail and associated services.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 July 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years; [218709]

(2) how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218976]

David Cairns: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. The Office does not maintain a central record of sick absences; such records are held by the parent Departments.

Domestic Visits

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many visits he has made to each Scottish parliamentary constituency over the last two years. [212893]

Des Browne: As of 30 June 2008, in the previous two years my predecessor and I have visited the following Scottish parliamentary constituencies in a ministerial capacity as detailed in the following table:

Constituency	*Visits*
Aberdeen, South	1
Argyll and Bute	1
Central Ayrshire	1
Dundee, East	1
Dunfermline and West Fife	2
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	1
East Lothian	1
Edinburgh, East	8
Edinburgh, North and Leith	7
Edinburgh, South-West	4
Edinburgh, West	4
Falkirk	2
Glasgow, Central	19
Glasgow, East	2
Glasgow, North	6
Glasgow, South-West	3
Gordon	2
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	2
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	2
Livingston	1
Midlothian	1
Moray	1
Ochil and South Perthshire	2
Paisley and Renfrewshire, North	2
Paisley and Renfrewshire, South	2
Stirling	1

Visits to constituencies in a political capacity are not included as records of these are not held by the Scotland Office.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many visits have been made by the Minister of State for Scotland to each parliamentary constituency over the last two years. [212894]

David Cairns: As of 30 June 2008, in the previous two years I have visited the following parliamentary constituencies in a Scotland Office ministerial capacity as detailed in the following table:

Constituency	*Visits*
Aberdeen, North	2
Aberdeen, South	1
Argyll and Bute	4
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	3
Banff and Buchan	1
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	2
Central Ayrshire	1
Dundee, East	2
Dundee, West	3
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	1
East Lothian	1
Edinburgh, East	3
Edinburgh, North and Leith	6
Edinburgh, South	2
Edinburgh, South-West	6
Edinburgh, West	2
Falkirk	1
Glasgow, Central	44
Glasgow, North	2
Glasgow, North-East	2
Glasgow, South-West	3
Glenrothes	1
Gordon	1
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	1
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	1
Lanark and Hamilton, East	1
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	1
Livingston	2
Midlothian	3
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	1
Ochil and South Perthshire	2
Paisley and Renfrewshire, North	2
Perth and North Perthshire	2
Rutherglen and Hamilton, West	1
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	1
Cities of London and Westminster	4
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Salford	1

Visits to constituencies in a political capacity are not included as records of these are not held by the Scotland Office.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215113]

David Cairns: Two.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218051]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. All staff in the Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; the Office does not maintain a central record of absences due to industrial action; such records are held by the parent Departments.

Olympic Games 2012

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the last 12 months on securing benefits to Scotland from the 2012 Olympic Games. [220550]

David Cairns: I attend various meetings with ministerial colleagues where matters surrounding the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are discussed. I also recently discussed this matter in the House during Scottish Questions when I encouraged all businesses, Scottish-based or otherwise, to bid for contracts in relation to the games

OLYMPICS

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which make and model of car she has chosen as her ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217755]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar & Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are employed by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG); what the staffing costs of LOCOG will be in 2008-09; and how many of LOCOG's staff work on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning and *(c)* financial oversight. [219272]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is a company limited by guarantee that relies almost entirely on private funding. As such, LOCOG files its annual report and accounts at Companies House and publishes them on its website at:

www.london2012.com

LOCOG's last annual report for the 12 months up to 31 March 2007 shows that on average in that year the company employed 102 staff, including directors; and staff costs, including pensions and social security costs, totalled £9.48 million. Since that date, LOCOG has put in place more of its work force as it develops all its plans across the complex London 2012 project.

The next set of annual report and financial statements will be published shortly. During the London 2012 games themselves, it is envisaged that LOCOG will employ around 2,600 permanent staff, in addition to volunteers and contractors.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date invitations will be sent to prospective competing nations for the London 2012 *(a)* Olympic and *(b)* Paralympic Games. [219990]

Tessa Jowell: Invitations to take part in the Olympic games are normally sent out by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to all National Olympic Committees (NOCs) around one year before the opening ceremony of the games.

Invitations to take part in the Paralympic games are normally sent out by the Organising Committee in co-operation with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) around one year before the respective Paralympic games.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate she has made of the number of nations that will compete in the London 2012 *(a)* Olympic and *(b)* Paralympic Games. [219991]

Tessa Jowell: Based on participation in recent Olympic games and Paralympic games, we expect over 200 National Olympic Committees and about 150 National Paralympic Committees to take part in 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the funding of Olympic developments from funds released by the establishment of unitary authorities. [220163]

Tessa Jowell: I have had no such discussions.

Olympic Games 2012: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how the London 2012 Olympics will assist regeneration and sports projects in Halifax. [219086]

Tessa Jowell: The Legacy Action Plan (LAP) which was launched in June outlines how Government will deliver a sustainable legacy for the whole of the UK from the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games.

This includes a target to get two million people more active through sport and physical activity by 2012. Sport England will seek to get one million more active through sport; they will do this through new engagement with national governing bodies and through county sports partnerships. Calderdale are already working with other Yorkshire and Humberside authorities and primary care trusts to drive participation. This has led to a 3.5 per cent. increase in participation across the Yorkshire and Humberside region since 2005. Additionally, the Government have announced a new national free swimming programme for those aged 60 plus and under-16s. Local authorities in England will be invited to participate in the scheme and will receive funding towards the costs. The scheme will start in April 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps the Government has taken to promote the use of sporting venues in the West Midlands for pre-games training for the London 2012 Olympics. [218534]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* The Pre-Games Training Camp guide will be published at the Beijing games this summer by LOCOG.

The West Midlands has 33 Olympic and 14 Paralympic sites in the guide. A seminar for all these facilities was held recently by the West Midlands Nations and Regions Group to offer them advice on marketing their facilities. A regional strategy will be developed by the Nations and Regions Group to promote the region and its facilities to assist the region in securing teams.

In addition, £25,000 will be made available by LOCOG to help attract National Olympic and Paralympic Committees to use the facilities in the guide.

Olympic Lottery Distributor: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are employed by the Olympic Lottery Distributor; and at what cost in 2008-09. [219271]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Lottery Distributor currently employs six people. As well as a chief executive, the organisation employs two senior staff members—a Director of Policy and a Head of Finance and Corporate Services. The total staff costs budget for 2008-09, including pension costs and employers' national insurance, is up to £556,878.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Smuggling

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the resale value of untaxed spirits intercepted in Northern Ireland was in each of the last three years. [219613]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Once condemned as forfeit to the Crown spirits seized by HM Revenue and Customs are destroyed thus they have no resale value.

Cigarettes: Smuggling

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the resale value of illegal cigarettes intercepted in Northern Ireland was in each of the last three years. [219615]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Once condemned as forfeit to the Crown, cigarettes seized by HM Revenue and Customs are destroyed, thus they have no resale value.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost to his Department of employing a press and media officer was in 2007-08. [215262]

Paul Goggins: The following table details average salaries paid to information officers in the Northern Ireland Office. These figures include allowances, national insurance and pension contributions.

	Average FTE as at August 2007 (including ERSNI, ASLCS and allowances) (£)
Grade A Information Officer	51,738
Grade B1 Information Officer	45,617
Grade B2 Information Officer	38,990

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials work in his Department. [215790]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office the actual number of staff employed in May 2008, which is the latest date for which figures are available, is 2,089. This figure excludes staff currently on career break or secondment.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217748]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Department for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214725]

Paul Goggins: The NIO equal opportunities policy is applied to all staff working in the Northern Ireland Office including staff secondments.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212476]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office attaches importance to ensuring effective consultation and involvement of its staff. It is a personal decision whether or not to join a trade union, but the Department encourages staff to join an appropriate trade union and to play an active part in it, ensuring that their views are represented.

Members of staff in both the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies are currently represented by the following trade unions:

NIPSA—Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance;

CSPOA—Civil Service Professional Officers Association;

FDA—First Division Association;

PCS—Public and Commercial Services Union.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210583]

Paul Goggins: The Business Improvement Team (BIT) in the Northern Ireland Office arranges and delivers learning and development opportunities for NIO staff. The learning and development opportunities available to NIO staff are linked to the Professional Skills for Government requirements and, for the period 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008, these were set out in BIT's learning and development prospectus. The courses set out in the following table were selected by BIT as meeting PSG requirements. Each member of staff in the NIO has a Personnel Development Plan which records their individual development needs, and BIT will advise which of the courses in the prospectus are appropriate to meet those needs. The following table lists all the courses available in the prospectus and indicates which were attended and which were not required during the year.

Courses available	*Taken/not taken*
Leadership Programme	Attended
Strategic Thinking	Attended
Personal Power and Influencing Skills	Attended
Preparing for Top Management	Attended
Leading Change	Not required
People Management	Attended
Stress Management	Attended
Introduction to Coaching and Mentoring	Not required
Negotiating and Influencing	Attended
PSG Financial Management	Attended
Government Finance/Resource Accounting/ Resource Budgeting and In year Control	Attended
General Finance Awareness	Not required
Business Case Guidance	Attended
Capital Asset Guidance	Not required
Corporate Governance Guidance	Not required
Prince 2 Foundation Certificate	Attended
Prince 2 Practitioner Certificate	Not required
Managing Small Projects	Attended
Prince 2 Overview	Attended
Project Management Overview	Attended
Benefits Management Masterclass	Attended
Programme Management Overview	Attended
Managing Successful Programmes Foundation Certificate	Not required
Managing Successful Programmes Intermediate and Practitioner Certificate	Not required
Introduction to Risk Management	Not taken
Management of Risk (MOR) Foundation	Not taken
Management of Risk (MOR) Practitioner	Not taken
Gateway Reviewer	Attended
Microsoft Project basic and advanced	Attended
Risk Analysis in the Policy Area	Not required
Microsoft Word basic and advanced	Attended
Microsoft Excel basic and advanced	Attended
Microsoft PowerPoint basic and advanced	Attended
Microsoft ECDL	Attended
Analysis and Use of Evidence	Attended
Effective Speech Writing	Attended
Communications and Marketing	Attended
Writing Dynamics	Attended
Think on your feet	Attended
Strategy	Attended
Mind Mapping	Attended
Chairing Meetings	Attended
Basic Finance Process	Attended
Gateway Awareness	Attended
Working With Ministers	Attended
Secretaryship of meetings	Attended
Gateway Programme	Attended
Leading In A Crisis	Not required
Peoplebank	Not required
Interchange	Not required
Work Shadowing	Not required
Developing Style and Presence	Not required
Overview of the Financial Cycle	Not required
SRO Executive Briefing	Not required
Making Policy that Happens	Not required
Delivering Policy Workshop	Not required
Microsoft Excel Basic	Not required
Microsoft Excel Advanced	Not required
Microsoft Project Basic	Not required
Microsoft Project Advanced	Not required
Preparing Business Cases	Not required
Proactive Media Management: How To Get Your Story in the News	Not required
Appearing Before Select Committees	Not required
Communications in the Public Sector	Not required
Lateral Thinking	Not required
One-Day Strategy Workshops	Not required
Building a Balanced Scorecard	Not required
Managing People Problems	Not required
Managing Conflict	Not required
Managing Time	Not required
Stress Management	Not required

Courses available	Taken/not taken
Managing Change	Not required
PSG Financial Management	Not required
Business Cases and Investment Appraisal	Not required
Government Finance/Resource Accounting/ Resource Budgeting/In Year Control	Not required
PSG Resource Budgeting and Forecasting	Not required
Corporate Governance Guidance	Not required
Project Management Introduction Certificate	Not required
Project Management Overview	Not required
Gateway Reviewer (OCG Accredited)	Not required
Microsoft Project Advanced	Not required
How to do a Bill	Not required
Policy Delivery Workshop	Not required
Risk Analysis in the Policy Area	Not required
Microsoft ECDL Basic	Not required
Appearing Before a Select Committee	Not required
Writing Dynamics Effective Briefing	Not required
Think On Your Feet	Not required
PSG Financial Management	Not required
Project and Programme Support	Not required
PPSO Foundation Certificate	Not required
Project Management Introduction Certificate	Not required
Project Management Overview	Not required
Introduction to Evidence-Based Policy Making	Not required
Working with Ministers	Not required
Secretaryship of Meetings	Not required
Project and Programme Support	Not required
Project Management Certificate	Not required
Project Management Overview	Not required
Pathway Programme	Attended

District Policing Partnerships: Standards

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which district policing partnerships did not meet the key performance indicator targets set by the Policing Board in 2006-07; and by how much they missed each target. [207673]

Paul Goggins: For the 2006-07 reporting period, District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) carried out a self-assessment of their effectiveness against the targets set out in the DPP Monitoring Framework. The targets for DPPs reflect their statutory functions, as set out in the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. I will write to the hon. Gentleman with details of those DPPs that did not achieve set targets. The Northern Ireland Policing Board recognises the importance of DPP effectiveness and was pleased that the 2006-07 assessment found the majority of targets set were met by most DPPs. The Board reviewed the performance management system for DPPs, and introduced a new effectiveness framework in April 2008.

Elections: Fraud

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the changes in the levels of electoral fraud in Northern Ireland as a result of the introduction of individual electoral registration. [219069]

Paul Goggins: The Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 introduced a number of measures—including individual registration—to address the perception of electoral fraud, which was seen to be undermining the democratic process in Northern Ireland. Both the Electoral Commission and the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland believe that since these measures were introduced the potential for fraud has been reduced and confidence has been largely restored. Successive Electoral Commission reports have affirmed this.

The Commission's report on the March 2007 Assembly elections stated that while some perceptions of fraud persist among a proportion of the public in Northern Ireland, these

"are not borne out by experience of recent elections."

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 567-68W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fair Trade products. [211571]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not separately record the amount of expenditure on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements, nor do we record the amount spent on Fairtrade goods.

Homicide

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many murders committed in Northern Ireland in each year since 1978 remain unsolved. [207740]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the information requested.

	Number
1978	96
1979	134
1980	96
1981	116
1982	111
1983	96
1984	73
1985	59
1986	88
1987	117
1988	114
1989	71
1990	82
1991	118
1992	111
1993	104
1994	80
1995	22
1996	39
1997	42
1998	50

	Number
1999	32
2000	42
2001	55
2002	35
2003	33
2004	4
2005	9
2006	2
2007	3

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218052]

Paul Goggins: The information held within the Northern Ireland Office relates only to days lost due to industrial action by current staff. Staff who have left the Department or transferred out of the Department are not included in the figures and so we are unable to provide total figures for days lost due to industrial action.

Maze Prison

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has had discussions with the Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister in Northern Ireland on the former Maze site *(a)* before and *(b)* since his recent public comments on the future use of the site. [220159]

Paul Goggins: During the course of his duties, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State naturally has discussions with members of the devolved administration from time to time.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much revenue has been generated from fines imposed as a result of offences detected by speed cameras in each council area in Northern Ireland in each year since 2003. [215736]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the amount of revenue from fixed penalty notices for excess speed in each police District Command Unit. Data cover the calendar years 2003 to 2007.

Amount of revenue received for fixed penalty notices for excess speed by district command unit (DCU) 2003-07

£

DCU	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antrim	660	0	0	0	0
Armagh	54,540	3,000	3,180	11,220	19,080
Ballymena	45,360	6,960	3,960	3,600	8,220
Ballymoney	16,860	1,920	1,080	12,540	52,980
Banbridge	67,560	58,500	104,760	80,040	38,740
Belfast East	82,260	104,520	55,320	27,900	30,480
Belfast North	25,080	63,960	42,480	32,280	40,080
Belfast South	17,760	18,720	16,860	14,280	9,720
Belfast West	5,520	13,860	12,240	8,160	5,880

Amount of revenue received for fixed penalty notices for excess speed by district command unit (DCU) 2003-07

£

DCU	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Carrickfergus	11,520	2,940	600	1,920	720
Castlereagh	201,600	171,900	114,480	136,980	139,140
Coleraine	10,560	3,180	5,880	5,580	5,160
Cookstown	1,560	2,160	9,720	10,380	16,080
Craigavon	26,340	2,400	660	7,200	960
Down	5,820	14,340	14,040	3,360	9,480
Dungannon	10,560	11,640	20,160	49,500	42,540
Fermanagh	20,880	2,700	4,320	600	4,800
Foyle	23,340	29,640	28,860	15,120	18,780
Lame	5,460	0	0	1,980	1,380
Limavady	11,580	960	7,620	4,260	38,760
Lisburn	1,740	120	0	0	2,220
Magherafelt	16,020	11,100	18,540	11,040	22,740
Moyle	8,460	2,460	540	600	1,380
Newry and Mourne	36,180	83,820	65,160	72,120	81,120
Newtownabbey	1,860	420	60	180	0
Newtownards	33,180	8,220	12,240	9,120	8,700
North Down	33,960	76,860	45,900	56,100	62,880
Omagh	7,320	18,000	21,540	6,420	37,200
Strabane	8,880	0	0	0	0
Total	792,720	714,300	610,200	582,480	719,220

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Smuggling

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the resale value of untaxed spirits intercepted in England and Wales was in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [219614]

Angela Eagle: Once condemned as forfeit to the Crown spirits seized by HM Revenue and Customs are destroyed thus they have no resale value.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the proposal to allow major banks to translate certain mortgage debts into Government bonds was first considered by his Department; and what the reasons are for the timing of the implementation of the proposal. [201903]

Kitty Ussher: The special liquidity scheme announced by the Bank of England on April 21 is designed to provide liquidity support to participating banks and building societies by allowing them, for a temporary period, to swap mortgage backed securities and other assets for highly liquid assets in the form of Treasury Bills. The credit risk on the value of the mortgage backed securities or other assets remains with the banks and building societies.

As set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House on April 21, the scheme announced by the Bank of England is a further step towards tackling the liquidity issues in the financial markets which became increasingly acute during the preceding weeks. The scheme was developed following extensive discussions with the Treasury and the Financial Services Authority.

Banks: Government Securities

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Special Liquidity Scheme in meeting its objectives. [220094]

Kitty Ussher: The Special Liquidity Scheme is operated by the Bank of England. In its Quarterly Bulletin issued on 16 June, the Bank noted that

"Feedback on the Scheme from market contacts suggested that it has achieved its objective of improving the liquidity position of, and hence confidence in, the UK banking system".

Cash Dispensing: Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of access to free-of-charge cash withdrawals in Mid and West Wales. [221388]

Kitty Ussher: As I announced on 17 July, excellent progress has been made towards the goal of providing around 600 new free ATMs across 1,707 low-income target areas identified by the ATM working group as lacking convenient access. I am pleased to say that of the 198 low-income target areas in Wales, 119 are now expected to benefit from convenient access to free cash withdrawals as a result of free new cash machines already in operation or under contract to be installed by the end of 2008.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to date has been of *(a)* the investigation into the loss of data discs by HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the planning and implementation of new procedures to avoid a future loss. [220152]

Jane Kennedy: Kieran Poynter identifies the costs of his investigation into the chain of events leading to the loss of child benefit data in October 2007 at Appendix A of the final report of his "Review of information security at HM Revenue and Customs". A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

With regard to the costs associated with data security enhancements at HMRC, I would refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 287.

Cigarettes: Smuggling

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the resale value of illegal cigarettes intercepted in England and Wales was in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [219616]

Angela Eagle: Once condemned as forfeit to the Crown cigarettes seized by HM Revenue and Customs are destroyed thus they have no resale value.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the projected *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas price used in the assumptions for modelling the North Sea oil and gas element of corporation tax was in each Budget since 1997. [215732]

Angela Eagle: The National Audit Office has audited the oil price assumption underlying public finance projections since the 1997 pre-Budget report. The current assumption is outlined in box C1 of Budget 2008.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on council tax: Wales, what the timetable is for the Valuation Office Agency's updating of its website to show changes to the 2005 council tax lists in Wales since 1 April 2005 as a result of inquiry or appeal. [218314]

Jane Kennedy: It is expected that the website will be updated by 1 September 2008.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219587]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money, as well as the Department's own internal guidelines, which state that expenditure on official entertainment (including alcohol) should be incurred in moderation and also be compatible with the occasion and the standing of guests.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 highest payments made by his Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department, and what the nature of each incident was. [216703]

Angela Eagle: There were two uncontested compensation payments made in 2007-08. Both related to personal property lost during office moves and amounted to £146 and £75 respectively.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211697]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows details of conferences attended by more than 100 delegates that were hosted by HM Treasury in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Date	Conference title	Cost (£000)
2006		
April	Financial Inclusion Taskforce	19
May	Launch of the Third Sector Review	77
May and November	Special Investigations Group of government financial investigators (costs recovered from delegates)	—
June to July	Third Sector Review Regional consultation (six events)	59
July	Enterprise and Growth Unit Summer Reception	10
2007		
May and November	Special Investigations Group of government financial investigators (costs recovered from delegates)	—
June	Young Black Entrepreneurs	5
June	Financial inclusion in developing countries (funded by DFID)	—
July	Tripartite Business Continuity	4
July	Enterprise and Growth Unit Summer Reception	12
October	Financial Stability and the Challenge of Globalisation in the UK	10

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in 2007-08. [215319]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Details of the Treasury's unaudited spending on consultancy in 2007-08 is shown in table A3 on page 111 of the annual report (CM 7408) available from

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/deptreport_index.cfm.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expert groups his Department has set up in each year since 1999. [213198]

Angela Eagle: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Details of Treasury's NDPBs for 2007-08 are published in Treasury's Annual Report, which can be downloaded from:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report08.cfm

Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members. Further details on Treasury short-term advisory groups and task forces can be found on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211756]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's expenditure on furniture and fittings over the last five years was:

	Amount (£000)
2007-08	51
2006-07	4
2005-06	557
2004-05	518
2003-04	69

The provision of furniture purchase volumes and analysis of expenditure into the categories identified in the question are available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's IT *(a)* systems and *(b)* services conform to the ISO 27001 standard. [216054]

Angela Eagle: None of the Department's IT systems and services are accredited as conforming to the ISO 27001 standard, although in all cases our aim is to adhere to the main principles of the standard.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many permanent staff within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [210867]

Angela Eagle: There are no "staff without post" in the Treasury or any of its agencies. "People action teams" do not exist in HMT or any of its agencies.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214711]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has incurred no costs for public information campaigns since 1997.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which make and model of car the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency; [217752]

(2) which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217762]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar & Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July, 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what planning applications were made by his Department between May 1997 and May 2001; and for what purpose in each case. [217445]

Angela Eagle: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220422]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury seeks prompt payment discounts in situations where such a discount will improve the total value for money from the contract; and where the potential saving from such a discount will outweigh the additional contract administration costs necessary to realise the discount.

HM Treasury aim to pay off all valid invoices (including T & S) within 30 days.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218973]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215886]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has a waste strategy that has over the past two years reduced waste sent to landfill, by removing general waste bins and putting recycling facilities in place, and in Rosebery Court introducing composting of organic waste. In 1 Horse Guards Road, since February 2008, food waste has been separated in the staff restaurant and sent to a biogas plant, to generate electricity.

These measures reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by 33 tonnes from 1 Horse Guards Road in 2007-08. Further offsite sorting by the waste contractor, removing recyclables from the waste will have further reduced the amount sent to landfill, although no figures are available. Data showing annual change in waste sent to landfill are not currently available for Rosebery Court, but the rate has also fallen.

Detailed information on waste arising and recycling information can be found in the HM Treasury annual report 2007-08.

Devolution: Finance

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will conduct a needs-based analysis of Government funding of the devolved administrations. [220048]

Yvette Cooper: The devolved funding arrangements are set out in the 'Statement of Funding Policy', which was updated and published by the Treasury in October 2007. Under these arrangements the devolved administrations are able to allocate their block budgets to devolved spending programmes to reflect their own assessment of their priorities and needs.

Economic Stability Team

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* members of the Council of Economic Advisers were members of the Economic Stability team in his Department in each of the last 11 years, broken down by pay grade. [220072]

Angela Eagle: These data are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenues that will arise from the auctioning of emissions permits in Phase 111 of the European Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [219753]

Angela Eagle: The framework for future phases of EU ETS are currently under discussion and as such the final structure for auctioning in future phases has not yet been decided. The revised EU ETS directive is due to be finalised later this year.

The amount of revenue from auctioning in Phase III of the EU emissions trading scheme will be influenced by the market price of carbon at the time of the auctions. The Government do not comment on carbon price, as it would be improper for Government to speculate on how the market will function in the future.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans the Government has for spending revenues raised through the auctioning of allowances from the *(a)* second and *(b)* third phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement; [219957]

(2) what proportion of the revenues generated by auctioning of allowances from the second phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme will be spent on *(a)* research and development for renewable energy, *(b)* carbon capture and storage development and *(c)* energy efficiency improvements. [219958]

Angela Eagle: The framework for future phases of EU ETS is currently under discussion and as such the final structure for auctioning in future phases has not yet been decided. The revised EU ETS directive is due to be finalised later this year.

Any revenue raised through the use of auctioning would be considered part of general revenue streams, and the spending review process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to deliver Government objectives.

Comprehensive spending review 2007 launched the domestic Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) of over £400 million. Budget 2008 announced the full allocation of funding under the ETF, including offshore wind, carbon capture components, wave and tidal, hydrogen fuel cells and microgeneration, as well as support for energy efficiency in small businesses, households and the public sector.

EU External Trade: Israel

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many proof of origin certificates HM Revenue and Customs has accepted under the 1 February 2005 technical arrangement enabling companies operating inside Israel to maintain trade preferences under the EU-Israel Association Agreement; and what the value of this trade has been. [219744]

Jane Kennedy: Between 1 February 2005 and 30 June 2008 HM Revenue and Customs received 99,757 customs import declarations which were accompanied by proofs of preferential origin issued in Israel. The total value of the trade was £1,350,690,522.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on public houses of *(a)* past and *(b)* future increases in levels of taxes on alcohol; [218436]

(2) whether he has conducted or evaluated research on the possible relationship between levels of duty on alcohol and the rate of closure of public houses. [218524]

Angela Eagle: As part of the Budget process, I met representatives from the trade, including the British Beer and Pub Association, to listen to their views on the current situation and the cost pressures in the industry.

As with all tax policy decisions, we will be monitoring the impact of alcohol duty increases on a range of factors.

Excise Duties: Diesel Fuel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of receipts from duty paid on diesel by the rail industry in 2007-08. [216410]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* No estimate has been made for 2007-08.

Energy statistics from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, available at www.berr.gov.uk, indicate that 654 thousand tonnes (775 million litres) of gas oil ('red diesel') was consumed by the rail industry in 2006.

Applying the duty rate for rebated oils to this figure gives an estimate of revenue in 2006 of approximately £50 million.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people paid vehicle excise duty at the pre-graduated rate in 2007-08 in respect of cars of engine size *(a)* 1549cc and below and *(b)* above 1549cc; what estimate his Department has made of the number of vehicles in each category in low-income households; and if he will make a statement; [208268]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who will pay vehicle excise duty (VED) at the pre-graduated rate in 2008-09; how many will pay VED at *(a)* a lower rate, *(b)* a higher rate and *(c)* the same rate in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [208269]

(3) what estimate he has made of the revenue from vehicle excise duty at the pre-graduated rate from vehicles with engine sizes of *(a)* 1549cc and below and *(b)* above 1549cc in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [208270]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of cars with engine sizes *(a)* 1549cc or below and *(b)* above 1549cc liable for vehicle excise duty at the pre-graduated rate in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the number of cars in each category in low-income households in each year; and if he will make a statement. [208271]

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new vehicles were registered in each year from 2001 to 2006, broken down by each of the new vehicle excise duty (VED) bands to be applied to cars registered in those years; what the net tax take will be from the applications of these new bands to those vehicles; and what the net tax take for those vehicles would have been had VED continued to be applied as previously. [210709]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis was for his statement of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 765, that the majority of drivers will benefit from the proposed changes to vehicle excise duty; and if he will make a statement. [210664]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposed changes to vehicle excise duty on disabled people; [219729]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposed vehicle excise duty increases on vehicle owners rural areas with limited public transport. [220221]

Angela Eagle: The Budget 2008 included proposed reforms to the system of CO_2-based VED, aimed at strengthening the incentive to develop and use cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars. The reforms build on the system of banding by CO_2 emissions introduced in 2001 in response to rising concern over the impact of vehicle emissions.

While CO_2 emissions from new cars have dropped by 13 per cent. since 1997, overall emissions from road transport still account for over 20 per cent. of the UK's total emissions and it is clear that we must go further to ensure we meet our environmental targets.

Proposed EU targets supported by the Government mean the CO_2 emissions of an average new car will need to be cut to 130 grams per kilometre by 2012. In addition, the King review, published alongside the Budget, showed that carbon emissions could be reduced by 25 per cent. if motorists shifted to the lowest carbon car within a particular class.

The Budget 2008 reforms to VED will increase the number of bands from seven to 13 in 2009-10. From 2010-11, new cars will be taxed differently in the first year to influence purchasing choices at the point of sale. Overall these measures will ensure that drivers of the lowest emitting cars will benefit from a reduced VED rate and those who drive higher emitting cars will pay more.

The following tables are based on the new VED bands published on page 122 of the Budget Red Book and set out estimates for the number of cars that will sit within each new VED band in both 2009 and 2010. They also show how the amount that these cars pay will compare in real terms to the rate in 2008. Those who are eligible for the higher mobility element of disability living allowance are exempt from VED. In addition, there is also an exemption for organisations that operate passenger vehicles for the benefit of disabled people. In total, over 1.1 million disabled motorists are exempt from VED.

Furthermore, Government continue to support the long established motability scheme, set up by the Government in 1977 to provide disabled people with safe, reliable and affordable cars.

By 2010, 55 per cent. of motorists will pay less or the same in real terms as a result of these reforms. In addition, excluding first rates for new vehicles, the reforms mean that:

80 per cent. will pay no more than £55 extra;

95 per cent. will pay no more than £100 extra; and

5 per cent. will pay between £100 and £245 extra.

2009-10

Band	*CO_2 (g/km)*	*2009-10*	*Percentage pay less*	*Percentage pay the same*	*Percentage pay more*
A	Up to 100	400	0	100	0
B	101-110	217,000	100	0	0
C	111-120	470,000	100	0	0
D	121-130	670,000	100	0	0
E	131-140	2,394,000	100	0	0
F	141-150	3,087,000	100	0	0
G	151-160	3,256,000	0	100	0
H	161-170	2,400,000	0	50	50
I	171-180	1,785,000	0	0	100
J	181-200	2,577,000	0	0	100
K	201-225	2,550,000	0	0	100
L	226-255	277,000	0	0	100
M	Over 255	311,000	0	0	100
All bands		19,994,400	34	22	44

2010-11

Band	*CO_2 (g/km)*	*2010-11*	*Percentage pay less*	*Percentage pay the same*	*Percentage pay more*
A	Up to 100	9,000	0	100	0
B	101-110	266,000	100	0	0
C	111-120	565,000	20	80	0
D	121-130	822,000	100	0	0
E	131-140	2,813,000	100	0	0
F	141-150	3,393,000	0	100	0
G	151-160	3,560,000	0	100	0
H	161-170	2,558,000	0	40	60

		2010-11			
Band	*CO_2 (g/km)*	*2010-11*	*Percentage pay less*	*Percentage pay the same*	*Percentage pay more*
I	171-180	1,912,000	0	0	100
J	181-200	2,714,000	0	0	100
K	201-225	1,535,000	0	0	100
L	226-255	1,002,000	0	0	100
M	Over 255	766,000	0	0	100
All bands		21,915,000	18	39	43

The graduated VED rate will apply to all cars for which emissions data are available, i.e. those first registered after March 2001. For cars purchased pre-March 2001, different rates apply.

There are also separate arrangements in place for alternative fuel cars which are defined as 'gas-propelled vehicles, and those capable of being propelled by petrol and gas or electricity and petrol/diesel'.

These cars will receive a discount on their graduated VED. In 2008-09, alterative fuel cars in bands A to E receive a £20 discount from the standard graduated VED rate, and cars in bands F and G receive a £15 discount. In 2009-10, the discount for cars in new bands A to I will be £20, and £15 for cars in bands J to M. In 2010-11, all alternative fuel cars will receive a £10 discount from the standard rate.

As has been the practice under successive Governments, the VED rates will apply to all cars, including second-hand ones, where emissions data are available. Since the number of used cars sold is three times that of new cars, it is important to provide an environmental incentive to the used car market as well as the new car market.

The new rates will include a transitional period for cars registered between March 2001 and March 2006 that emit 225g/km or higher. These cars have been charged at a lower rate since 2006. They are currently charged the rate for current band F (£210), when the correct band for their emissions is band G (£400).

In order to reduce the financial impact on these motorists in any one year, these vehicles will be charged a lower transitional rate of £300 in 2009, before moving into band L or M in 2010—bringing them in line with all other vehicles with the same emission levels. This group represents the 5 per cent. of motorists in graduated VED who will pay between £100 and £245 extra in non first year rates from 2010.

The graduated VED rates do not apply to cars purchased before March 2001, as there are no comprehensive emissions data available for these vehicles. Motorists who bought their cars before March 2001 will continue to pay VED based on the size of the engine. Cars with engines below 1549 cc will have their VED rate frozen at £120 in 2009—a fall in real terms—while cars with engines above 1550 cc will see their VED rate increase by £15. Having different rates depending on the engine size ensures that there is an environmental signal for VED taxation for pre-2001 cars, taking account of the data available.

The following table is based on the categories for pre-March 2001 cars published on page 123 of the Budget Red Book and sets out the current Treasury estimate of the number of cars that will sit within each category.

	Estimated number of pre-2001 cars by band			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
1549cc and below	4,198,000	3,771,000	3,322,000	2,851,000
1550 cc and above	7,091,000	6,403,000	5,687,000	4,934,000

In 1997 the rate of VED was £145. Had the Government simply uprated the duty in line with inflation then all motorists would have to pay £200 in 2009. Therefore, all cars purchased prior to 2001 will pay no more in real terms in 2009 than in 1997. The single VED band meant that all car owners were taxed the same amount, regardless of the type of car that they drive. By introducing and then reforming graduated VED since 2001, the Government have made the system less regressive, as well as ensuring that the most polluting cars pay more than the least polluting.

Statistics for the number of the vehicles in low-income households are not available for 2007-08, and has not been forecast for 2008-09 onwards. The Government do not collect data from drivers when purchasing tax discs according to their household income. The best available relevant data on the impact of VED on low income households are set out in my PQ answer of 4 June.

The Treasury does not hold information on the specific impact of proposed vehicle excise duties on rural areas. Working vehicles that do not use public roads other than for travelling no more than 1.5 kilometres between different areas of land owned by the same person are exempt from VED.

Financial Services Authority: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish an office of the Financial Services Authority in Northern Ireland. [220748]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Services Authority conducts a range of events to ensure effective communication with firms based in Northern Ireland. These are an operational matter for the FSA, which is independent of Government.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217896]

Angela Eagle: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost by the PFI provider of catering services to the Treasury.

Fruit: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount the Exchequer received from the Scottish fruit industry in each of the last five years. [218429]

Angela Eagle: No such estimate has been made by the Treasury.

Fuels: Prices

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the relationship between speculation on futures markets and prices of crude oil and gas. [219851]

Angela Eagle: The Government published their latest assessment of the relationship between speculation on futures markets and commodity prices, including crude oil and gas, in "Global Commodities: a long-term vision for stable, secure and sustainable global markets" on 12 June 2008.

Insurance: Unfair Practices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department proposes to take on overcharging in relation to payment protection insurance policies as reported by the Competition Commission. [220868]

Kitty Ussher: The Competition Commission's report of 5 June 2008 on payment protection insurance is a provisional findings report. Her Majesty's Treasury will maintain a close dialogue with industry and the independent Financial Ombudsman Service, Financial Services Authority, Competition Commission, and the Office of Fair Trading.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the hon. Member for Walsall, North will receive a reply to his letter of 12 May regarding a constituent, reference 96705. [220321]

Angela Eagle: I understand the correspondence referred to, initially sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is being dealt with by DCMS.

Minimum Wage: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* under 21 and *(c)* over 60 years were found to be paid below the minimum wage in (i) Hampshire and (ii) Southampton in each of the last five years. [218621]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Minimum Wage: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies in Tamworth have been *(a)* fined and *(b)* required to cease trading for non-compliance with national minimum wage provisions since 2005. [220127]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not maintain statistical information at constituency level.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes have been repossessed by Northern Rock since nationalisation. [220078]

Kitty Ussher: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for exemption from business rates have been submitted to the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years. [220801]

Jane Kennedy: The numbers of proposals received by the Valuation Office Agency over the last five years, seeking removal from the non-domestic lists, including those where it is claimed the property is now wholly domestic is:

	England and Wales
2003-04	1,397
2004-05	1,338
2005-06	931
2006-07	654
2007-08	731
Total	5,051

Northern Rock

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he and (b) another of the tripartite authorities has conducted an inquiry into the leak of the offer of emergency assistance to Northern Rock on 13 September 2007. [217624]

Kitty Ussher: As the Chancellor told the Treasury Committee on 25 October 2007, the Treasury did not conduct a leak inquiry. Nor have the Bank of England or the Financial Services Authority.

Occupational Health: Costs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the economy and *(b)* the Exchequer of stress-related illnesses in the last year. [220749]

Angela Eagle: Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population estimated that the cost to the economy of sickness absence and worklessness associated with working age ill-health are over £100 billion a year, which includes stress related illness.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212117]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent (Hugh Robertson), the Shadow Sports and Olympics Minister on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5-6W.

The number of Government officials attending has not yet been finalised.

Public Expenditure

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has set a date for the publication of the Government's factual paper on the Barnett Formula. [220077]

Yvette Cooper: No decision has been made yet on the date of publication.

Public Sector: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* economic models and *(b)* mechanisms his Department uses to estimate the effect of average public sector pay increases on inflation. [203567]

Yvette Cooper: Government policy is to ensure that public sector pay settlements:

Reflect the individual labour market position of workforces, particularly their recruitment and retention position;

Are consistent with the achievement by the Bank of England of its CPI inflation target of 2 per cent.;

Are affordable for departments; and

Represent value for money for taxpayers.

Consistency with the inflation target does not mean that there is a specific number which is the target for pay awards. But it does mean that pay awards need to support low and stable inflation.

A wide range of factors can potentially impact on inflationary pressure. These factors are considered by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank England when setting interest rates to meet the inflation target. An assessment of inflationary pressures is available in the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report. The Treasury publishes its own inflation forecast in the Budget and the pre-Budget report.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on spending on public transport in rural areas. [220311]

Yvette Cooper: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with their colleagues in other Departments and with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Revenue and Customs: Leave

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff or call centre staff have been asked to postpone leave arrangements in the last six months; how many have agreed to do so; and what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other compensation has been offered to them. [219866]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Salisbury

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when in 2009 HM Revenue and Customs' lease on Alexandra House, Salisbury terminates; whether the office will be co-located with Jobcentre Plus officials at Summerlock House, Salisbury following the termination of the lease; and if he will make a statement. [219553]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC currently occupies Alexandra House, Salisbury under an agreement with HM Court Services who own the building but there is no lease arrangement. Court Services are seeking to sell the building and have recently given HMRC notice to leave by 29 May 2009. The sale of the building will not prejudice the outcome of a national review currently being carried out on the Department's property needs to match future business requirements. HMRC is seeking alternative accommodation in Salisbury to meet its future business requirements and is considering the suitability of a number of options, including the availability of Summerlock House. No decision about HMRC's future location in Salisbury has been taken yet.

Revenue and Customs: Vacancies

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which HM Revenue and Customs operational areas in Wales there are staff shortages, broken down by role. [219970]

Jane Kennedy: Work is in progress through HMRC's Workforce Change Programme to address staff distribution requirements aligned to business transformation.

There is an ongoing recruitment exercise for a number of HMRC contact centres including Cardiff. In Wales specifically HMRC currently have 15 vacancies and these breakdown into the following grades: 11 higher officers, four officers.

These vacancies are in a number of business areas and are being advertised to existing staff, with priority given to pre-surplus staff.

Smuggling: Wildlife

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many products made from endangered wildlife sources have been seized by HM Revenue and Customs in 2008 to date. [220039]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs made the following seizures of endangered species between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008:

	Number of seizures	*Number of items seized*	*Weight of items seized (kg)*
Live animals and birds	8	23	—
Parts and derivatives of endangered species	24	453	0.62
Ivory	6	75	—
Plants	1	55	—
Other species listed under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (including coral, caviar and ginseng)	19	685	8.42
Preparations of oriental medicines which include parts or derivatives of endangered species	14	5,748	57.11

CITES seizures are recorded by number of items seized or by weight, whichever is the most practical. Apart from the live specimens, all of the above categories may include products of endangered species.

The total number of seizures of endangered species items for the financial year 2007-08 can found at Annex F of HMRC's Departmental Report 2008 at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Tax Allowances

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dwellings in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds West constituency have been subject to stamp duty tax relief on zero carbon homes. [220759]

Kitty Ussher: Since the stamp duty land tax relief for zero carbon homes was introduced in October 2007 nobody in the Leeds Metropolitan District or the Leeds West constituency has claimed the relief.

Taxation: Aviation

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of levels of taxes on passengers and flights in other European Union member states. [217988]

Angela Eagle: The Government are currently developing policy options following the announcement at pre-Budget report 2007 that air passenger duty would be replaced by a per plane duty in November 2009 and the formal consultation on this new tax, which considered all aspects of the operation of the duty, closed on 24 April. As part of this process, the Government will of course assess the level of taxes on passengers and flights in other European Union states.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of aviation taxation systems in other European Union member states which generate revenue other than on an individual flight or passenger basis. [217989]

Angela Eagle: The Government are currently developing policy options following the announcement at pre-Budget report 2007 that air passenger duty would be replaced by a per plane duty in November 2009 and the formal consultation on this new tax, which considered all aspects of the operation of the duty closed on 24 April. As part of this process, the Government will of course assess systems of aviation taxation in other European Union states.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent studies he has commissioned on the economic effects of aviation duty on the aviation industry. [217990]

Angela Eagle: The Government are currently developing policy options following the announcement at pre-Budget report 2007 that air passenger duty would be replaced by a per plane duty in November 2009 and the formal consultation on this new tax, which considered all aspects of the operation of the duty, closed on 24 April. As part of this process, the Treasury is working with the Department for Transport and with key industry stakeholders to assess the economic effects of the aviation duty on the aviation industry.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent studies he has commissioned to evaluate the effect of UK aviation taxation on UK businesses competing with other businesses in Europe and globally. [217991]

Angela Eagle: The Government are currently developing policy options following the announcement at pre-Budget report 2007 that air passenger duty would be replaced by a per plane duty in November 2009 and the formal consultation on this new tax, which considered all aspects of the operation of the duty, closed on 24 April. As part of this process, the Government are working with key stakeholders to assess the likely effects of the aviation duty on the wider economy.

Taxation: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many compliance enquiries following the receipt of a P810 form were carried out in Wales in each of the last five years. [219968]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer arising from *(a)* unprocessed and *(b)* destroyed P810 forms in each of the last five years. [219969]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many P810 forms have been received from people resident in Wales in each month of the last five years; on how many of these forms action has not been taken; how many such forms have been destroyed; and on what date the destroyed forms were *(a)* received and *(b)* destroyed. [219971]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information on the numbers of Welsh residents who have received or completed a form P810 is not available.

Once a form P810 (Tax Review Form) has been dealt it is retained for the tax year it was received plus two full tax years.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on the Valuation Office, how many households in England received a visit from a Valuation Office Agency official in the most recent *(a)* year and *(b)* other period for which figures are available. [218268]

Jane Kennedy: For the last year, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W. The approximate number of visits in other periods for which figures are available are 110,000 in 2005 and 125,000 in 2006.

Working Tax Credit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centres are piloting the face to face interviews in working tax credit take-up. [219759]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's Enquiry Centres at Belfast, Cosham (near Portsmouth), Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Newport (Gwent) participated in a pilot during May and June 2008 designed to encourage the take-up of working tax credit.

Working Tax Credit: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Halifax received working tax credit in 2007-08. [220148]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards in 2006-07 in each constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2006-07. Geographical Analyses". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2007-08 is not yet available because awards have not yet been finalised.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Questions *(a)* 208270, *(b)* 208268, *(c)* 208271 and *(d)* 208269 on vehicle excise duty, tabled by the hon. Member for Putney on 30 May 2008. [220811]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member's questions today.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reach conclusions following his Department's aggregates levy consultation; and whether he plans to publish the outcome of the consultation. [219342]

Jonathan Shaw: The outcome of the consultation on the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was put on the consultations section of DEFRA's website on 10 July.

Agriculture: Foreigners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of foreign workers participating in the seasonal farm workers scheme in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the number in 2008. [216788]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The annual quota for the number of foreign workers who were permitted to enter the United Kingdom under the auspices of the seasonal agricultural workers scheme in 2005, 2006 and 2007 was 16,250. The quota was met in each year. The quota for 2008 is also 16,250.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to make the Single Farm Payment for 2007 to the constituent of the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, Mr. Robert Philipson-Stow of Pendock Estates. [218600]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency has made the single payment scheme payment for 2007 to Mr. Robert Philipson-Stow.

Animal Welfare: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the sharing of funding for animal health and welfare research between Departments; and if he will make a statement. [216558]

Jonathan Shaw: The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) funds a wide range of animal health and welfare research projects. The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) is the Government Department which funds the BBSRC.

I have not had specific discussions with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on this issue. I consider that good working links exist between DEFRA and BBRSC, who keep each other informed about research funding plans and aim to have well co-ordinated research programmes. Regular interaction

takes place between DEFRA, the BBSRC and other UK research funders through various media such as the UK Animal Disease Research Funders' Forum, the Microbial Safety of Food Funders' Group and the UK TSE Research and Development Co-ordination Group. Joint activities such as scientific workshops and research calls have been organised by these groups.

DEFRA has observer status at meetings of the BBSRC Animal Sciences and AgriFood Committees. Both DEFRA and BBSRC are involved in the EU Standing Committee on Agricultural Research, the Collaborative Working Group on Animal Health and Welfare Research and the ERA-NET on emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock.

In addition to this close interaction, the BBSRC and DEFRA have jointly funded projects on viral disease of livestock. DEFRA also co-fund a number of projects identified from the BBSRC responsive mode grant applications under the Government Partnership Awards scheme.

Bees

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* the National Bee Unit and *(b)* the Bee Inspectorate in 2001-02. [218692]

Jonathan Shaw: Expenditure on the National Bee Unit, which includes the Bee Inspectorate, by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2001-02 was £1,583,000.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on bee health research in each of the last 10 years. [218703]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 855W.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much per annum is contributed to the agricultural economy by the honey bee sector. [218704]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of recent trends in the honey bee population in England. [218708]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W.

Bees: Disease Control

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the threat of the Varroa mite to the honey bee population. [218705]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 171-72W.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent studies he has commissioned on tackling the Varroa mite. [218706]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of exotic threats to the honey bee population, with particular reference to the small hive beetle. [218707]

Jonathan Shaw: The possibility of the small hive beetle arriving in the UK is a recognised threat to the health of honey bees and the National Bee Unit remains vigilant for the arrival of this and other exotic pests and diseases. To promote early detection, publicity material has been distributed to help raise individual beekeepers' awareness of the risk. Plant health import inspectors and horticultural marketing inspectors have also been alerted, as one possible entry pathway is imported fruit. To help mitigate this threat, DEFRA has developed a contingency plan in consultation with stakeholders and is also pressing the European Commission to introduce tighter contingency arrangements to reduce the risk of spread should the small hive beetle be introduced into another member state. Additionally, DEFRA is funding research into a "lure and kill" monitoring system for rapid deployment should the small hive beetle be detected.

The relative priorities that should be given to the various pest and disease threats to bees are addressed in the draft bee health strategy that is currently out for public consultation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the role of maize and trace element deficiency in the spread of M.bovis. [218918]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* While the role of maize in the spread of *Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis)* has not been specifically investigated by any DEFRA funded research projects, the case-control studies carried out as part of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) did investigate associations between a number of feed types and risk of a herd TB breakdown. Studies TB99 and CCS2005, found an association between feeding silage and the use of grass feeding types for grazing/forage and an increase in risk of TB breakdown, respectively. The findings of these studies are in the final report of the Independent Scientific Group report on cattle TB. In addition TB99 also identified not using feeding supplements as a risk factor for confirmed cases of TB.

The association between *M. bovis* infection and trace elements such as selenium, copper and vitamin B12 status of cattle was investigated as part of the DEFRA

funded project "Pathogenesis and Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Cattle—Complementary Field Studies" (project SE3013), carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). While little evidence was found for a difference by TB status in copper or B12, associations were found between low levels of selenium and a higher risk of an animal being infected with *M.bovis*. However, given the design of the study and the evidence that the action of some micro-nutrients can be substantially influenced by the levels of others it was not possible to conclude that the observed associations were causal. The full report can be downloaded from DEFRA's website.

I remain open minded about the possibility of a nutritional link but because of the number of variables involved and the likelihood a causal link could never be proven I am not inclined to fund further research into this subject.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the cattle testing regime in preventing cattle-to-cattle transmission of bovine tuberculosis; and what representations he has received on the frequency of the tests under the regime. [218919]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The underlying principle of our bovine TB test and slaughter programme is to identify infected cattle as early as possible and minimise the risk of the transmission of the disease within and between cattle herds. Many countries where infection is maintained solely through spread between cattle have eradicated bovine TB through the systematic testing and reactor slaughter programme that we use today.

DEFRA has funded, and is currently funding, a number of research projects modelling the potential impacts of various cattle movement control scenarios on the spread of TB—final reports are published on the DEFRA website. We recognise the importance of monitoring the effectiveness of the TB control programme—and we will enhance controls in the light of emerging evidence. New policies introduced in recent years include: zero tolerance for overdue TB tests (i.e. herd movement restrictions applied immediately a test becomes overdue); mandatory pre-movement testing of cattle in high risk areas; and increased use of the gamma interferon blood test. These measures increase our ability to identify infected cattle, thereby reducing the risk of disease spread. We have also been working with stakeholders to raise awareness of simple biosecurity measures to further reduce transmission risks between animals.

Increasing the frequency of bovine TB testing in some areas was one of the additional measures recommended by the Independent Science Group (ISG). Initial cost benefit analysis of increasing the frequency of cattle testing suggests that they would come at a high cost with limited benefits—and so would be difficult to justify in terms of Government expenditure. Decisions about the value of such measures, and how they might be funded, are as much, if not more, a question for industry as for Government and will need to be discussed by the Bovine TB Partnership Group.

Our current approach to determining the minimum levels of routine testing for cattle herds is risk-based and consistent with the requirements of EU Council Directive 64/432/EEC. Parish Testing Intervals reflect the local level of bovine TB prevalence, and are reviewed each year to take account of any change in the disease situation. An increase in the levels of disease in an area triggers more frequent testing. Divisional Veterinary Managers (Animal Health) are already empowered to increase testing if local or individual herd circumstances indicate that such action is required.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates he has made of the number of cattle likely to be slaughtered under the bovine tuberculosis regime in the next three years. [218920]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* My Department has not attempted to estimate the numbers of cattle likely to be slaughtered under the bovine tuberculosis control regime in the next three years.

It is very difficult to make such forecasts due to the chronic, multifactorial and insidious nature of bovine TB. The number of cattle slaughtered as tuberculosis (TB) test reactors and direct contacts largely depends on (i) the underlying prevalence of the infection in the cattle (and badger) population and (ii) the intensity and accuracy of the TB screening programme for cattle herds. The former is subject to cyclical changes in the endemic TB areas that are difficult to predict, whereas the latter is subject to annual changes as TB herd testing frequencies are reviewed every year in response to the incidence of herd breakdowns in the previous years. Furthermore, the enhancements to the TB testing regime introduced over the last two years (such as pre-movement testing and gamma-interferon blood testing) are expected to result in higher numbers of reactors being identified each year, at least in the short to medium term.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1157-8, on bovine TB, if he will publish the evidence which underlay his evaluation of the PCR test reported to the House on 7 July 2008. [219028]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* A number of diagnostic tests for the detection of *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection in badgers have been developed through DEFRA funded research projects at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The final reports of completed research projects have been published on the DEFRA website.

Bovine TB is currently confirmed by culture of *M. bovis* in the laboratory. However, *M. bovis* grows very slowly so culture results can take six weeks to several months to come through. DEFRA funded VLA project SE3008 (April 1999-December 2004), 'Detection and enumeration of *M. bovis* from clinical and environmental samples', aimed to develop PCR-based methods that may allow rapid screening of samples from infected cattle and monitoring of the environment and badger populations for the presence of *M. bovis*. This research showed that while the PCR test specific for *M. bovis* was found to be only 50 per cent. as sensitive as the gold standard of culture, the sensitivity of the *M. tuberculosis* complex PCR test (i.e. a less specific PCR able to detect mycobacteria that are members of the M. tb complex) was increased from 70 per cent., to 90 per cent., by the end of the project. While such low sensitivities for *M. bovis* detection rules out the use of this PCR test for use on environmental samples and excretions collected from

badgers, with further development and evaluation this test could be used in the laboratory to achieve faster confirmation and subsequent tracing of bTB infection in slaughterhouse cases.

Work funded by DEFRA to validate the PCR test developed by Warwick University to detect *M. bovis* in the environment is ongoing (Project SE3231: 'Validation and epidemiological application of molecular methods for monitoring *M. bovis* survival and dissemination into the environment'). This is a joint project between the VLA, Warwick University and University College, London and includes validation of the test using field samples. A full project description is available on the DEFRA website. A final report on the work will be published following its completion in April 2010.

If it is shown to be usable as a robust practical field test, consideration of its potential use in any bTB control policy will need to take account of the results of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, which showed that localised culling was associated with an increase in cattle herd TB breakdowns due to the perturbation effect on badgers and increased transmission of bTB.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will give a breakdown of his Department's expenditure on bovine tubergulosis expenditure in 2007-08 by main budget heading; what estimate he has made of such expenditure for the rest of the current comprehensive spending review period; and what assumptions underlay that estimate. [219029]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* GB expenditure on bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in 2007-08 was £79.8 million. However, we are unable to provide an accurate forecast of expenditure on bTB in the period of the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review as budgets have not yet been finalised.

The following table shows the breakdown expenditure on bovine TB in 2007-08;

Activity	*2007-08*
Cattle Testing	32.6
Compensation	29.7
RBCT	0.03
Surveillance activity by the VLA	7.9
Other Research[1]	8.5
HQ/Overheads	1.2
Totals	79.93

[1] Figure does not include research into culling methods or the badger population survey.

Notes:

1. Cattle testing—the cost of carrying out the testing of cattle for TB by arranging, assessing and monitoring tests, conducting investigations of incident herds and diagnostic testing by local veterinary inspectors on behalf of DEFRA. Note: These costs include Scotland and Wales (funded by DEFRA).
2. Compensation—includes payments for 'reactors' and 'contact animals' which are compulsorily slaughtered. This includes 'salvage' money received by the Government for those carcasses which are permitted to go into the food chain or are eligible for over 30 month scheme payments. Note: These costs include Scotland and Wales and are funded by their respective Governments.
3. Surveillance activity by the VLA—includes all DEFRA-funded work carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency relating to TB in cattle and badgers including the supply of tuberculin.
5. HQ/overheads—includes staff costs for veterinary advice and administration of TB policy in England, Scotland and Wales.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) under what budget heading expenditure on vaccination against bovine tuberculosis will be incurred over the next three years; [219030]

(2) what estimate he has made of the expenditure from the *(a)* bovine tuberculosis budget and *(b)* animal health budget required for the vaccination policy announced on 7 July 2008 which is additional to original allocations under those headings. [219031]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* Of the £20 million identified as funding for vaccine research by the Secretary of State, £10.4 million has already been contracted from the existing tuberculosis programme research budgets. The additional £9.6 million has not yet been contracted and will be funded from an expanded research budget.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken of pre-movement testing of cattle. [219032]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) that supports pre-movement testing has been reviewed and updated in light of phase one experience. The reviewed RIA is available on the DEFRA website.

A review of pre-movement testing will be carried out following the period of peak cattle movements in autumn 2008. By then, a full year of normal trading data should be available to assess. This will allow an analysis of cattle movements in spring and autumn, which are the most challenging delivery periods, thereby providing sufficient data for a comprehensive review.

In the meantime, monitoring of the impacts of the policy is ongoing and statistics continue to be published on the DEFRA website.

Climate Change

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement in the Climate Change Bill Committee of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 252, by the Minister for the Environment, the hon. Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter to Lord Turner on the publication of interim findings by the independent Climate Change Committee. [219963]

Mr. Woolas: I am writing to the noble Lord Turner in the terms I set out in the Climate Change Bill Committee of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 282 and will place a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

Climate Change: Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 19th May 2008, how much the Regional Climate Change Partnerships received from his Department in 2007-08; and how much they will receive in 2008-09. [219001]

Joan Ruddock: As part of the funding boost announced for regional climate adaptation on 19 May 2008, each Regional Climate Change Partnership in England will have the opportunity to bid for £450,000 funding (£50,000 per partnership) in 2008-09. Each partnership has been invited to submit a bid for the funds under five broad adaptation themes. We are currently in the process of assessing each bid with the Government offices before allocating the funding for 2008-09. As this is a new programme in this year, no funding was available during the 2007-08 financial year.

In addition to this programme, each partnership also receives support indirectly from DEFRA through DEFRA funded bodies such as the Environment Agency, regional development agencies and the UK Climate Impacts Programme.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212033]

Jonathan Shaw: In financial year 2007-08, DEFRA spent £6.9 million on branding and marketing activity—including the cost of publication storage and fulfilment. The vast majority of this spend was promoting the cross-government Act on CO_2 campaign. The balance was spent on smaller campaigns including those alerting the public of the law relating to personal food imports, alerting businesses to new REACH regulations and communicating with farmers on a variety of issues, particularly animal disease control.

This information for DEFRA's agencies and NDPBs is not held centrally and could be gained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217418]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows details of the proportion of staff who did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. For DEFRA, the data relate to staff in core-DEFRA, Animal Health, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticides Safety Directorate and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

		Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08*
DEFRA	87.8	84.7
RPA	84.8	86.1
VLA	87.7	86.8
CSL	77.8	76.9
CEFAS	84.5	83.9

Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many working days have been lost due to sickness among employees for which his Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218038]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on sickness absence in the civil service is available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

Published data are available from the 2004 calendar year to the 2006-07 financial year. The number of working days lost due to sickness in DEFRA was as follows:

	Days
2004	56,000
2005	59,826
2006-07	48,026

Data on days lost to sickness before 2004 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Wastes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have installed *(a)* bin weighing technology and *(b)* RFID chips in household bins, according to records held by (i) his Department and (ii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [217847]

Joan Ruddock: Neither my Department nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme hold these data.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment of the effectiveness of bin weighing technology was undertaken as part of his Department's evaluation of the household waste incentive pilot scheme. [217855]

Joan Ruddock: No separate assessment of bin weighing technology was undertaken as part of my Department's evaluation of the reward-only household incentive pilots (carried out in 2005-06).

Some of the authorities involved in the pilots used bin weighing technology. The report notes that in some areas difficulties were experienced with individual bin weighing technology and recommends that authorities wishing to utilise bin weighing systems ensure that they have been demonstrated to work effectively.

The report notes that using bin weighing technology was considered to be very effective in one of the pilot areas. Several bin weighing systems also operate successfully overseas. Some of these are referenced in a report produced on waste charging, which is publicly available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/incentives/pdf/wasteincentives-research-0507.pdf

The full report on the reward-only household incentive pilot is also publicly available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/encourage.htm.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the household waste incentive pilot scheme reports for the pilots conducted in *(a)* Hammersmith and Fulham and Lambeth, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* South Norfolk. [217857]

Joan Ruddock: The reports for all of the reward-only household incentive pilot schemes (carried out in 2005-06) are publicly available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/encourage.htm.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of commingled collections of household waste. [217845]

Joan Ruddock: Decisions on the best method for collecting waste and recyclables are a matter for local authorities, not DEFRA.

DEFRA policy is that local authorities should decide how to discharge their responsibilities for waste management and recycling in the light of their local circumstances and the evidence which is available on the strengths and weaknesses of different arrangements.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has published evidence on the relative costs of different systems for collecting waste. WRAP's research concluded that, in current market conditions, kerbside sort systems were likely to show lower overall recycling costs for the local authority than co-mingled collections. However, it also recognised that for some local authorities, especially in highly urban areas, co-mingled collections may be more practical.

WRAP is also studying the management of recycling in Materials Recovery Facilities to see how the resulting material can be improved in quality so that it is suitable for use in high value applications.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to waste collection authorities on the use of separate individual bins for food, glass, paper, plastic and residual waste. [217848]

Joan Ruddock: The Government funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) published a guidance document for local authorities, dealing with Alternate Weekly Collection of household waste, in July 2007. This guidance document includes a discussion of the issues that a local authority may wish to consider, including the type of collection system to be used for the material put out for recycling. However, the guidance document does not recommend any particular collection methods as being better than any other.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

2Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the quantity of UK electronic waste exported outside the EU which has been *(a)* re-used, *(b)* recycled and *(c)* otherwise disposed of in each of the last three years. [217705]

Joan Ruddock: The export of working electronic equipment does not require the authorities to be notified. This may include used appliances or working components. If considered to be working, electronic equipment is not classified as waste and can be exported without notification.

In certain circumstances, the Environment Agency should be notified of movements of exports for recovery, depending on the waste type and destination.

Records held by the Environment Agency relate to the export of wastes that require consent under the notification process. This would include waste described as hazardous or where receiving countries have requested notification for certain materials. For wastes classified under the European waste catalogue entry 1602 as wastes from electrical and electronic equipment, the Environment Agency records show that no such wastes were notified for export to countries outside the EU over the last three years.

The Environment Agency also holds records of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) exports under the Accredited Exporter scheme. These are mostly waste streams from the processing of WEEE with a small amount of whole appliances. Data are only available from July 2007 onwards and do not differentiate between exports within Europe and outside Europe.

It is illegal to export waste for disposal which includes WEEE. The Environment Agency has no estimate of the amount of WEEE that is illegally exported for disposal.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many UK companies have been fined under the transfrontier shipment of waste regulations for illegally exporting electronic waste outside the EU for disposal. [217706]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency is the regulatory authority for the transfrontier shipment of waste in England and Wales. They have confirmed that one company was fined in 2006-07 for the illegal export of waste electrical and electronic equipment and two companies were fined in 2007-08.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217882]

Jonathan Shaw: The information necessary to answer this question fully for each of the last five years is not available except at disproportionate cost. We are limited to providing the following estimates of the main species of fish supplied and the overall cost for each of the years 2005 to 2007 and the first six months of 2008.

	2005	2006	2007	Percentage [1]2008
Haddock	45	44	35	30
Tuna	20	20	18	20
Salmon	25	25	22	20
Trout	10	10	8	5
Sea Bass	0	0	3	3
Sea Bream	0	0	3	4
Hake	0	0	2	4
Hoki	0	1	5	9
Pollock	0	0	4	5
Total cost (£)	12,850	14,900	15,600	8,100

[1] Six months

More data on public sector food procurement are published on the PSFPI website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-afood-usage.pdf.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents were reported in England in 2007-08 according to the Flycapture database; what estimate he has made of the clearance costs of such incidents; and what proportion of such incidents involved the fly-tipping of household waste. [217854]

Joan Ruddock: Data for the period 2007-08 are not yet available. Local authorities were asked to submit complete annual data by the end of June 2008. We are currently quality checking the data submitted. Full data for 2007-08 will be published as soon as possible.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214883]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214884]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but from information held centrally, it is estimated that the proportion of food supplied to DEFRA from UK sources since 2005 is as follows:

	Percentage	Value (£)
2005	65	629,244
2006	74	643,208
2007	85	606,606
2008[1]	85	250,130

[1] Six months.

I refer the hon. Member to the report published on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/gov-food-usage.pdf

DEFRA again proposes to publish data by the end of 2008 on the proportion of domestically produced food purchased by Departments.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to develop a comprehensive food policy; and if he will include in the policy measures to reduce *(a)* food waste and *(b)* food miles. [219035]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* As set out in the Cabinet Office's recent report on food "Food Matters", DEFRA, working with the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency will launch a process of engagement with stakeholders across the food chain to develop a vision for a sustainable food system. The vision will define the Government's priorities and purpose across the food system and will consider issues such as food waste and sourcing alongside issues of nutrition and the environmental impacts of food consumption and production.

The Cabinet Office's report also sets out how DEFRA will work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the food industry to reduce food waste both in the food supply chain and in the home.

Green Belt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations Natural England has made to his Department on Green Belt (i) designation and (ii) protection. [219070]

Jonathan Shaw: Natural England has made no recent representations to DEFRA relating to green belt designation or protection. Natural England's policy on housing growth ("Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure, June 2008") sets out its views on green belt.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* increasing the availability of affordable housing in the Peak District National Park Authority area and *(b)* future funding for the provision of rural housing enablers; and if he will make a statement. [216567]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member for Macclesfield to the answer given in response to the same question that he asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1742-43W.

Insulation: Pollution

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the rate of natural leakage of ozone-depleting substances from plastic foam insulation. [219467]

Mr. Woolas: The estimated emission rates from foam insulation in buildings and appliances have been documented by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Although the annual emission rates vary by product type, they are typically very low. This is particularly the case from insulation foams and is because of their closed cell structure. This understanding has been substantiated by measurements made on aged refrigerators containing chlorofluorocarbons.

Joint Waste Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances a local authority which joins a Joint Waste Authority (JWA) will be permitted to leave the JWA unilaterally. [217813]

Joan Ruddock: Joint waste authorities (JWAs) will be statutory bodies, established by Order. A local authority will not be able to leave a JWA unilaterally. JWAs can only be dissolved where all the constituent authorities agree to do so or where the Secretary of State considers it is necessary to do so. This will give them a structural stability that should appeal to the waste management industry and to potential investors.

Metals: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the amount of scrap metal exported from the UK; what discussions he has had with colleagues from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on this matter; and if he will meet representatives of industry to discuss the issue. [218169]

Joan Ruddock: Scrap metals are a valuable globally traded commodity and are exported to countries where there is demand. Many of the products we use are manufactured in Asia and it is environmentally beneficial to export our recyclables to markets where they will replace use of virgin material. Exports of waste from the UK must be in compliance with the requirements of the EC Waste Shipments Regulation which helps to ensure that strict environmental criteria are met and that exported metals are reprocessed in conditions that are considered broadly equivalent to those in force in the EU.

I am in regular contact with both colleagues from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and representatives from across industry on matters relating to the metals sector.

Microgeneration: Noise

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the permitted noise level from domestic microgeneration equipment has been set at a level five decibels higher than that proposed in the consultation document. [219510]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

My written statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 20-21WS, announced that secondary legislation had been laid before the House that would remove the need to apply for planning permission to install certain types of householder microgeneration. These permitted development rights now apply to solar, ground and water source heat pump, combined heat and power and biomass technologies.

The statement explained that good progress was being made in trying to resolve the issue of noise that prevented permitted development rights being extended to wind turbines and air source heat pumps at that time. It also indicated that a restriction would be imposed to ensure that habitable rooms of any neighbouring residential property are not exposed to an outside noise level exceeding 45 decibels. This figure seeks to balance the Government's desire to encourage the take-up of microgeneration with the need to consider the potential impact on others. We have not yet concluded work on this issue and therefore permitted development rights do not currently apply to these technologies.

Nappies: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Environment Agency's research report, WR0705-Updated Lifecycle Study on Reusable and Disposable Nappies. [218882]

Joan Ruddock: The Lifecycle study on re-useable and disposable nappies is due to be published in August. We will launch the publication and arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Noise

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish a noise strategy for England. [219509]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller) on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 777-78W.

Noise: Pollution

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what remedies are available to people disturbed by persistent amplified noise in public places made *(a)* in the cause of political protest and *(b)* for other reasons; and if he will make a statement; [219034]

(2) what his policy is on the prevention of disturbance to others by people persistently making amplified noise in public places without the permission of the relevant local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [219033]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993, provides that noise, other than traffic noise, emitted from vehicles, machinery or equipment in a street can be a statutory nuisance, if it does, has or is likely to interfere with the quiet enjoyment of a person's land or is prejudicial to

their health. Local authorities have a duty to investigate complaints about statutory nuisances, and may serve abatement notices. Failure to comply with an abatement notice can be a criminal offence.

These provisions do not however apply to political demonstrations or a demonstration supporting or opposing a cause or campaign.

Section 62 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 bans the use of a loud speaker in a street at night (i.e. between 9 pm and 8 am), and restricts the use of loudspeakers for advertising at any time subject to limited exemptions.

Section 137 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 bans the use of loudspeakers in the area around Parliament at any time and for any purpose (subject to a number of exceptions—including where consent of local authority has been granted). The Government have however announced their intention to repeal these provisions.

There are in addition byelaws which govern the use of amplification equipment in certain areas such as Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square Garden. There may be similar local byelaws in other parts of the country.

Pandas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many giant pandas have been presented by the Government of China to the UK Government since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [218257]

Joan Ruddock: Animal health records show there has been one giant panda entering the UK from China since 1979. Ming Ming arrived in 1991 on a breeding loan to London Zoo and was subsequently returned in 1994.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage the breeding of giant pandas in English zoos; and if he will make a statement. [218258]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have neither encouraged nor discouraged the breeding of giant pandas in English zoos. Keeping giant pandas is a matter for individual zoos, and would be subject to strict legislative previsions including the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended), the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (governing the import and export of endangered species). We are not aware that there are any giant pandas in English zoos at present.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of China on its export of giant pandas; and if he will make a statement. [218259]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no recent discussions between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment and China over the export of giant pandas. The UK Government are committed to working with other countries to promote the conservation of the world's wildlife, such as the giant panda, through our membership of agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Any export of pandas from China would need to comply with CITES' provisions.

Pigs: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the British pig industry to discuss the animal welfare standards adhered to by pig breeders. [217556]

Jonathan Shaw: When the rules regarding pig welfare requirements were last revised in 2003, DEFRA conducted a full public consultation and officials met with pig industry representatives.

If representatives of the British pig industry would like to write to me outlining their concerns on this important issue, I will be happy to respond and equally to consider any request for a meeting.

Ports: Security

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings he has had with officials and Ministers from the French Government on blockades at ports and port security. [218085]

Jonathan Shaw: I have not held direct talks with either French officials or Ministers on recent blockades. However, the UK Government have been in close contact with national and local authorities in Spain and France, and affected UK nationals. Working through our embassy in Paris, we have expressed strong concerns to the French authorities about the difficulties caused to the UK, in particular the fishing industry, by this action. In addition the European Commission has been formally notified of the disruption under the free movement of goods regulation. I also raised this as an important issue at last month's Fisheries Council, and called on support from all member states to ensure that the trade of fish and fisheries products can continue without hindrance.

I have also been in close contact with my colleagues in the devolved Administrations to ensure that the concerns of the whole UK fishing industry are understood and raised with the French Government.

Recycling

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average rejection rate of recycled materials at material recycling facilities was in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many tonnes of material sent for recycling were disposed of in a non-recycled manner in the latest year for which figures are available. [218900]

Joan Ruddock: Based on local authority responses to WasteDataFlow during 2006-07, the average reject rate reported by local authorities in England for collected municipal recyclate waste being sent to a material recycling facility was 7 per cent. With regard to material sent for recycling, but disposed of in a non-recycled manner, tonnages are not available as local authorities only have

a duty to report recycling rejects up to the gate of the reprocessor, at which point it is deemed to be sent for recycling.

River Thames: Transport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what legislation *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight traffic on the River Thames is regulated; what (i) statutory instruments, (ii) departmental circulars and (iii) other documents he (A) has issued and (B) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of such legislation; and if he will make a statement. [217907]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the non-tidal River Thames and carries out its duties (including regulating all types of river traffic) under the Thames Conservancy Acts 1932, 1950, 1959, 1966 and 1972 and the byelaws made under them.

The operation of passenger and other commercial river traffic within the United Kingdom is more specifically regulated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport) under shipping legislation, statutory instruments and other associated regulations.

Royal Agricultural Society

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Royal Agricultural Society of England on *(a)* its future and *(b)* the future of the Royal Show. [214322]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has met with the Royal Agricultural Society of England to discuss the Society's role in promoting best practice, science and innovation in the farming industry; to see how links in these areas can be strengthened and to explore where the Society and DEFRA could work more closely together. We believe that the Royal Show continues to play an important role in the agricultural calendar. DEFRA Ministers will continue to take the valuable opportunity to engage with industry stakeholders and the public at the show.

Rural Areas: Planning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government means of altering planning contracts in rural areas to encourage job promotion, and in particular the development of rural business centres. [218168]

Jonathan Shaw: The Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to conduct a review on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing. I continue to have regular discussions with the Minister for Housing on these topics and look forward to receiving the recommendations of the review.

Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a list of the sources for fly-tipping and waste placed out which informed the most recent annual Local Environment Quality Survey of England. [219072]

Joan Ruddock: The 2006-07 Local Environment Quality Survey of England Report can be found on the ENCAMS website. The report does not have information on the proportional sources of fly-tipping and waste placed out. There is general background on the sources of solid waste encountered during the survey which are defined as: General Litter, Domestic Refuse, Commercial Wastes, Animal and Other Faeces, Clinical Wastes, Putrescible Materials, Other Wastes Occurring as Litter.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research commissioned by his Department and the Environment Agency from ENCAMS on fly-tipping and waste. [219073]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for the research document requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Low Participation Areas—Effective Communications Planning guidance published by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [219075]

Joan Ruddock: The guidance referred to is an online tool, rather than a physical document, and cannot therefore be deposited in the Library of the House. However, it is freely available to use on the website of the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civic amenity sites each waste authority in England provides. [219078]

Joan Ruddock: The table provides the numbers of household civic amenity sites the Environment Agency has permitted in England by local authority area.

The caveat is that these figures do not include those civic amenity sites which are incorporated into other types of sites such as waste transfer sites/material recycling facilities operated by local authorities or their contractors. It is not possible to separate these data.

C.A. sites in England (excluding Wales) by local authority at 15 July 2008

Local authority	*Number of sites*
Adur	2
Alnwick	2
Arun	2
Ashfield	3
Ashford	3
Aylesbury Vale	1
Babergh	3
Barnet	2

C.A. sites in England (excluding Wales) by local authority at 15 July 2008

Local authority	Number of sites
Barnsley	3
Barrow-in-Furness	1
Basildon	1
Basingstoke and Deane	1
Bassetlaw	1
Bath and North East Somerset	3
Bedford	1
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3
Bexley	2
Blackburn with Darwen	3
Blackpool	1
Blyth Valley	3
Bolton	1
Boston	1
Bournemouth	1
Bradford	9
Braintree	2
Breckland	4
Brentwood	1
Brighton and Hove	1
Bristol, City of	4
Bromley	2
Bromsgrove	1
Broxtowe	3
Burnley	1
Bury	1
Calderdale	5
Camden	2
Cannock Chase	2
Carlisle	1
Castle Morpeth	4
Castle Point	1
Chamwood	1
Chelmsford	2
Cheltenham	1
Cherwell	1
Chester-le-Street	1
Chichester	2
Chorley	1
Christchurch	1
Colchester	2
Cotswold	1
Coventry	2
Craven	1
Crawley	1
Croydon	3
Dacorum	1
Darlington	1
Dartford	2
Daventry	2
Derby	1
Derwentside	3
Doncaster	5
Dover	2
Durham	4
Easington	3
East Cambridgeshire	1
East Devon	3
East Hertfordshire	3
East Lindsey	3

C.A. sites in England (excluding Wales) by local authority at 15 July 2008

Local authority	Number of sites
East Northamptonshire	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	9
East Staffordshire	2
Eastbourne	1
Eden	1
Enfield	3
Epping Forest	1
Epsom and Ewell	1
Erewash	1
Fenland	4
Forest Heath	2
Forest of Dean	1
Fylde	2
Gateshead	2
Gedling	2
Gloucester	1
Guildford	1
Hackney	1
Hambleton	4
Harborough	1
Haringey	2
Harrogate	2
Harrow	1
Hartlepool	2
Havering	1
Hillingdon	1
Horsham	1
Hounslow	2
Huntingdonshire	5
Hyndburn	1
Ipswich	1
Isle of Wight	1
Islington	2
Kennet	1
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Kettering	1
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	5
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1
Kirklees	7
Lambeth	2
Lancaster	2
Leeds	16
Leicester	2
Lewes	3
Lewisham	1
Lichfield	3
Lincoln	2
Luton	2
Maldon	2
Malvern Hills	5
Mansfield	2
Medway	3
Merton	1
Mid Bedfordshire	2
Mid Devon	1
Mid Suffolk	3
Mid Sussex	2
Milton Keynes	3
Newark and Sherwood	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	5

C.A. sites in England (excluding Wales) by local authority at 15 July 2008

Local authority	*Number of sites*
Newham	2
North Devon	1
North East Derbyshire	1
North East Lincolnshire	3
North Hertfordshire	2
North Kesteven	1
North Lincolnshire	7
North Norfolk	1
North Shropshire	1
North Somerset	2
North Tyneside	1
North Wiltshire	1
Northampton	2
Nottingham	1
Oadby and Wigston	1
Oldham	2
Oswestry	2
Oxford	2
Pendle	2
Penwith	1
Peterborough	1
Plymouth	1
Poole	2
Preston	1
Redbridge	2
Redcar and Cleveland	3
Redditch	1
Reigate and Banstead	1
Restormel	1
Ribble Valley	1
Richmondshire	1
Rochdale	2
Rochford	1
Rother	2
Rotherham	3
Rushcliffe	2
Rutland	1
Ryedale	7
Salisbury	3
Sandwell	2
Scarborough	5
Sedgefield	2
Sedgemoor	1
Selby	4
Sevenoaks	2
Sheffield	6
Shepway	1
Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
Slough	1
Solihull	1
South Bedfordshire	1
South Cambridgeshire	2
South Derbyshire	2
South Gloucestershire	3
South Holland	1
South Kesteven	3
South Lakeland	1
South Northamptonshire	1
South Ribble	1
South Shropshire	1
South Somerset	1
South Staffordshire	2
South Tyneside	2
Southend-on-Sea	2
St. Edmundsbury	4
Stafford	2
Staffordshire Moorlands	4
Stratford-on-Avon	5
Stroud	1
Suffolk Coastal	4
Sunderland	3
Swale	1
Tameside	1
Tandridge	1
Taunton Deane	2
Teesdale	2
Telford and Wrekin	4
Tendring	5
Tewkesbury	1
Thurrock	1
Torridge	1
Tower Hamlets	1
Tunbridge Wells	1
Tynedale	8
Uttlesford	1
Vale of White Horse	2
Vale Royal	2
Wakefield	7
Walsall	1
Waltham Forest	5
Wansbeck	2
Watford	2
Waveney	3
Wealden	5
Wear Valley	4
Wellingborough	2
West Devon	1
West Dorset	1
West Lancashire	3
West Lindsey	1
Westminster	1
Weymouth and Portland	1
Wigan	4
Wolverhampton	2
Worcester	3
Worthing	1
Wychavon	2
Wyre	2
Wyre Forest	2
York	2
Total	520

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to waste collection authorities on the use of fixed penalty fines against households who put their rubbish out for collection the evening before the day of collection; [217795]

(2) what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to waste collection authorities on fining households who put the wrong items into their recycling boxes; and under what statutory provisions waste collection authorities issue fixed penalty notices for such activities; [217808]

(3) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to waste collection authorities on using private companies to issue waste penalty notices. [217846]

Joan Ruddock: Under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), local authorities can issue residents with a notice specifying requirements as to the collection of household waste receptacles. These requirements may include the specifics of how and when to present the receptacles for collection, or the articles which must be placed in the receptacles. It is an offence for somebody to fail to comply with these requirements.

Section 47ZA of the EPA allows local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for offences under section 46. These fixed penalty notices can be issued by the following people:

(a) an employee of the authority who is authorised in writing by the authority for the purposes of giving notices;

(b) any person who, in pursuance of arrangements made with the authority, has the function of giving such notices and is authorised in writing by the authority to perform that function; and

(c) any employee of such a person who is authorised in writing by the authority for the purposes of giving such notices.

DEFRA's guidance on fixed penalty notices explains that where local authorities authorise contractors to carry out enforcement activities, they should ensure that background checks are carried out to determine their suitability and capability. It is important that contractors receive adequate training and have a full understanding of any locally set procedures or policies before they begin to issue fixed penalties. The published guidance can be found on the DEFRA website.

The Flycapture Enforcement Course also includes a module on the issuing of fixed penalty notices for waste offences.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme has not issued any guidance in this regard.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities have to charge *(a)* domestic households and *(b)* waste producers classified by schedule 2 of the controlled Waste Regulations 1992 for recycling collections. [217800]

Joan Ruddock: A waste collection authority is entitled to charge for the collection of waste from all schedule 2 sources. Whether or not the authority recycles the material collected is a matter for the authority.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties may be imposed on householders for non-payment of charges for the delivery of waste receptacles. [217810]

Joan Ruddock: Section 46(1) allows the waste collection authority to specify the type and number of receptacles to be used for waste collection.

When making a requirement under section 46(1), section 46(3) allows the authority to either:

(a) determine that receptacles be provided by the authority free of charge;

(b) propose that receptacles be provided by the authority on payment, either singly or periodically, by the occupier, provided the occupier agrees;

(c) require the occupier to provide them if he does not enter into an agreement under paragraph (b); or

(d) require the occupier to provide them.

There are no penalties an authority can impose for non-payment of charges for the delivery of waste receptacles. However, non-payment can be pursued as a civil debt.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether householders resident in areas serviced by a waste collection authority which charges for the provision of waste receptacles are permitted to provide their own waste receptacles. [217811]

Joan Ruddock: Section 46(1) allows the waste collection authority to specify the type and number of receptacles to be used for waste collection.

When making a requirement under section 46(1), section 46(3) allows the authority to either:

(a) determine that receptacles be provided by the authority free of charge;

(b) propose that receptacles be provided by the authority on payment, either singly or periodically, by the occupier, provided the occupier agrees;

(c) require the occupier to provide them if he does not enter into an agreement under paragraph (b); or

(d) require the occupier to provide them.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have expressed an interest in levying charges for the collection of household waste; and how many such expressions were made by *(a)* elected councillors and *(b)* council staff. [217812]

Joan Ruddock: No authorities have yet come forward to formally express an interest in participating in a pilot waste incentive scheme. I wrote to local authorities on 20 June inviting them to come forward, with a deadline for submitting final proposals to run pilots of eight weeks after Royal Assent to the Climate Change Bill. I noted in that letter that we will release the names of any authorities which come forward with formal expressions of interest at that time.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum penalty is that may be levied against a household for non-payment of charges for the collection of household rubbish. [217814]

Joan Ruddock: A waste collection authority may only charge for collection of those materials that are covered by schedule 2 of the controlled waste regulations (CWR). It is up to the authority to decide whether it recovers the

charge before, during or after it provides the service. An authority would be free to use the usual methods it employs for debt recovery in those cases where a householder had refused to pay. There is no provision in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to penalise households that refuse to pay for waste collected under schedule 2 of the CWR.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the pilots for the new charges for the collection of household rubbish to begin. [217816]

Joan Ruddock: As I explained to the CLG Select Committee in December during its evidence session on local government finance (waste), and subsequently, we would not anticipate pilot waste incentive schemes beginning before April 2009.

It will be for local authorities wishing to run pilots to come forward with proposals for when schemes could begin in their areas. I wrote to local authorities on 20 June inviting them to come forward, with a deadline for submitting final proposals to run pilots of eight weeks after Royal Assent to the Climate Change Bill.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the gross costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* participating local authorities of the pilots for the new charges for the collection of household rubbish. [217817]

Joan Ruddock: As explained in my written statement to Parliament on 15 November 2007, and subsequently, the Department has up to £1.5 million per year for the next three years to help support pilot waste incentive schemes.

The impact assessment of powers to pilot incentives, also published on DEFRA's website on 15 November 2007, estimates costs and savings for local authorities piloting a waste incentive scheme. One-off start-up costs for a 50,000 household scheme are estimated at £100,000 to £200,000, annual running costs at £200,000 to £500,000. Savings accruing to local authorities for a 50,000 household scheme (from having less waste to collect, treat and dispose of) are estimated at £290,000 to £1.4 million per annum.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long the pilot schemes for the new charges for the collection of household rubbish are expected to last. [219022]

Joan Ruddock: It will be for local authorities wishing to run a pilot waste incentive scheme to propose how long the scheme should run for in their, area. However, pilot schemes will need to run for long enough to provide high quality, robust evidence for the report back to Parliament.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent to date on *(a)* planning, *(b)* piloting, *(c)* consultancy, *(d)* publicity and *(e)* research into (i) variable charging for the collection of household waste and (ii) proposed charging schemes for the collection of household waste. [219077]

Joan Ruddock: My Department funded a research project carried out by Eunomia Research and Consulting, entitled "Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England", at a cost of £41,614.83. This report was published on DEFRA's website in May 2007.

My Department also purchased data on the distributional impacts of waste charging in Flanders, at a cost of £2,166.40. These were used to inform the Impact Assessment of powers to pilot local authority incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. The Impact Assessment was published on 15 November 2007 and is also available from DEFRA's website.

My Department employs 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) Grade 7, 1 FTE HEO(D) and 0.75 FTE AO to work on the Government's proposals for waste incentive pilot schemes.

Water: Fees and Charges

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the independent review of water charges and tariffs announced in the Future Water Strategy will commence; who will lead the review; what the review's terms of reference will be; and when the review is planned to report. [220165]

Mr. Woolas: We will be making an announcement about the review shortly.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to question 206802, tabled by the hon. Member for Havant on 25 May 2008, on apprenticeships in his Department. [216604]

Jonathan Shaw: I replied to the hon. Member on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1585W.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much sick pay to staff in his office cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212007]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East, (Mr. Watson) on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1571W.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Prime Minister what reports he has made to the Cabinet Secretary to ensure that any intelligence material put in the public domain should be properly verified and validated; when he made the request; and if he will place a record of the request in the public domain. [220512]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the conclusions within the 'Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction' (HC 898), the oral statement

made by my predecessor (Mr. Blair) on 14 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 1431, and the Government's response the 'Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction: Implementation of its Conclusions' (Cm 6492).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) there are; and how many houses each ALMO manages. [219870]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 70 arm's length management organisations (ALMOs). The following table lists the ALMOs and the dwellings they manage.

Local authorities with ALMOs	*Dwellings managed by ALMOs*[1]
Ashfield	7,100
Barnet	11,100
Barnsley	19,800
Basildon	11,500
Bassetlaw	7,000
Blackpool	5,400
Blyth Valley	6,800
Bolton	18,400
Brent	9,600
Bury	8,400
Carrick	3,700
Charnwood	5,900
Cheltenham	4,700
Colchester	6,300
Derby	13,800
Doncaster	21,200
Ealing	13,800
Easington	8,800
Eastbourne	3,800
Enfield	11,900
Gateshead	21,800
Gloucester	4,500
Hackney[2]	23,000
Hammersmith	13,200
Haringey	16,600
Havering	11,000
High Peak	4,100
Hillingdon	10,700
Hounslow	13,600
Islington[2]	21,500
Kensington	6,900
Kirklees	23,700
Lambeth[2, 3]	24,500
Leeds[3]	58,600
Lewisham[2]	14,300
Manchester[2]	12,500
N. E. Derbyshire	8,300
Newark	5,500
Newcastle upon Tyne	30,500
Newham	17,600
Nottingham	29,600
Oldham	12,800
Poole	4,600
Redbridge	4,700
Rochdale	14,200
Rotherham	21,300
Sandwell	29,600
Salford[2, 3]	10,500
Sedgemoor	4,100
Sheffield	44,800
Slough	6,600
Solihull	11,000
South Lakeland	3,200
South Tyneside	18,600
Southend-on-Sea	6,200
Stevenage	8,300
Stockport	11,600
Stockton	11,000
Sutton	7,300
Tower Hamlets	13,800
Waltham Forest	10,600
Warrington	8,900
Wear Valley	4,400
Westminster	12,300
Wigan	23,100
Wolverhampton	24,000

[1] These dwelling numbers are rounded figures based on stock numbers reported by local authorities for HRA subsidy purposes on the 1 April 2007.
[2] These figures were recently supplied by the local authority.
[3] These authorities have more than one ALMO in their area.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regard a local authority must have to views of tenants before termination of an arm's length management organisation; and what duty there is on an authority to consult with tenants before termination. [219786]

Mr. Iain Wright: Should a local authority consider winding up its arm's length management organisation (ALMO), it should take account of the views of all stakeholders, but most importantly the tenants whose homes are managed by the ALMO. Departmental guidance states that a local authority should consult its tenants on any significant changes to its housing management arrangements. That consultation should be no less rigorous than that undertaken to establish support for the establishment of the ALMO.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on the termination of arm's length management organisations, with particular reference to the demonstration of the benefits of termination to tenants. [219787]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department updated the general guidance issued to local authorities on ALMOs within the Review of Arms Length Housing Management Organisations June 2006. This included guidance on consulting tenants should there be significant changes proposed to a local authority's housing management arrangements.

The document does not refer specifically to the demonstration to tenants of the benefits of winding up an ALMO. However, the Department believes that existing

ALMO arrangements should remain in place unless an alternative can be shown to have demonstrable benefits for tenants.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Decent Homes funding allocated to an arm's length management organisation is automatically switched to an alternative housing manager in the event of its termination. [219790]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding allocated to an arm's length management organisation (ALMO) would not be switched to an alternative housing manager in the event of an ALMO being wound up. The funding is contingent on the ALMO delivering a Decent Homes investment programme on behalf of its local authority.

Batteries: Recycling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities offer recycling facilities for *(a)* batteries, *(b)* light bulbs and *(c)* energy-saving light bulbs. [219581]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not gather statistics on which local authorities collect specific products for recycling. All local authorities in England are providing collection facilities for waste electrical and electronic equipment which includes the most common type of energy saving light bulbs. We are preparing regulations to implement the EU batteries directive which requires greatly increased collection of portable batteries—we are in discussion with local authorities about the part they can play in achieving our targets. Information on the recycling facilities that are available in particular areas can be found on the Recycle Now and Recycle More websites.

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the average building carbon dioxide emission per square metre of floor area in each year since 2004; [219672]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average building carbon dioxide emission per square metre of floor area for *(a)* schools, *(b)* other public sector buildings, *(c)* commercial and industrial buildings and *(d)* retail buildings in each year since 2004; [219673]

(3) what estimate she has made of the average annual dwelling's carbon dioxide emission per square metre of floor area in each year since 2004; [219674]

(4) what estimate she has made of the average building energy use per square metre of floor area in each year since 2004; [219675]

(5) what estimate she has made of the average non-domestic building energy use per square metre of floor area for *(a)* schools, *(b)* other public sector buildings, *(c)* commercial and industrial buildings and *(d)* retail buildings in each year since 2004; [219676]

(6) what estimate she has made of the average dwelling energy use per square metre of floor area, in each year since 2004. [219677]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold or make estimates of the average carbon dioxide emissions or energy use from buildings in the form requested. However, the Department's report "Monitoring the Sustainability of Buildings", published in 2007, provides a comparison of figures on average energy use and annual carbon emissions per square metre for domestic and non-domestic buildings in 2004 and 2006. This can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/381414.pdf

Further data are currently being compiled for the next report on this subject which will be published in 2009.

Central-Local Partnership

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what dates the Central-Local Partnership has met since December 2007; and what arrangements have been made for regular meetings; [219805]

(2) what arrangements she has made for monitoring the operation of the central-local concordat. [219806]

John Healey: Over the past year, there have been a number of meetings between Government Ministers and Local Government Association Group Leaders on different topics, under the umbrella of the Central-Local Partnership. We are currently considering the future role and terms of reference of the Central-Local Partnership. One of the roles of a renewed Central-Local Partnership is to monitor the operation of the Central-Local Concordat, and to revise it for the future as necessary.

Community Development: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether voluntary organisations and other third sector bodies in Wales will have access to the Empowerment Fund announced at page 3 of the White Paper, Communities in Control, Cm 7427. [218895]

John Healey: Our consultation document, "The Empowerment Fund: Consultation on proposals for funding third sector organisations to empower communities across England", published on the Department's website on 9 July 2008, sets out proposed eligibility criteria for access to the fund. Under those criteria eligible organisations must both be able to operate across England and be undertaking activities largely for beneficiaries within England.

Council Housing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been registered as council tenants in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210969]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information specifically on the number of people registered as council tenants is not available. However information is available on local authority dwelling stock. This information at constituency level is not held centrally.

Jarrow parliamentary constituency falls into two local authorities: South Tyneside and Gateshead.

Information on the number of dwellings owned by local authorities in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and England for 1997 to 2007 is given in the following table.

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	North East	England
1997	154,084	24,199	297,541	3,400,635
1998	150,845	23,913	292,031	3,309,244
1999	147,793	23,501	286,355	3,177,507
2000	144,188	23,089	276,290	3,011,995
2001	104,327	22,731	233,241	2,811,931
2002	101,407	22,184	226,593	2,706,036
2003	97,963	21,499	207,311	2,456,917
2004	93,499	20,228	189,679	2,334,631
2005	90,049	19,413	169,761	2,165,526
2006	88,168	18,910	165,141	2,087,456
2007	86,862	18,595	165,141	1,987,343

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Information on dwelling stock owned by local authorities for 1997 to 2007 broken down by Government Office Region and local authority is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Copies of these tables have been placed in the Library.

Council Tax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans are under consideration by her Department for the reform of council tax. [220033]

John Healey: The Government support the conclusions of Sir Michael Lyons' independent inquiry, that council tax as a property based tax is broadly sound and should be retained. However we keep the detail of council tax administration continually under review. We are currently considering the feasibility of enabling local authorities to transfer the enforcement of council tax debts from magistrates courts to county courts in appropriate cases.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is on the application of council tax to empty industrial and commercial properties. [219539]

John Healey: Council tax is not payable on industrial and commercial properties and I therefore assume in answering this question that the hon. Member is referring to business rates.

From 1 April 2008 the rating arrangements for empty non-domestic properties were changed such that, in the majority of cases, empty properties are now liable for 100 per cent. of the occupied rate following a three-month exemption period (six months for industrial properties such as factories and warehouses).

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on her plans to reform council tax bands; what steps she plans to take on such reform in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [219025]

John Healey: We have no such plans. The Government have made it clear that any reform to the council tax banding system would only take place in the context of a general revaluation which we confirmed in September 2005 will not take place during the lifetime of this Parliament.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of properties there were in each band in each council tax collection authority in England on 1 April 2008. [219089]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions her Department and its predecessors instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220817]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [220470]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's sustainable operations policy states that:

"we will ensure all new builds, office relocations and major refurbishments achieve an overall BREEAM Excellent rating and specifically an Excellent rating in the areas of energy and water, unless site constraints or project objectives mean that this requirement conflicts with the obligation to achieve value for money on a whole life basis. Where site constraints or project objectives conflict with this requirement, a project should at least achieve an overall BREEAM rating of Very Good and an Excellent rating in the areas of energy and water".

An Excellent rating in the Energy section of the BREEAM for Offices 2008 version requires significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions compared to those stipulated in the existing building regulations and assesses a building's performance against sub-metering, external lighting, lifts and low or zero carbon technologies.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the 10 highest payments made by her Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by her Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216709]

Mr. Dhanda: No compensation cases relating to land and property were brought against Communities and Local Government during the past 12 months.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which make and model of car the Minister for Housing has chosen as her ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency; [217756]

(2) which make and model of car she has chosen as her ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217764]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Department in each of the last 10 years. [215227]

Mr. Dhanda: Centrally held records of the amount claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in this Department are available for the previous five financial years, and are as follows. Information for earlier years would incur a disproportionate cost.

	Amount (£)
2003-04	174.70
2004-05	0
2005-06	3,765.10
2006-07	1,952.88
2007-08	1,494.92

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Department's staff handbook, and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Derelict Land

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects on her programme to develop brownfield land of the loss in value of land banks acquired by commercial house builders. [218243]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither the Barker Review of Housing Supply nor the Callcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery found evidence to show that landbanking is a significant problem affecting housing supply. These conclusions are supported by the recent publication of draft research commissioned by Office of Fair Trading as part of their ongoing market study of the homebuilding industry, the final report of which is due to be published later this year.

Therefore, while we continue to monitor the housing market closely, we do not consider it necessary to make a specific assessment of any impact that loss in value of housebuilders' landbanks may have on the development of brownfield land. However, we would expect commercial housebuilders to continue to assess the viability of individual brownfield sites when considering the timing of commencing redevelopment schemes.

Economic Partnership Agreements: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will respond to the application by the Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole economic partnership to run a pilot multi-area agreement. [220809]

John Healey: A multi-area agreement with Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole was signed on 14 July 2008, along with six other agreements. This fulfils a major commitment in the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration. These agreements will lead to significant benefits and improved outcomes in the economies of the seven sub-regions.

Emergency Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date the Tri-service centre at Quedgeley, Gloucestershire was opened; what the cost was of construction and other associated costs; and if she will make a statement; [220502]

(2) what the running costs of the Tri-service centre at Quedgeley, Gloucestershire have been since its opening; what share of that cost is allocated to each of the emergency services using it; and if she will make a statement; [220503]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost of transferring the control of the fire service from the Tri-service centre at Quedgeley, Gloucestershire; whether these costs include money owing through any contractual obligations; how long she estimates that transfer will take; and if she will make a statement; [220504]

(4) if she will make a statement on the future use of the Tri-service centre at Quedgeley, Gloucestershire. [220505]

John Healey: The Gloucestershire tri-service centre was officially opened in May 2003. The Government awarded £2.6 million to develop the pilot scheme through the 'Invest to Save' budget.

Quedgeley was one of three tri-service pilot schemes in England. In each case, the Government have committed to meeting the specific costs of withdrawing the control room elements from these arrangements, including

withdrawal from contractual commitments. A payment of £1,069,142 has been agreed with Gloucestershire to cover these costs.

Details on the centre's running costs and local financial arrangements are matters for the local police, fire and ambulance services. Gloucestershire FRS is also free to decide what other functions it keeps at—or locates to—the tri-service centre.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is due to move the control room element to the regional control centre in November 2010.

Gloucestershire, like all fire and rescue authorities, receives new burdens funding for the work involved in preparing to move to the regional control centre. Over the comprehensive spending review period (FY 2008-09 to 2010-11) Gloucestershire FRS will get implementation funding of £167,249 directly and have access to their share of south-west implementation funding of £1.8 million.

European Charter of Regional Self-Government

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1356W, on the European Charter of Regional Self-Government, when she expects the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers will meet to consider its response. [219088]

John Healey: I understand that the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers is seeking possible comments from the relevant intergovernmental committee. Those comments are not expected before the end of 2008, after which the Committee of Ministers will respond to the Congress Recommendation.

Fire Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire services *(a)* own and *(b)* operate a helicopter. [220663]

Mr. Dhanda: None of the fire and rescue services in England owns its own helicopter. Responsibility for fire and rescue services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has been devolved.

A number of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in England participate in schemes utilising helicopters owned by other organisations, such as the private sector, the police, the ambulance service, HM Coastguard and the armed forces, for a range of operations, including fighting grassland, moorland and forestry fires, undertaking search and rescue, reaching inaccessible areas or grid-locked roads, and transporting equipment.

Information on which individual FRAs participate in such schemes is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has commissioned into the effectiveness of fire service helicopters in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas. [220666]

Mr. Dhanda: No research has been commissioned by Communities and Local Government into the effectiveness of the use of helicopters by the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) held a conference on Air Support in the Fire and Rescue Service on 8 May, which I attended, and in the light of those and other discussions CFOA is currently drawing up a business case for a national system of air support which will include proposals for the use of helicopters in both urban and rural areas.

Flats

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new build dwellings were flats in each year since 1996-97. [212656]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows estimates of the proportion of new build dwellings in England that were flats in each year since 1996-97.

	Percentage of new build dwellings that were flats
1996-97	16
1997-98	15
1998-99	16
1999-2000	17
2000-01	20
2001-02	23
2002-03	27
2003-04	34
2004-05	41
2005-06	46
2006-07	47
2007-08	48

Source:
P2/P2a house building returns from local authorities and National House Building Council on new build completions.

Floods: Hull

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 140-1W, on floods: Hull, what Bellwin payments were made to recipients in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Hull as a result of the 2007 floods, broken down by recipient; [218666]

John Healey: The following authorities received payments under the Bellwin Scheme operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government as a result of the 2007 floods:

Gloucestershire

Cotswold district council was paid £87,432 on 18 February 2008. Cheltenham borough council was paid £48,361,000 on 9 April 2008 and £20,638 on 10 July 2008. Gloucester city council was paid £114,000 on 20 December 2007, £46,995,000 on 26 February 2008 and £28,366 on 12 March 2008. Gloucestershire county council was paid £1,100,000 on 18 December 2007, £1,454,384 on 26 March 2008 and £253,260 on 9 April 2008. Gloucestershire Police Authority was paid £955,420 on 8 February 2008. Stroud district council was paid £8,673 on 25 February 2008. Tewkesbury borough council was paid £351,073 on 12 March 2008.

Hull

Humberside Fire and Rescue was paid £167,935 on 24 December 2007. Kingston upon Hull city council was paid £1,800,693 on 18 February 2008 and £297,124 on 7 May .

Floods: Insurance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with insurers on areas adversely affected by the 2007 floods. [218668]

John Healey: As Minister for Flood Recovery, I have met the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and representatives of their members on a number of occasions since last summer's floods. Most recently, on 18 June, I addressed the ABI's conference '2007 Floods: One Year On'.

Homelessness

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many capital grants her Department has awarded under the Places of Change Programme. [219868]

Mr. Iain Wright: Capital grants from the £80 million Places of Change Programme have been allocated to 80 projects in 54 local authority areas across England.

Through this programme hostels and homelessness services will cease to be places of last resort, but instead become centres of excellence and choice which positively changes lives. They will provide good services so that people can access education, training and employment and move on to independent living in a settled home.

The Places of Change Programme builds upon the success of the £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme which funded 178 projects in 62 local authority areas.

Homelessness: Greater London

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homeless people in London in each of the last five years; what measures she plans to take to reduce the number of people who are homeless in London; and if she will make a statement. [218996]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* Tackling homelessness is a key priority for this Government. We work closely with local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to drive forward our homelessness agenda. We have allocated over £75 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations in London over the next three years to tackle homelessness—the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services. In addition, a further £19 million has been allocated to local authorities through our Places of Change programme to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

Homelessness prevention measures funded by Communities and Local Government have had a major impact. In the last five years we have more than halved the number of homeless households in priority need accepted by London authorities; we are now making serious inroads into the backlog of households in temporary accommodation, and we are maintaining levels of rough sleeping at historical low levels.

In April, we published a discussion paper "Rough Sleeping 10 Years On: From the streets to independent living and opportunity" which set out our initial thinking on updating the Government's rough sleeping strategy this autumn. We have received a good response to the discussion paper, and are now analysing responses.

The following table summarises data for London in the last five years on *(a)* homeless households in priority need accepted by authorities, *(b)* households in temporary accommodation and *(c)* rough sleeping estimates.

Summary table

Homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities. London

	Number of households
2003-04	30,080
2004-05	26,730
2005-06	21,140
2006-07	15,390
2007-08[1]	13,800

[1] Provisional.

Source:
CLG PIE data.

Households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts. London, at the end of each quarter

	Number of households
2003	
Quarter 1	52,690
Quarter 2	54,260
Quarter 3	56,010
Quarter 4	56,950
2004	
Quarter 1	58,820
Quarter 2	60,030
Quarter 3	61,000
Quarter 4	61,670
2005	
Quarter 1	61,990
Quarter 2	62,640
Quarter 3	63,120
Quarter 4	63,800
2006	
Quarter 1	62,740
Quarter 2	62,020
Quarter 3	62,190
Quarter 4	60,960
2007	
Quarter 1	59,810
Quarter 2[1]	59,130
Quarter 3	57,820
Quarter 4	56,740
2008	
Quarter 1[1]	55,500

[1] Provisional

Number of rough sleepers (persons) London, 1998 to 2007 (mid-year estimates)[1]

	London
1998 (Baseline)	621
2003	267
2004	265
2005	221
2006	267
2007	248

[1] Estimates based on a combination of recent street counts in those areas where there is a known or suspected rough sleeping problem and of estimates made by local authorities, as reported on their HSSA returns to CLG in June of each year.

Homelessness: Northampton

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration her Department has given to the conversion of Robinson House, Northampton under the Places of Change programme. [219869]

Mr. Iain Wright: Northampton borough council have been allocated £1.42 million from the Places of Change Programme towards the reprovision of its services for rough sleepers in Robinson House. They are currently conducting an options appraisal of sites in Northampton, including Robinson House, in order to take this project forward.

Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on social housing waiting lists in each region. [219872]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1198-99W.

Information on local authority waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals.

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings were built in Bournemouth in each of the last 10 years. [220396]

Mr. Iain Wright: The figures requested are presented in the following table:

	New build completions
1998-99	211
1999-2000	532
2000-01	279
2001-02	455
2002-03	657
2003-04	800
2004-05	659
2005-06	553
2006-07	951
2007-08	829

Source:
New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC)

Housing: Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1206W, on housing: migration, what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the proportion of projected household growth attributable to net migration in England; how many such projections have been made since 1987; and what her most recent projection is of the proportion of household growth attributable to net migration. [206253]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 745W.

Housing: Overcrowding

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of families living in overcrowded conditions in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [219276]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Survey of English Housing, using the bedroom standard, estimates the number of overcrowded households living in London over the last 10 years were:

	Overcrowded households[1] *(Thousand)*
1997-98	156
1998-99	159
1999-2000	161
2000-01	166
2001-02	170
2002-03	172
2003-04	175
2004-05	189
2005-06	203
2006-07	203

[1] Three year moving average

It is not possible to derive estimates at a local authority level.

Housing: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will develop policies to ensure exclusive provision to the local population of housing supply in remote rural locations; and if she will make a statement. [219187]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise that rural communities face particular pressures. National planning for housing policies in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) gives local authorities in rural areas the flexibility to determine the kind of new housing that should be built in their area. They should be proactive in identifying sufficient suitable sites that can be brought into development.

The rural exception site policy in PPS3 allows local authorities, where practical and economically viable, to grant permission for 100 per cent. affordable housing on small sites that would not normally be released for

housing. This is an important means of providing affordable housing in perpetuity to meet needs of local rural communities.

In addition, in order to retain affordable housing for local communities in areas where replacement would be difficult, the right to acquire, under which housing association tenants may buy their rented home at a discount, does not apply in areas designated as rural, generally settlements of 3,000 or fewer inhabitants.

In general, section 106 can be used to impose a planning obligation restricting the use of land in any specified way or requiring land to be used in any specified way. An obligation created under section 106 is not only enforceable against the person entering into it but also against any person deriving title from them. Therefore, where restricting occupancy of affordable housing to the local population is material to the granting of planning permission for a residential development, a section 106 agreement provides a means of ensuring that this occurs.

Housing: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1062-3W, on housing: standards, what estimate she has made of the cost of bringing all *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* private rented, *(c)* local authority and *(d)* registered social landlord housing up to code level 3 for sustainable homes. [219776]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes is a framework for the design and construction of sustainable new homes. Existing homes can not be assessed against the standard because some elements of the standard apply to the construction process, such as having a site waste management plan. There are also a number of sections that would be unrealistic to expect in existing homes where major renovation or re-building would be required to achieve them. There is therefore no intention of requiring existing homes to come up to Code level 3 standards.

New homes built with public funding are required to meet Code level 3. The 2007 cost analysis in the impact assessment undertaken by Cyril Sweett concluded that the additional cost of building to Code level 3, over and above the cost of building to current building regulations standards, is around 4-8 per cent. This report, however, only took into account capital costs, excluding benefits such as reduced energy costs and added value to the property.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the potential contribution of high energy efficiency pumps for *(a)* central heating, *(b)* air conditioning and *(c)* water boosting could make towards achieving her Department's target for zero-carbon emission housing by 2016. [220463]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's programme to achieve zero carbon homes by 2016 will involve a progressive tightening of the energy efficiency provisions within Part L of the Building Regulations. The first changes will be made in 2010 and we have started to review the relevant provisions. As part of this review we are considering the potential for the introduction of energy efficiency standards for pumps in domestic and non-domestic properties. Any such proposals would be the subject of formal consultation in 2009.

Lighting: Recycling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local authorities on providing recycling facilities for energy-saving light bulbs. [219580]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not issued specific advice to local authorities about the recycling of low energy light bulbs.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs—the most common type of energy efficient bulbs) are covered by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. All local authorities in England are providing designated collection facilities for WEEE. Information about which sites take back CFLs (and other types of WEEE) is available on the recycle-more website.

Once CFLs have been collected, producers of the equipment have responsibility to fund treatment and recycling.

The Department has published background information on CFLs—their benefits in terms of energy efficiency as well as advice on their disposal at the end of their lives. This can be found on the DEFRA website.

Local Authorities: Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities operate choice-based letting schemes that include private rented housing options; and if she will make a statement. [219520]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not generally collect information on the detailed workings of Choice Based Lettings schemes.

Bolton, Leeds, Wychavon and the East London Letting Company (comprising Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest) are known to offer housing applicants private rented options alongside social housing in their Choice Based Lettings schemes. Other schemes may also include or be developing these options.

Communities and local government is committed to ensuring that housing applicants have more choice over where they live. We encourage local authorities to work with private landlords so that housing applicants and tenants who are seeking a transfer have more housing options from which to choose.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have funded social enterprise under the local authority business growth incentive scheme. [218912]

John Healey: Grants to local authorities under the local authority business growth incentives (LABGI) scheme are not ring-fenced, so local authorities are able to choose how they spend any funding they receive. We do not keep records centrally of how local authorities have spent LABGI funding.

Local Government Association

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the operation of the central-local concordat; what progress she has made with the Local Government Association on the operation of the concordat; and if she will make a statement. [219803]

John Healey: The Central-Local Concordat, signed in December 2007, enshrined the principle of devolution at the heart of the Government's relationship with local councils in England. It provides a point of reference for how this relationship should develop in the future.

Since the concordat was signed significant progress has been made, including the signing of 150 local area agreements across all of England, which means that councils and their partners can concentrate their efforts on the specific needs of the local people they serve.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes there have been to the mechanisms for the allocation of money from central government to local government since 1997-98. [219978]

John Healey: The main changes to the mechanisms for the allocation of money from central Government to local government since 1997-98 are set out in "Local Government Finance Statistics England No. 18 (2008)", in annexes C5 and D2, a copy of which is available in the Library of the house. The Government regularly review the mechanisms for allocating money to local government, including during periodic consultation on formula grant distribution for local government; and make changes as appropriate.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes there have been to the measurement of deprivation for the purposes of allocation of funding from central government to local government since 1997-98. [219979]

John Healey: Local funding to tackle deprivation has been distributed in the form of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund from 2001, and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund since 2008. These allocations have used measures of deprivation—the Indices of Deprivation (ID).

Each version of the ID has evolved to measure deprivation more accurately.

The 2000 ID was ward based, contained 32 indicators, and covered six socio-economic domains.

In 2004 the new Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) geography was used, a new domain was introduced (crime), and the number of indicators increased to 37.

The ID2007 indices were an update to the ID2004, with minor changes to some of the indicators and the number of indicators increased to 38.

More details can be found in the technical reports for each index, published on the CLG website.

Mainstream local authority funding does not use measures of deprivation specifically to allocate funding, however distribution of formula grant to local authorities uses broad measures of the social and economic characteristics of an area. The factors used in each year since 1997-98 are set out in the Local Government Finance Report (England) for each year. These reports are approved by Parliament and copies are deposited in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities received a capitalisation direction for equal pay in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the (i) size of the direction and (ii) amount utilised was in each case. [218985]

John Healey: In 2006-07 35 local authorities applied to Communities and Local Government for capitalisation directions for equal pay. A full list of these authorities and the sums they received is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/cap0607appls.xls

The actual amount of capital expenditure used by individual authorities is available in their accounts.

In 2007-08, £500 million of equal pay capitalisation directions were allocated to 46 local authorities. The capitalisation used by each authority will be published on the Department's website in September 2008.

Local Government: Gloucestershire

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to create a unitary authority for Gloucestershire. [220079]

John Healey: No Gloucestershire authority responded to our invitation in October 2006 to submit unitary proposals.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the *(a)* transition costs and *(b)* effect on long-term costs anticipated to arise from the establishment of a unitary authority for Gloucestershire. [220162]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 1 July 2008; *Official Report*, column 794W.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on the use of funds released by the creation of unitary authorities. [220080]

John Healey: The Government, in their dealings with local authorities in restructuring areas have made it clear from the outset that they expect any savings generated from restructuring to be used to improve services or reduce council tax bills. This remains the case.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for a further round of local government re-organisation; and if she will make a statement. [220164]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W. This remains the case.

London Assembly: Finance

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the running costs of the Greater London Assembly were in each year since its creation; [220414]

(2) what the cost of the Greater London Assembly was in 2007-08. [220415]

John Healey: The London Assembly is a constituent part of the Greater London Authority, and my Department does not keep records of the running costs of either the assembly or authority. But this information is available in the authority's corporate plan and annual accounts which can be found on its website.

McKinsey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on departmental contracts, what the function and purpose was of the Communities' High Level Seminar supported by McKinsey. [202469]

Mr. Dhanda: The seminar brought together senior politicians and officials from local and central government to agree what needed to be done, in localities and Whitehall, to implement the new local performance framework effectively.

Further follow up work was also commissioned to take forward and implement a number of the key actions arising from the event in order to raise awareness of the framework with a wider audience and to ensure that the programme was on track to deliver ambitious local area agreements by June 2008.

Migration Impact Forum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the minutes of the Migration Impact Forum held on 21 May 2008. [220119]

Mr. Dhanda: The minutes of the fourth meeting of the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) on 21 May were placed on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/asylumandimmigration/migration-forum/mifpapers210508/

on 17 July, having been agreed by MIF members at the fifth Forum meeting on 16 July.

Multiple Occupation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will publish *(a)* the findings of the research it has commissioned into houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and possible planning responses and *(b)* the membership of her Department's HMO working group. [219533]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department will publish the findings of the research it has commissioned into houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and possible planning responses when the research report has been finalised.

Ecotec Consulting presented emerging findings of their research to a range of stakeholders at a seminar on 9 April 2008. The participants included representatives of local authorities, universities and students, the National HMO lobby and landlords.

The Government have not established a formal HMO working group but will continue to engage stakeholders in future work on this issue.

Personal Care Services: Licensing

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions there are for local authorities outside London to license establishments carrying out *(a)* botox treatment, *(b)* dental whitening, *(c)* spray tanning, *(d)* ultra violet tanning, *(e)* tattooing, *(f)* piercing, *(g)* acupuncture and *(h)* electrolysis; and what plans she has to bring forward proposals for further local authority licensing of the beauty treatment sector. [210417]

Mr. Dhanda: CLG does not have policy responsibility for licensing issues relating to these establishments.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the highest 10 payments made by her Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216677]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government has settled the following four cases over the 12 months to July 2008:

Nature of incident	£
Industrial disease	16,175
Workplace injury	15,000
Workplace injury	5,000
Workplace injury	2,200

Liability was not contested in any of these cases. The amount of damages in each case was agreed by negotiation with the claimants' solicitors.

Places of Change Programme

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many capital grants her Department has awarded under the Places of Change programme and subsequently rescinded following local opposition. [220369]

Mr. Iain Wright: No grants from the Places of Change programme have been rescinded following local opposition since the programme commenced in April 2008. Such decisions would be taken on a case-by-case basis.

Places of Change programme projects are subject to the planning process, which involves formal consultation with the community, when any local opposition can be taken into account.

Planning: Recreation Spaces

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require local authorities to publish an audit of their compliance with Planning and Policy Guidance 17. [214970]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no current plans to require local authorities to publish audits of their compliance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17.

Regional Government

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to consult the devolved administrations on the proposed European Charter for Regional Democracy. [219002]

John Healey: The 'Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements' between the United Kingdom Government and the devolved Administrations provides that the Government will consult the devolved Administrations before deciding its position on an international matter that affects the responsibility of those Administrations. The Government followed this procedure when deciding their position on the proposed regional charter, and would do so again before taking any decision to modify its position.

Rented Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the average *(a)* age of tenant and *(b)* length of tenure of those living in the private rented sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [219523]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on the 2006-07 Survey of English Housing the median age of a private rented sector tenant is estimated at 34 years.

The median length of time spent in their current home, as reported by private sector tenants, is about 1.6 years. The time spent in their current home is, of course, less than the total time that they will have spent in this home by the time they next move.

The median is a more useful indicator than average for both age of tenant and length of residence. A median length of residence of 1.6 years means that about half of all private sector tenants have been in their current home for less than 1.6 years.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are awaiting social housing in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* the rest of the North West region and *(c)* England. [212286]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on local authority waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

In 2007, the number of households on the local authority housing waiting list in Chorley was 1,897, the rest of the North West region was 212,597 and in England was 1,674,421.

Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997 to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average social rent is in each region for *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom and *(d)* four bedroom properties. [219871]

Mr. Iain Wright: Average rent information is available for local authority housing and registered social landlord housing separately and is provided in table 1 and table 2 as follows. Figures for the RSL sector are based on data collected by the Housing Corporation.

Table 1: Average local authority rents, for one, two, three and four bedroom dwellings in each region in 2006-07

£ per week

Region	*One bed*	*Two bed*	*Three bed*	*Four bed*
North East	42.00	47.51	51.78	55.44
North West	45.39	51.41	56.26	61.36
Yorkshire and the Humber	43.64	48.04	51.81	55.11
East Midlands	46.56	51.30	54.47	57.78
West Midlands	47.08	52.65	59.07	64.71
East	52.48	60.52	67.69	75.64
London	63.48	72.86	83.18	94.92
South East	55.79	64.26	72.86	78.24
South West	46.86	52.95	60.73	68.10
England	51.34	57.73	63.02	74.57

Source:
CLG Second Subsidy Claims Form (unaudited).

Table 2: Average registered social landlord rents, for one, two, three and four bedroom dwellings in each region in 2006-07

Region	One bed	Two bed	Three bed	£ per week Four bed
North East	50.32	55.61	59.22	62.56
North West	51.66	58.01	62.49	68.71
Yorkshire and the Humber	47.68	54.58	58.89	70.16
East Midlands	53.78	61.66	64.51	71.77
West Midlands	53.88	60.19	64.09	73.53
East	58.24	67.59	74.64	83.68
London	70.61	81.11	91.97	102.35
South East	64.75	76.09	85.08	93.95
South West	56.75	65.66	72.18	79.73
England	58.36	65.97	71.16	82.69

Notes:
1. Figures as at 31 March 2007.
2. General needs properties only. Refers to information collected on the long form (in general this is for RSLs with stock of over 1,000 properties).

Source:
Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR).

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1800W, on social rented housing: foreigners, if she will break down by nationality the new general needs lettings by registered social landlords to *(a)* the 1,769 foreign nationals from EEA countries and *(b)* the 2,259 foreign nationals from non-EEA countries; and if she will break down the lettings by UK region. [207148]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of new registered social landlord general needs lettings made in England during 2006-07 broken down by tenant nationality and by region can be found on the CORE website at www.core.ac.uk in table 28b of the 'CORE Annual Digest for Housing Associations 2006-07'.

From this information it is possible to separately identify new tenants who are UK nationals and nationals of each of the A8 Eastern European accession states. It is not possible to separately identify the nationality of tenants from "other European economic area countries" or from "any other countries" as this information is not collected.

Trees

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to reinstating the annual condition survey for amenity trees. [220459]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding of the condition survey of non-woodland amenity trees project undertaken by Forest Research ended in 2005. There are currently no plans to reinstate this funding.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to discuss the United Nations Human Settlements Programme guidelines on decentralisation and the strengthening of local authorities with local authorities; and what measures it plans to introduce to implement the best practice outlined in the guidelines. [219804]

John Healey: Local government, through the LGA, have been involved in such discussions, and an officer of the LGA joined the official from my Department who led the EU's input at the UN HABITAT Governing Council last year when the guidelines were adopted. The guidelines reflect the more rigorous European Charter of Local Self-Government, which the Government signed on 3 June 1997 and ratified on 24 April 1998, and the principles of which are reflected in the United Kingdom system of local democracy.

Waste Disposal: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the budget of each local authority was spent on the disposal of household and commercial rubbish in each of the last 10 years. [220838]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the proportions of revenue expenditure spent on waste disposal by each local authority in England in the last nine years.

Aggregate information for England is published in editions of Local Government Financial Statistics and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns.

Revenue expenditure is defined as the expenditure funded from aggregate external finance (AEF), council tax and authorities' reserves. AEF is central Government revenue funding that comprises formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and police grant) and specific grants inside AEF, i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures for 1997-98 have not been included due to complexities arising from the extensive local government reorganisation which took place around that time.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Catering

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of the menus, including prices, for the 10 Downing Street canteen from 30 June to 4 July 2008. [217353]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office catering provider offers a range of food across the Cabinet Office estate. Records of menus are not held by the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Land

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which areas of land are held for development by the Duchy of Lancaster as outlined on page 20 of its 2007 report and accounts. [210871]

Edward Miliband: On page 20 of the 2007 annual report and accounts land held for development is valued at £4,030,000. This relates to £3.9 million within the Duchy's Crewe Survey with the balance within the Duchy's Yorkshire Survey.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which make and model of car he has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217746]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date and for what reason the Duchy of Lancaster staff pension final salary scheme was closed to new entrants. [210872]

Edward Miliband: The Duchy of Lancaster Staff Pension Scheme was closed to new entrants with effect from 6 February 2002.

In line with a large number of other businesses, those running the Duchy estate wished to have greater certainty in the level of contribution within the business. The Duchy makes a contribution to new employees personal pension plans based upon a percentage of their gross salary.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of his Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218060]

Edward Miliband: Expenditure incurred on research services is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217899]

Phil Hope: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* programmes and *(b)* support he provides for the promotion and development of social enterprise. [218717]

Phil Hope: The Government's commitments to supporting and promoting the development of social enterprise are set out in the "Social Enterprise Action Plan: Scaling New Heights" (November 2006), copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House, and in "The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration: final report" ("The Third Sector Review"—July 2007), copies of which have been placed in the Library.

The Social Enterprise Action Plan sets out a range of actions committed to by the Office of the Third Sector and other Government Departments to foster a culture of social enterprise; ensure social enterprise has access to the right information and advice; enable social enterprise to access appropriate finance; and to enable social enterprise to work with government.

Progress highlights in the delivery of the Social Enterprise Action Plan include:

Over 30 social enterprise ambassadors have been recruited;

Social enterprise models will be included in the GCSE business studies syllabus and wider school curriculum from September 2008;

£5.9 million has been provided to RDAs to improve business support for social enterprise;

Consultation on the £10 million social enterprise risk capital investment fund has concluded and work is under way to finalise the fund prior to launch;

The number of OTS strategic partners has been increased to 45 to include seven new social enterprise strategic partners.

The Third Sector Review sets out Government's support for the third sector over the CSR period. It includes four commitments specific to social enterprise:

I. Promoting social enterprise

II. Building the evidence base

III. Consulting on the use of unclaimed assets for social investment

IV. Enabling social enterprise to work with government.

Non-profit Making Associations: Ethnic Groups

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's funding of black and minority ethnic social enterprise. [218904]

Phil Hope: The Government do not fund individual social enterprises directly, rather they provide strategic funding to organisations that represent and support social enterprise. This is in addition to the commitments to support an environment in which social enterprise can thrive as set out in the "Social Enterprise Action Plan: Scaling New Heights" (November 2006) and in "The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration" (July 2007).

Seven social enterprise representative organisations receive strategic funding from the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) to provide a credible and effective voice

for the sector into Government, to act as an advocate for the sector and to work with Government to develop and implement policy.

In total 20 per cent. of OTS strategic funding for social enterprise partners is ring fenced to enable them to work alongside black and minority ethnic (BME) groups to ensure their voice is heard. To draw this work together the Social Enterprise Coalition is funded to develop a strategy to engage and integrate BME social enterprise into the wider social enterprise movement. This work is ongoing and a strategy will be in place in autumn 2008.

In addition we fund Voice4Change England to enhance the effectiveness of the black and minority ethnic third sector.

Non-profit Making Associations: Trade Unions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with trades unions on the role of social enterprise in public service delivery. [218913]

Phil Hope: Ministers and officials engage with many people, including trade union representatives, on a wide range of third sector policy issues, among them public service delivery. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Duchy of Lancaster received from the Rural Payments Agency in the last financial year for which figures are available. [210898]

Edward Miliband: The Rural Payments Agency paid the Duchy £27,013.77 in relation to the Single Payment Scheme 2007. This is in respect to land held by the Duchy to protect the receipt of such payment for future tenants when the land is let.

Smith Institute

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) on what date the Charity Commission began its current investigation into the Smith Institute; [217364]

(2) how many complaints the Charity Commission has received about the Smith Institute. [217365]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 17 July 2008:

As Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to reply to your questions regarding our statutory inquiry into the Smith Institute (217364 and 217365). The Commission closed its inquiry yesterday (16 July), and, as is our usual policy, we will shortly report the outcome by publishing a statement of results on our website. The information you have asked for is contained in that report, which will be available here: www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

I hope this information is helpful.

Trade Unions: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will amend the text on www.direct.gov.uk in the sections entitled Introduction to Trade Unions and Your Right to Join (or Not to Join) a Trade Union to include information on employees' rights to opt out of the trades union political levy. [210719]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Direct.gov is intended to provide outline guidance for citizens on a wide variety of topics. More detailed guidance on trade unions, including information on employee's rights to opt-out of the trade union political levy, is given on the BERR website. It is intended that material covering employment on the BERR website, including on trade unions, will be converged onto direct.gov and businesslink.gov by April 2009. The guidance on the trade union political levy will be considered as part of this process.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Annual Leave

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1452-53W, on annual leave, on what basis the leave arrangements for staff appointed to the Senior Commons Service were set; and whether there is any independent oversight of such leave arrangements. [220004]

Nick Harvey: The leave arrangements for the Senior Commons Service have been in place for some years, and are intended to make the House of Commons jobs attractive to direct recruits at senior levels. There are, however, restrictions. For example, most SCS staff may take annual leave only when the House is not sitting, and cannot carry forward unused leave from one year to another. Oversight of the terms of employment of all staff (including SCS) rests with the Management Board and the House of Commons Commission.

Portcullis House: Energy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of the energy efficiency of Portcullis House in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [219541]

Nick Harvey: The annual energy consumptions obtained from energy supply invoices and the energy consumptions per square metre for Portcullis House for each of the last five years are given in the following table:

	kWh	*kWh/m2*
2003-04	7,661,201	414.0
2004-05	7,261,092	392.4
2005-06	7,436,070	401.8
2006-07	7,039,340	380.4
2007-08	7,132,608	385.4

Note:
These figures are not weather corrected.

Following an independent energy survey report in February 2008 a number of measures are under consideration which could lead to a significant reduction in consumption. These recommendations are under consideration for inclusion in the programme of works.

These figures differ slightly from those given in the answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 27 April 2007 for two reasons. Firstly, for this answer we obtained the gas and electricity consumption figures from invoices; in the previous response we used the same method to determine the electricity consumption but calculated the gas consumptions from meter readings and standard conversion factors. The gas invoices, though, have the more accurate consumption figures. Secondly, we have used a recently received, more accurate floor area for this answer than we used for the 2007 response.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what practical assistance his Department has provided to countries in Africa to mitigate the adverse effects of rising energy prices. [219132]

Gillian Merron: Our aid spending in Africa is set to more than double, from £1.3 billion in 2004 to over £3 billion in 2010. DFID, through country and regional programmes, supports African countries' efforts to accelerate growth to reduce poverty. This helps our partner countries to cope with the rise in external fuel prices and mitigate the impact of these rises on the poor.

The UK supports the key international financial institutions which are leading an international response to this global challenge. The International Monetary Fund is helping with balance-of-payments support, and has so far provided additional financial assistance to five African countries. The World Bank is active in providing policy advice on regulatory efficiency and renewable energy, financial support through investments in energy, and in research on the drivers of energy price rises.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response his Department is making to the humanitarian situation in Chin State, western Burma. [220684]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Food security in the already vulnerable Chin State dramatically worsened at the end of 2007 and early 2008 due to a rat infestation. The worst affected areas are the remote villages in townships along the Indian border in central and southern Chin—Tahntlang, Matupi and Paletwa townships.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £4 million over four years to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its national Human Development Initiative, which includes work in all the townships of Chin State. A UNDP needs assessment team returned from Chin earlier this week. We will consider the case for further assistance to affected populations in Chin State through UNDP on the basis of their assessment.

In order to collect more information on needs and potential mechanisms for support, DFID officials have also met with local and international NGOS working in Chin State. DFID is also planning a mission to look at the work being done by Chin groups based in India to meet needs in Chin State.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218715]

Gillian Merron: The information for the last three calendars for home civil service staff is as follows:

In 2005, 276 staff had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days, this represents 14.7 per cent. of staff.

In 2006, 288 staff had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days, this represents 15.5 per cent. of staff.

In 2007, 213 staff had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days, this represents 11.1 per cent. of staff.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of long-term trends in the price of food in developing countries; what assessment he has made of the contribution of *(a)* the price of fuel and *(b)* the effects of climate change to such trends; and if he will make a statement. [219131]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have been working closely with the major international organisations (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN agencies and International Food Policy Research Institute) in order to assess future price trends. Increased cereal production and the removal of export bans have brought about a recent calming of markets, and prices have fallen back from the very high levels seen earlier this year. But the consensus remains that the underlying demand for food remains strong, and according to the World Bank, this is likely to keep prices well above 2004 levels for most food crops until 2015.

The Government recently published a detailed analysis of the causes of recent price rises. High oil prices have put upward pressure on food prices by increasing production costs, through high fuel, fertiliser, transport, packaging, and processing costs. The World Bank estimates that a 10 per cent. rise in crude oil prices translates into a 1.6 per cent. increase in agricultural commodity prices. Weather has a direct impact on agricultural yields and food supplies. While recent food price rises cannot be linked directly with longer-term trends in climate change, there is no room for complacency. The UK Government will continue to push the international community for significantly higher investment in water management in developing countries, to ensure their agriculture is better prepared for the increasingly erratic weather patterns that are predicted.

The British Government remain concerned about the impact of high food prices on the poorest people in developing countries. We are pleased with the outcome at the recent G8 summit, where members committed $10 billion to improving global food security. We will continue to take a leading role in pressing for a coordinated and effective international response.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's 10 highest-staffed missions abroad are; and how many *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* locally-engaged personnel are employed in each. [218648]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 10 highest-staffed DFID offices are shown in the following table with breakdown of home civil servants (HCS), and staff appointed in country (SAIC—locally engaged staff), as at the end of June 2008.

Office	*HCS*	*SAIC*	*Total*
DFID Bangladesh	20	75	95
DFID India	20	69	89
DFID Nigeria	26	49	75
DFID Pakistan	20	32	52
DFID Ethiopia	19	33	52
DFID Nepal	14	36	50
DFID Malawi	12	36	48
DFID Democratic Republic of Congo	15	28	43
DFID Kenya and Somalia	10	32	42
DFID Uganda	11	29	40

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219014]

Mr. Malik: None. The requirement to prepare home information packs applies to the marketing for sale of residential properties. This Department has not been involved in any such transactions since 1 August 2007.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 762W, on languages, how many of his departmental staff have received language training in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [218797]

Gillian Merron: Requirements for language training are assessed by each overseas office and based upon business priorities. As such the Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold central records on language training, but according to our main external language training provider 130 staff have received training in the last 18 months. This is equivalent to 35 per cent. of home civil service staff posted overseas at any given time.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 318W, on languages, how many *(a)* Pashto and *(b)* Dari speakers there are in his Department; and how many took a language course in each of the last two years. [220542]

Gillian Merron: In the Department for International Development five staff speak Pashto and two speak Dari. Our main language training provider has trained two staff in Dari and four in Pashto during 2006-07 and two staff in Dari during 2007-08.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what *(a)* regions and *(b)* projects the new UK development assistance to border areas in Pakistan will be allocated; and what mechanisms will be used to monitor the use of such aid. [218647]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK is already a major donor to North West Frontier Province (NWFP), one of two Pakistan provinces bordering Afghanistan. We will aim to do more there, as well as extend our work over the period of our new five-year country plan to the other border province, Balochistan, where problems of poverty, exclusion and insecurity are pronounced. We will also build on our work with the Secretariat responsible for co-ordinating the Government of Pakistan's development efforts in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which are some of the most inaccessible and insecure parts of Pakistan.

We will build government systems to help ensure basic services are delivered more efficiently and effectively. We will put more money into education to get more children into school, improve teaching, and provide the skills young people need to get jobs. We are already one of the leading donors to the health sector in Pakistan, and are committed to continuing to support national programmes that benefit the border areas, for example on mother and child health and in combating the spread of TB and polio. We will help build a stronger civil society to promote rights and ensure poor people receive the services they need.

DFID has a rigorous set of procedures to safeguard funding. Overall progress on the country programme is measured by means of quantifiable, time bound targets, supported by a detailed business plan. Individual programmes and projects also include a performance measurement framework with clear targets. Progress against these targets is assessed by means of annual reviews. These reviews, which also include a comprehensive risk analysis, ensure that DFID funds are being used effectively and are achieving their intended results.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of the Government Equalities Office's budget has been spent on research since its inception. [218070]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment as a stand alone department on the 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has spent 4.36 per cent. of its total expenditure on research activities. This figure includes the cost of research staff employed by the Government Equalities Office.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken since its establishment to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill. [215883]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was officially established on 12 October 2007 and is based in Eland House London, which is the headquarters building of the Department of Communities and Local Government. Consequently GEO follows DCLG's policies and practices on the reduction of the volume of waste. DCLG's policies and practices seek to minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill sites by ensuring, among other things, that food waste is separated for composting. DCLG estimate that since the introduction, in January 2008, of food waste composting in their kitchens, over 16 tonnes of food waste has been diverted from landfill. GEO also uses DCLG facilities for collecting cans, bottles, cardboard and plastics for recycling.

Single Equality Bill: Draft

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to publish the draft Single Equality Bill; and what work has been done on the key principles of the Bill prior to discussion in Cabinet. [201391]

Barbara Follett: As my announcement in Parliament on 25 June made clear the Government remain committed to introducing an Equality Bill during this Parliament. The further policy considerations, and intensive stakeholder engagement, which the Government's comprehensive consultation on its proposals for an Equality Bill provoked mean that there are no plans to publish it in draft.

The key principles of the Bill have been subject to collective consideration by Ministers in the normal way and the Government will publish its response to the consultation in due course. This will make the intended content of the Bill clear and there will be ample time to scrutinise this as it makes its way through Parliament.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what *(a)* representations she has received and *(b)* discussions she has had since January 2008 with hon. and right hon. Members wishing to introduce an amendment to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill to extend the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what response she gave; and if she will make a statement; [219746]

(2) with whom she discussed her decision to postpone consideration of the remaining stages of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill prior to her announcement; and if she will make a statement. [219747]

Ms Harman: As Leader of the House and chair of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation, I have regular discussions with many hon. and right hon. Members on amending legislation.

I announced in my weekly Business Statement on 3 July, the provisional business for the week of 14 July, which included the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. On the 10 July I confirmed to the House that consideration of the Employment bill would be brought forward.

Business managers regularly have to balance the need for the scheduling of all legislation that is outstanding.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what measures are in place in her Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219594]

(2) what purchasing process is used by her Office for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219943]

Helen Goodman: All proposals to purchase alcohol for hospitality purposes need the prior approval of the Cabinet Office Finance Director. The purchase of alcohol, which may be via the Government Procurement Card, by invoice or by a staff claim is monitored by the Cabinet Office Financial Management Team.

It is important to emphasise that the official purchase and provision of alcohol is an unusual undertaking. Therefore, all expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Office was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220741]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has been part of the Cabinet Office since May 2007. All paper used for photocopying is 100 per cent. recycled with a post-consumer waste content of 100 per cent.

Prior to May 2007, 100 per cent. of paper used by the Leader of the House of Commons Office for photocopying was from recycled sources. Paper used for printed publications complies with the Government's Sustainable Procurement "quick wins" agenda, which states that "coated papers must contain a minimum of 60 per cent. recycled fibre and uncoated papers 100 per cent. recycled fibre". In practice most papers used comprise at least 75 per cent. recycled fibre for coated and 100 per cent. for uncoated.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what her Office's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220429]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is committed to the Better Payment Practice Code on prompt payment and aims to pay all undisputed invoices within the terms of the contract, usually 30 days from receipt of a valid invoice.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not request discounts from suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) her Office and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221590]

Helen Goodman: None.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House if she will list *(a)* the reviews and *(b)* public consultations initiated by her Department since 27 June 2007. [221364]

Ms Harman: Since 27 June 2007, the Leader of the House initiated the following, which could be considered a review or public consultation:

Review/public consultation	*Date announced*	*Reference in Official Report*
Draft Legislative Programme public consultation 2007	11 July 2007	Volume 462, column 1449
Review of European Scrutiny	25 October 2007	Volume 465, column 443
Review of Parliamentary pay and pensions conducted by Sir John Baker	16 January 2008	Volume 470, column 32WS
Review of topical debates	7 February 2008	Volume 471, column 83WS
Draft Legislative Programme public consultation 2008	14 May 2008	Volume 475, column 1385
Review of the Parliamentary Pension Scheme	17 June 2008	Volume 477, column 45WS
Parliamentary audit and practice assurance	16 July 2008	Volume 479, column 31WS

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House which projects her Office has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221613]

Helen Goodman: None.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what proportion of staff in her Office are disabled; and what the average salary in her Office is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220183]

Helen Goodman: The provision of personal information on disability is optional and is held on individual's electronic staff files. Owing to the nature and size of the Office, providing this information could result in the identification of individuals.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Solicitor-General when she plans to answer Question 214873, on applications for leave to appeal, tabled on 25 June 2008. [220843]

The Solicitor-General: This has been answered today.

Appeals: Central Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 352W, on appeals: central Government, which departments the Treasury Solicitor's Department represents in their applications for leave to appeal; and how many such applications the Treasury Solicitor's Department handled in the last 12 months. [214873]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department acted on behalf of most central Government Departments on various legal matters during 2007-08. Data specifically on applications for leave to appeal to the House of Lords (both in terms of the number of applications and which client Department they relate to) are not maintained by the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Furthermore, as there has been no call from client Departments for this information in the past, the Treasury Solicitor has consequently not been able to justify the commitment of public funds to collate and record these applications in the form requested. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

BAE Systems

Adam Price: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress the Serious Fraud Office has made in its investigations into allegations against BAe Systems; and if she will make a statement. [219216]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is continuing to investigate alleged offences involving BAE Systems plc. Further comment cannot be made for cases currently under investigation.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what measures are in place in the Attorney-General's Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219589]

The Solicitor-General: Expenditure is only incurred when Ministers host special events for external parties. This occurs infrequently and expenditure is approved by the Director of Finance.

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what purchasing process is used by the Law Officers' Departments for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219939]

The Solicitor-General: When alcohol is provided for hospitality purposes it is purchased through each Department's catering contractors. These contractors are procured according to Government guidelines and expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from the Attorney-General's Office in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221599]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office does not hire out rooms to other organisations.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which the Law Officers Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218046]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables provide the details of the number of working days lost due to sickness. These are broken down by the different Departments as records are not held in the same way.

Attorney-General's Office, Treasury Solicitors Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Calendar year	*Average working days lost per person*
2003	5.5
2004	5.1
2005	7.2
2006	7.1
2007	

Note:
Records prior to 2003 are not available.

Crown Prosecution Service

Calendar year	*Average working days lost per person*
2001	8.9
2002	8.8
2003	9.2
2004	8.0
2005	9.7
2006	9.9
2007	10.0

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Calendar year	*Average working days lost per person*
2005 (April to December)[1]	4.5
2006	4.5
2007	4.3
2008 (January to March)	7.2

[1] RCPO was created on 18 April 2005.

Serious Fraud Office

Financial year	*Average working days lost per person*
2000-01	6.1
2001-02	5.2
2002-03	9.5
2003-04	14.6
2004-05	11.3
2005-06	6.2
2006-07	8.3
2007-08	8.1

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which the Law Officer's Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218057]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables provide the details of the number of working days lost due to industrial action. These are broken down by the different Departments as records are not held in the same way. Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has lost 22 working days due to industrial action since its creation in April 2005.

Attorney-General's Office, Treasury Solicitors Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Financial year	*Total days lost*
2006-07	42
2007-08	30

Note:
Figures for earlier years are not available.

Crown Prosecution Service[1]

Calendar year	*Total days lost*
2001	1,005
2002	0
2003	0
2004	1,040
2005	0
2006	0
2007	2,089

[1] The HR recording system counts industrial action as special leave without pay. The figures above will therefore include genuine cases of special leave.

Serious Fraud Office[1]

Financial year	*Working days lost*
2006-07	1
2007-08	1

[1] The SFO records only show the number of industrial actions which SFO staff participated in, not how many staff were absent from work on these days.

Prosecutions: Hunting Act

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Solicitor-General what training on the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004 staff of the Crown Prosecution Service receives. [220796]

The Solicitor-General: Prosecutors in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) do not receive specific training on the Hunting Act 2004. However, the CPS has provided guidance for prosecutors on the Hunting Act 2004. The guidance provides advice on: the offences created under the legislation; the statutory defences available; police powers; and the evidential and public interest issues that arise. The guidance is kept under close review, and it is updated to take account of developments in case law and any other relevant changes.

In addition, all prosecution decisions are subject to the evidential and public interest tests, set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Serious Fraud Office: Manpower

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General what proportion of Serious Fraud Office staff are *(a)* lawyers, *(b)* accountants and *(c)* police officers; and what the equivalent numbers were on 31 December 2007. [215308]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) does not keep separate records of the number of police officers or accountants that it employs. Both police officers and accountants can work in the capacity of financial investigators at the SFO. On 18 July 2008, the following numbers of staff by category specified was as follows:

Job role	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of total staff*[1] *(percentage)*
Investigators	117	39
Lawyers	58	19

[1] Based on 299 permanent members of staff in post on 18 July 2008.

On 31 December 2007, the following numbers of staff by category specified was as follows:

Job role	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of total staff*[1] *(percentage)*
Investigators	118	39
Lawyers	58	19

[1] Based on 300 permanent members of staff in post on 31 December 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects and organisations in Leicester have received Arts Council funding in the last 12 months. [215731]

Margaret Hodge: According to the Arts Council, in 2007-08, 11 organisations in Leicester received grants on a regularly funded basis and nine projects were funded through its Grants for the Arts programme.

Arts: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by publicly-funded bodies for which his Department is responsible on the promotion of Welsh culture overseas, in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by country. [216916]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* My Department provides grant in aid to VisitBritain to promote Britain, including Wales, abroad.

It is not possible to disaggregate precisely how much of the campaign material, or its cost, could be regarded as promoting specifically Welsh culture but VisitBritain supports a wide range of Welsh cultural events, through its international media campaigns, and website, including the National Eisteddfod, the Ruthin Festival and the Festival of Daffodils.

VisitBritain works closely with Visit Wales and other culture and heritage partners in Wales to help ensure the widest possible promotion of cultural events in Wales, and Britain as a whole, for the international visitor. VisitBritain's Los Angeles office is currently working with Visit Wales to promote cultural messages about Wales around the film 'Edge of Love', the Dylan Thomas biopic which received funding from the UK Film Council.

Betting Shops

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many betting shops in each region have been visited as part of the Gambling Commission Annual Visit Programme since September 2007; how many such shops in each region were found to be at risk of non-compliance with each of the Gambling Commission's three licensing objectives; what enforcement action has been taken; and if he will make a statement. [219545]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Gambling Commission has provided a regional breakdown of the number of betting premises visited as part of their compliance programme. Additional visits may have been made outside of the compliance programme to other betting premises to consider, for example, a specific complaint.

	Number of premises visited since 1 September[1]
London and South East	217
Midlands	172
North East	115
North West and North Wales	174
Scotland	78
South West and South Wales	119

[1] As at 31 May 2008.

In many cases, time has been taken as part of an initial compliance visit to further educate operators about compliance with the requirements of the Gambling Commission's licence conditions and codes of practice.

Repeat visits have then been used to establish whether appropriate steps have been taken.

To date, there have been nine referrals of bookmakers licensed to operate betting shops for further investigation under section 116 of the Gambling Act by the Gambling Commission's enforcement team. For operational reasons it would not be appropriate to go into the detail of these ongoing cases. If formal regulatory action is taken, details will be published on the Gambling Commission's website at:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Cultural Relations: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department plans to provide to the Connections through Culture initiative in the next three years. [219727]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will continue its commitment of £100,000 per annum to China: UK Connections through Culture for a second term, 2009-12.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219603]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All expenditure on hospitality (inclusive of alcohol) is governed by the Department's general finance and accounting rules, where budget holders are required to scrutinise and agree areas of spend in accordance with clearly defined guidelines.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219950]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The purchasing of alcohol is normally connected with departmental events, which is procured through either in house or external caterers according to pre-determined specification used when asking for quotations for hospitality. It is normally supplied on a sale or return basis. For ad-hoc requirements the purchasing can be undertaken using the Government Procurement Card, in accordance with normal departmental guidelines for using the card.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217751]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220438]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not have a specific policy on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment. However the majority of goods and services are purchased through the OGC "Catalist" frameworks, where discounted rates are already secured as a result of the volume of Government spending activity.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees of his Department have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218406]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the default retirement age was 60 until 1 October 2006 when it became 65. In 2008 two employees retired at reaching 65. No other employees have retired on reaching age 65 since 2000.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland (i) was covered by a minimum acceptable digital radio signal in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007 and (ii) will be so covered in 2008. [216534]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* Digital radio is available nearly universally across the United Kingdom over satellite and the internet, and over Freeview to approximately 73 per cent. of the population. But the principal means of receiving digital radio is on the digital audio broadcasting (DAB) platform and coverage varies between multiplexes: the two national multiplexes, one commercial and one BBC, and the 58 individual local multiplexes.

DAB coverage is principally measured by population rather than geographic area, but there is no single definition of a "minimum acceptable digital radio signal". However, I understand that approximately 90 per cent. of the UK population currently have some access to DAB services on at least one multiplex. The BBC are in the process of building a number of new transmitters to ensure that their multiplex reaches at least 90 per cent. of the population by the end of this Charter period in 2012, and I have asked them to write to the hon. Member setting out the detail of their existing and planned coverage.

The coverage data which Ofcom have gathered in relation to the other multiplexes are set out in their Communications Market Report and are summarised in the following table. Data for 2008 are not yet available.

The Digital Radio Working Group has identified both population and geographic coverage as crucial to the success of DAB and I welcome their proposal to examine these matters further in working towards their final report to me at the end of the year.

Percentage

	UK	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland
2006					
National commercial multiplex	86	89	76	53	0
Combined local commercial multiplexes[1]	89	92	92	73	100
2007					
National commercial multiplex	88	93	76	67	0
Combined local commercial multiplexes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] These figures show the potential coverage if rolled out to 100 of the licensed area.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number and distribution of households expected to be unable to receive a television signal, either via satellite or via terrestrial services, after the digital switchover has taken place. [218131]

Andy Burnham: At switchover, it is expected that UK-wide coverage levels for digital terrestrial television (DTT) will reach that of present analogue services which is 98.5 per cent. of households. Digital satellite services are available to 98 per cent. of UK households.

Ofcom has advised that the 1.5 per cent. of homes (approximately 375,000 households) who will not be able to receive a fully reliable digital terrestrial signal are overwhelmingly those not covered by the existing analogue terrestrial services and in general already obtain their television services from an alternative platform, such as satellite or using self-help transmitters.

Ofcom is continuing to look for ways to improve coverage in areas where they know there is likely to be a problem and to work with Digital UK to ensure that those affected know what their options are.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate has been made of the number of households which have switched over to digital television in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* the UK. [220200]

Andy Burnham: In their recently published Digital Television Update, Ofcom estimate that 87.1 per cent. (c. 22 million) of UK households had digital television at the end of Q1 2008.

A regional breakdown of these figures is not available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment has been made of the effect of recent changes in the cost of living and disposable household income on households' preparation for digital switchover. [220214]

Andy Burnham: Research suggests that age and disability are the most important indicators of lower digital TV take up and there is no evidence to indicate that cost of switchover is prohibitive or a barrier to conversion. Research by Ofcom's Advisory Committee on Older and Disabled People suggested that low income alone is not likely to prevent people preparing for switchover.

There are a number of options for switching to digital and the cost will vary depending on what TV service and TV equipment is chosen. Digital terrestrial set top boxes, for example, start from around £20.

Digital Radio Working Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the evidence the Independent Digital Radio Working Group considered in preparation of its interim report. [218863]

Andy Burnham: The evidence considered by the Digital Radio Working Group (DRWG) in preparing for the interim report was commissioned independently by the DRWG. Therefore, it is right for the DRWG, not my Department, to decide whether this evidence is made public.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* people aged over 75 and *(b)* disabled people who have taken advantage of the digital switchover help scheme in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* the UK. [220212]

Andy Burnham: The digital switchover help scheme assisted 2,616 people in Copeland, Cumbria. The help scheme has just begun to assist people in the Selkirk transmitter area within the Border TV region and full take up figures will be published after the help scheme closes for that area in December. Gloucestershire, including the Forest of Dean, does not switch until 2010 and eligibility for the help scheme will start eight months before the first transmitter switch in that region. The way in which the help scheme was provided with information for Copeland means that data on the breakdown between those aged 75 or over and those who are disabled are not readily available. The help scheme is considering how best to make such information available in future, consistent with its data protection duties.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Data Protection

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what restrictions there are on the use by stakeholders involved with the delivery of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme of personal data supplied to them in connection with the scheme. [220687]

Andy Burnham: Access to data must be in accordance with The Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007. Information disclosed under the Act is strictly for use in connection with 'switchover help functions' and there are criminal penalties for unlawful disclosure.

The powers to disclose information will effectively lapse once the switchover process is completed. Before processing the information, DWP and local authorities will need to satisfy themselves that the security and IT procedures in place for handling the data are appropriate. A Memorandum of Understanding exists between DWP and the scheme administrator to ensure that the data are processed in accordance with the law, including compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220190]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

i) DCMS has 14 (3 per cent.) staff who have declared a disability across the grades. The Royal Parks Agency have 2 (2 per cent.) of staff who have declared a disability.

ii) There is no difference between the average salary of a disabled and non disabled member of staff in either full-time or part-time posts in DCMS or the Royal Parks Agency.

Festivals and Special Occasions: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many requests his Department received for funding to be allocated to the promotion and celebration of specific celebratory days in 2007. [218526]

Margaret Hodge: Information is not held on the number of direct requests to my Department for funding to be allocated for the promotion and celebration of specific days in 2007. As the majority of DCMS funding is channelled through our NDPBs, it is possible that these bodies may have received direct requests for funding, but that information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's press release 131/04, on the publication of the Gambling Bill, how many mystery shopper surveys the Gambling Commission has conducted since its creation; when these surveys were carried out; and if he will place a copy of the results in the Library. [219695]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission conducted a pilot mystery shopping exercise last summer on remote sites operated by prospective licensees and others. At that stage many operators were changing their systems to comply with the commission's prospective licence conditions and codes of practice. Using the approach developed in the pilot, the commission now has an ongoing programme of mystery shopping on remote sites provided under a commission licence as part of its compliance programme. I will ask the chief executive of the Gambling Commission to write to the hon. Member on this matter and to place a copy of that letter in the Library of the House.

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent research his Department has commissioned into levels of gambling amongst young people aged *(a)* between 16 and 18 and *(b)* under 16 years. [219686]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Gambling Prevalence Survey (BGPS) 2007, commissioned by the Gambling Commission, provides data on participation in gambling and the prevalence of problem gambling in Britain among the adult population aged 16 and above. The Gambling Commission have also commissioned a literature review of children and gambling which is due to be published in the summer. The National Lottery Commission's (NLC) ongoing research programme includes regular tracking surveys of 12-to-15 year-olds to monitor underage play of the national lottery. This research includes information on underage participation in other gambling activities. The NLC are in the tender process for the next survey which is due to be published in summer 2009.

Government Olympic Executive: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on staffing for the Government Olympic Executive in each year since 2004. [219270]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of staffing the Government Olympic Executive (and its predecessor, the Olympic Games Unit until May 2006) in each financial year since 2004-05 is as follows (including salaries, national insurance and pension contributions and agency staff).

Financial year	*Staff costs (£ million)*
2004-05	0.35
2005-06	1.09
2006-07	2.76
2007-08	4.67

Sports: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the benefits for children and young people of participation in organised sport; and if he will make a statement. [219651]

Andy Burnham: I have engaged with ministerial colleagues including the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on a number of initiatives relating to the participation of children in organised sport and the resultant benefits. These include the launch of the Sport England strategy, and the Legacy Action Plan for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games "Before, during and after: making the most of the London 2012 Games".

Additionally, regular meetings take place between the Minister for Sport and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, the Ministers jointly responsible for PE and Sports Strategy for Young People (PESSYP).

Television: Advertising

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the revenue generated from product placement on ITV in the last 12 months. [219858]

Andy Burnham: Ofcom's Broadcasting Code does not allow ITV or other UK commercial TV companies to reach product placement deals with advertisers. The Government's estimate therefore of the revenue generated from product placement on ITV is nil.

Television: Smoking

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will discuss with those involved in the production of entertainment media the possible relationship between the on-screen depiction of smoking and rates of smoking among young people; [219750]

(2) whether he has received recent representations on the classification of films which show positive images of smoking. [219751]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The depiction of smoking in films is covered by the guidelines for the British Board of Film Classification, which were reviewed in 2005 after extensive public consultation and were updated accordingly. Any films which are found to be (1) aimed at children and (2) "Works which promote or glamorise smoking" receive a restricted rating. We have no plans at present to examine the impact on screen depiction of smoking but we do of course, keep these matters under constant review.

UNESCO Convention on Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the cultural effects of ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. [220612]

Margaret Hodge: The UK Government have already adopted the Annex of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage as best practice for archaeology. Although we keep the matter under review. We do not believe that the case for ratification by the UK has been made.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which make and model of car he has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217747]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Funding: Energy Generation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much funding his Department has provided through the Technology Strategy Board for projects relating to *(a)* energy generation, *(b)* renewable energy generation, *(c)* energy transmission and *(d)* energy efficiency, broken down by region in each year since its inception; [217832]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided through grants for research and development for projects relating to *(a)* energy generation, *(b)* renewable energy generation, *(c)* energy transmission and *(d)* energy efficiency in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [217929]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The following tables cover funding provided to projects relating to energy generation, renewable energy generation and energy transmission. No figures are provided for energy efficiency however as a significant proportion of the Technology Strategy Board's current portfolio of 750 projects with a combined business and Government investment of over £1 billion, are driven by considerations of efficiency, both energy and natural resource. Identifying relevant projects and providing a regional breakdown for these can be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The funding identified in the tables cover grants awarded by Energy Group in the then DTI, both prior to, and following the establishment of the advisory Technology Strategy Board, to October 2004. It also includes grants awarded by the executive Technology Strategy Board, established on 1 July 2007. It does not include grants awarded in the area of clean coal technologies, worth £5 million in 2003-04, and approximately £6.5 million in 2004-05. Identifying and providing a regional breakdown for these projects can be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The regional breakdown provided relates to the location of the lead partner in a consortium. It does not therefore reflect the funding provided to organisations based in each of the regions.

Energy generation

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	1,783,409	934,932	1,798,893	2,087,397	2,863,541
East of England	0	3,880,892	0	1,188,846	2,232,816
London	477,000	304,500	0	1,358,568	2,172,591

Energy generation

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
North East	4,508,163	304,129	2,112,719	184,523	1,954,915
North West	224,339	1,040,100	687,072	212,721	322,271
N Ireland	0	42,170	0	0	0
Scotland	3,725,974	478,260	1,876,729	0	4,737,367
South East	1,361,990	6,939,332	2,987,893	2,198,825	5,672,088
South West	5,208,057	1,308,367	1,628,662	1,484,967	958,668
Wales	0	0	574,802	0	0
West Midlands	519,587	81,966	2,536,958	1,140,926	1,288,459
Yorkshire	27,250	403,728	0	227,746	391,466

Renewable energy generation

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
East Midlands	45,829	934,932	0	861,000	1,319,009
East of England	0	3,536,000	0	1,186,846	524,318
London	477,000	304,500	0	695,034	0
North East	3,783,538	130,286	1,044,843	0	1,344,915
North West	94,250	1,015,778	0	0	0
N Ireland	0	42,170	0	0	0
Scotland	3,694,436	235,861	1,025,866	0	777,473
South East	971,530	4,773,644	0	1,689,108	4,738,025
South West	5,208,057	1,308,367	605,159	1,484,967	0
Wales	0	0	574,802	0	0
West Midlands	400,000	81,966	0	1,140,926	0
Yorkshire	27,250	403,728	0	227,746	391,466

Energy transmission

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
East Midlands	0	0	0	1,226,397	704,874
East of England	0	324,892	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	661,534	0
North East	724,625	173,843	1,067,876	184,523	32,000
North West	130,089	24,322	687,072	212,721	0
N Ireland	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	242,399	111,479	0	490,000
South East	0	481,983	0	0	0
Southwest	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	119,587	0	2,300,000	0	0
Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what options, other than reducing funding on students studying for an equivalent or lower qualification, were presented by the Higher Education Funding Council for England as alternative ways to raise funding for new higher education priorities. [219466]

Bill Rammell: The Government considered a number of policy options in the course of the comprehensive spending review, as would be expected. We decided to alter the rules for the payment of teaching grant to give a greater priority to first-time students in higher education because this is intrinsically a fairer way to spend public money, and because doing so is consistent with our ambitions for higher level skills and increased access to higher education. Other ways of releasing more funding to support new students would have been providing less money for student support; reducing the unit of funding for teaching; or cutting back, on funding for research.

Maize Production in Africa

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department made of the accuracy of the statement by the Chief Scientific Adviser broadcast on 27 November 2007 that the push-pull system of maize production in Africa involved genetically modified crops; what steps his Department took to correct the elements of the statement which have been demonstrated to be inaccurate; and if he will make a statement. [219249]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* In the Daily Mail on 18 December 2007, the then Government Chief Scientific Adviser Sir David King was reported as acknowledging that he had made an honest mistake about the push-pull system of maize production. The technique, which has been developed by Rothamsted Research and local research institutes in Africa, does not currently involve genetic modification of the crops. Under the technique, repellent crops are planted between

the rows of maize to drive the stemborer pests away from the maize ("push") in combination with plants around the field that attract stemborers away from the maize ("pull"). Rothamsted Research reports that trials in Kenya and Uganda have helped participating farmers increase their maize yields by 20 to 50 per cent.

One of the "push" plants also controls a parasitic plant, the African witchweed, that otherwise causes even greater crop losses. The genetic basis of the mechanism is being studied by Rothamsted Research and its African collaborators under new funding from the Department for International Development and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Space Technology

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the sterling value of the UK space industry was in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2007. [220151]

Ian Pearson: A biennial study of the UK space industry is undertaken by the British National Space Centre. The nearest available figures for the total turnover of the UK space industry are £3 billion and £4.8 billion for 1999-2000 and 2004-05 respectively.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the global market for space products and satellite-enabled services he estimates will be provided by UK enterprises by 2015. [220154]

Ian Pearson: No estimate of the proportion of the global space market that will be provided by UK enterprises by 2015 has been made. The British National Space Centre (BNSC) undertakes a biennial survey of the UK space industry and the latest published results, which are for 2004-05, indicate that the UK share of the global market at that time was 7 per cent. The UK Civil Space Strategy 2008-12 published earlier this year contains an objective to grow the UK share by 2015. This is a challenging objective as the market itself is growing at between 12 and 15 per cent. per year.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the British National Space Centre's UK Civil Space Strategy in encouraging exports of British technology and high value-added services. [220155]

Ian Pearson: A biennial study of the UK space industry is undertaken by the British National Space Centre (BNSC). The latest information available is for the year 2004-05 and shows sales outside the UK at £1.28 billion. BNSC works with industry and UKTI through its Trade Promotion and International Collaboration advisory group to provide effective support to industry in export markets.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was repaid to graduates who *(a)* were paying off their loans and *(b)* had paid off their loans as a result of overpayments to the student loans company in each year since 2001. [206302]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The number of student loan borrowers who have received refunds for over-repayments made in each year since 2001 are set out in Table A.

Table B shows that the number of borrowers making over-repayments from 2001-02 to 2006-07 amounted to 3 per cent. of all borrowers making repayments over this period. The table also shows the amount refunded to borrowers who over-repaid over the same period amounted to just 1 per cent. of the total amounts repaid by all student loan borrowers.

There are a variety of circumstances why borrowers overpay but this mainly occurs when loans come to the end of repayment. Over-repayments from mortgage style borrowers will only arise once their loan has been cleared where the borrower has failed to cancel repayment arrangements with their bank.

For student loan borrowers with income contingent repayment loans, repayments are predominantly made through the tax system. Due to the time lag in the Student Loans Company (SLC) receiving information from HM Revenue and Customs it is possible for borrowers to over-repay before the SLC becomes aware that their repayments should stop.

Where the pattern of payments shows that repayment will be completed during the coming year, the SLC invites borrowers to get in touch to discuss when repayments should stop. Borrowers are then able to make manual repayments. If they do not respond promptly to the SLC, or ignore the invitation, they will probably overpay.

From June this year the SLC is introducing a new website facility specifically for repaying customers. This will give borrowers the ability to view their most current statement and it will also give them the chance to calculate their balance based on what they can see in their payslips.

The SLC is working on further improving the loan end process and has been asked to put in place arrangements which will reduce the number of borrowers over-repaying at the end of repayment. Those arrangements, which are likely to be voluntary, are expected to be in place towards the end of next year.

Any borrower who has repaid, should contact the SLC immediately to obtain a full refund with interest. All refunds include interest at the same (Retail Price Index) rate that was charged on the loan.

Table A: Number of student loan borrowers who have received refunds due to making over-repayments

	(a) Borrowers paying off their loan		*(b) Borrowers who have paid off their loan*			
Financial year	*Number overpaying*	*Amount repaid (£)*	*Number overpaying*	*Amount repaid (£)*	*Total number of borrowers receiving refunds for overpayments*	*Total refund amounts (£)*
2001-02	12,300	1,569,000	3,600	394,000	15,900	1,963,000

Table A: Number of student loan borrowers who have received refunds due to making over-repayments

	(a) Borrowers paying off their loan		(b) Borrowers who have paid off their loan			
Financial year	*Number overpaying*	*Amount repaid (£)*	*Number overpaying*	*Amount repaid (£)*	*Total number of borrowers receiving refunds for overpayments*	*Total refund amounts (£)*
2002-03	10,000	1,472,000	4,700	853,000	14,700	2,325,000
2003-04	6,300	982,000	10,800	2,563,000	17,600	3,545,000
2004-05	6,300	934,000	12,000	4,439,000	18,300	5,374,000
2005-06	5,600	580,000	19,400	6,898,000	25,000	7,679,000
2006-07	4,100	588,000	15,400	8,230,000	19,600	8,817,000
2007-08	2,800	434,000	19,900	12,643,000	22,700	13,077,000
Total	48,100	6,759,000	85,700	36,021,000	133,779	42,780,000

Notes:
1. Includes all customers (income contingent and mortgage style) who have passed their Statutory Repayment Due Date (SRDD) irrespective of their current status.
2. English domiciled customers only.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Table B: Total number of borrowers who have overpaid expressed as a percentage of all borrowers making repayments and total refunds as a percentage of all repayments

	Number of borrowers making overpayments	*Total number of borrowers making payments*	*Borrowers overpaying as a percentage of all borrowers making repayments*	*Total refund amounts (£)*	*Total amounts repaid (£)*	*Refunds as a percentage of all repayments*
2001-02	15,900	645,600	2	1,963,000	392,710,000	<1
2002-03	14,700	666,700	2	2,325,000	462,909,000	1
2003-04	17,600	698,700	3	3,545,000	525,979,000	1
2004-05	18,300	718,900	3	5,374,000	542,577,000	1
2005-06	25,000	670,500	4	7,679,000	548,585,000	1
2006-07	19,600	793,400	3	8,817,000	585,214,000	2
Total	111,600	4,193,800	3	29,703,000	3,057,974,000	1

Notes:
1. Includes all customers (income contingent and mortgage style) who have passed their Statutory Repayment Due Date (SRDD) irrespective of their current status.
2. English domiciled customers only.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Trade Associations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department plans to publish the results of the consultation on the introduction of representative actions for trade associations which began in 2006. [211744]

Ian Pearson: The Patent Office (now the UK Intellectual Property Office) consulted on Representative Actions for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in 2006, and this consultation closed in December 2006. A variety of views were expressed in response. However further work on this area needs to take account of the outcome of an inter-departmental consultation planned by he Ministry of Justice on the subject of representative actions. Decisions on the way forward following the IPO's consultation will need to await the outcome of the work to be carried by MOJ.

Universities: Post Offices

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the use that *(a)* international and *(b)* disabled students make of post office branches located on university campuses. [220842]

Bill Rammell: The Department holds no records of the number of post office branches on university campuses nor of their usage by students.

HEALTH

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients screened were found to have bowel cancer in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening centre and *(b)* sex; [220672]

(2) how many patients screened were found to have polyps in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening centre and *(b)* sex; [220673]

(3) how many patients screened were referred for a colonoscopy as a result of a positive faecal occult blood test in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening centre and *(b)* sex. [220674]

Ann Keen: As at 25 May 2008, 749,710 men and women had completed a bowel screening testing kit as part of the programme. Information on the number of colonoscopies and other tests performed, number of polyps removed and number of bowel cancers diagnosed in each month since the start of the NHS Bowel Screening Programme broken down by screening centre has been placed in the Library. It is not currently possible to break this information down by gender.

Dementia

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in registered care homes for the elderly in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England and Wales had dementia in each year since 2001. [220632]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Dementia: Health Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve NHS healthcare services for dementia sufferers. [215759]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Dementia is a Government priority and we are presently consulting on a draft national dementia strategy and implementation plan. Also through our 'Let's Respect' campaign, which provides comprehensive guidance and training for general hospital staff, we aim to raise awareness and improve standards of care for people with dementia in hospital settings.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting for NHS dental treatment in Plymouth Primary Care Trust area in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [220675]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people waiting for national health service dental treatment is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to make local arrangements to support patients in accessing NHS dental services. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to raise this issue with the Chief Executive of Plymouth Teaching PCT.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214688]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Arm's length body	*Property name*	*Town*	*Holding name*	*Lease expiry date*
Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)	South Point, Cardinal Square	Derby	Ground Floor	14 November 2011
CSCI	The Point	Lincoln	Whole building (Ground and 1st Floor)	21 February 2012
CSCI	Fairfax House	Colchester	First Floor offices and 17 car spaces	26 October 2010
CSCI	Clifton House	Bedford	Ground floor	27 September 2011
CSCI	St Vincent's House	Ipswich	Fifth Floor	22 November 2011
CSCI	Cavell House	Norwich	Third Floor	23 November 2011
CSCI	Caledonia House	Pentonville	3rd and 4th Floor	28 September 2009
CSCI	Caledonia House	Pentonville	Lower Ground Floor	28 September 2009
CSCI	Ground Floor South, Centro	Camden	Ground Floor South	27 October 2010
CSCI	Aspect Gate	Harrow	Part 4th Floor	12 July 2011
CSCI	Northumbria House	Cramlington	1st Floor	3 February 2012
CSCI	Burlington House	Liverpool	Unit 2F, Burlington House	20 September 2011
CSCI	10 Duke Street	Liverpool	10 Duke Street, Liverpool	24 March 2012
CSCI	Oakland House	Manchester	Office suite within multi-let building	28 June 2009
CSCI	International House	Ashford	International House	6 September 2011
CSCI	Overline House	Southampton	Part 4th Floor	24 December 2011
CSCI	Avonbridge House	Chippenham	Suite C—Post 1 August 2001—Whole holding	5 September 2010
CSCI	Linhay Business Park	Ashburton	Unit D1	14 February 2012
CSCI	Lansdowne Court	Gloucester	1st Floor, Unit 1210	12 September 2011
CSCI	Coventry Point	Coventry	Part 5th Floor	14 November 2011
CSCI	Chapter House South	Shrewsbury	1st Floor	28 September 2011
CSCI	178 Widemarsh Street	Hereford	Single storey unit	17 November 2011
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	Kierran Cross	London	First Floor	24 December 2010
General Social Care Council	Goldings House	Southwark	1st, 2nd and 3rd Floor and three car parking spaces	25 September 2011
Health Protections Agency (HPA)	Springfield House	Grantham	Springfield House	29 February 2009
HPA	Imperial Building	Nottingham	Offices	22 October 1999
HPA	Holborn Gate	West End	7th Floor	24 December 2010
HPA	Holborn Gate	West End	Sub-Basement Storage Room No. 3	24 December 2010
HPA	Holborn Gate	West End	Car Parking Licence for 3CPS	24 December 2010
HPA	Holborn Gate	West End	Car Parking Licence for 6CPS	24 December 2010
HPA	Belfast City Hospital	Belfast	CDSC—Northern Ireland	31 March 2009

Arm's length body	*Property name*	*Town*	*Holding name*	*Lease expiry date*
HPA	Moorgate Point	Liverpool	Suite E	31 January 2009
HPA	D B H House	Liverpool	Rooms 103-112 1st Floor	31 December 2008
HPA	MRC Harwell (Building 371)	Didcot	CHaPD-Harwell	25 September 2008
HPA	Tamar Science Park	Plymouth	Unit N20	12 September 2008
HPA	Colchester Avenue Campus	Cardiff	CHAPD—Cardiff	28 September 2004 Holding over
HPA	Birmingham Research Park	Birmingham	CHAPD—Birmingham	3 August 2008
HPA	Russell House	Dudley	Black Country HPU	31 August 2008
HPA	Meadow Court	Sheffield	South Yorkshire HPU	30 June 2012
HPA	Innovation Centre	York	North Yorkshire HPU	30 September 2008
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	Market Towers	Battersea	Floors 6 to 21 inclusive (6 to 21 Block A and 6 to 16 Block B) + 30cps + GF waste store	24 December 2011
MHRA	Market Towers	Battersea	Part ground floor offices, Block B (south)	24 November 2011
MHRA	Market Towers	Battersea	Second floor (South and North Wings) offices	24 December 2011
MHRA	Market Towers	Battersea	Part fourth floor (South Wing) offices	24 December 2011
MHRA	Market Towers	Battersea	Part Fifth Floor, Block A (North)	24 December 2011
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA)	Premier House	Reading	Whole building	29 April 2010
NHS PASA	Millennium House	Sheffield	Ground floor and exclusive right to park over one half of the forecourt	29 January 2009

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215920]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has worked hard, with its contractors, to reduce the amount of waste it produces. Between 2004-05 and 2006-07 our overall waste arisings reduced by some 60 per cent. from 996 tonnes to 393 tonnes.

All our general waste is removed from site and sent to a materials recycling facility, where it is segregated into different waste streams. This system has contributed to a very high recycling rate, achieving 90 per cent. in 2006-07.

Information for 2007-08 is not currently available.

Depression: Elderly

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between dark evenings and depression in the elderly. [214486]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not carried out research on the relationship between dark evenings and depression in the elderly.

Depressive Illnesses: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve treatment for people with depression. [220624]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme seeks to deliver improved access to psychological therapies for people who require the help of mental health services for mild to moderate depression. It also responds to service user's requests for more personalised services based around their individuals needs.

It will test the effectiveness of providing increases in evidence based psychological therapy services to people with 'common' mental health problems such as depression and anxiety, in providing improvements in health, well-being and in maintaining people or returning people to employment and community participation.

The Government announced significant funding for the programme to create new local psychological therapy services around the country on 10 October 2007: £33 million in 2008-09, £103 million in 2009-10 to £173 million in 2010-11. This is new money to expand evidence-based psychological therapies services. Primary care trusts were already spending £146 million on psychological therapies services.

Epilepsy: Pupils

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that every school pupil with epilepsy has an individual education plan. [218655]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) code of practice gives statutory guidance to schools, LAs and others on meeting children's special educational needs.

The code makes clear that a medical diagnosis, such as epilepsy, does not necessarily imply that a child has an SEN, although, of course, children with epilepsy may also have an SEN.

The code recommends individual education plans (iEPs) as a way of setting short-term targets for pupils and recording outcomes. Schools are not under a statutory duty to use IEPs for pupils with SEN, but if they make other arrangements to set targets for these pupils they should be able to demonstrate that those arrangements are equally as good, if not better.

Food Standards Agency

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the establishment of a local better regulation office on the work of the Food Standards Agency. [220253]

Dawn Primarolo: On 15 May 2007, the Government issued a consultation on the draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill which covered the establishment of the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO). At its open meeting on 19 July 2007, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board discussed the extent to which the establishment of the LBRO might affect the delivery of consumer protection in relation to food and drink by the FSA directly, by the Meat Hygiene Service as the FSA's Executive agency or through the FSA's enforcement partners in local authorities. Following the meeting, the FSA Chair submitted a formal response to the consultation, covering the most significant points. Copies of the response has been placed in the Library and can also be found on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/breletter070801.pdf

The FSA's views on the draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill have been placed in the Library and has also been published on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/betregs/compliance/renfsancbill

The FSA supports the establishment of the LBRO to promote efficient and effective local regulatory services as a part of its wider commitment to better regulation. The FSA is currently working very closely with the LBRO to produce a memorandum of understanding that clarifies how they work alongside one another in the future. The memorandum of understanding will be in place within six months after the enactment of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill. The FSA remains committed to engaging with the LBRO to maintain the protection of public health.

Game: Licensing

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Food Standards Agency in the licensing of establishments processing wild game; [220258]

(2) how many *(a)* wild game processors and *(b)* catering butchers dealing in wild game were licensed in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008; [220259]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to identify the location of premises of unlicensed *(a)* wild game processors and *(b)* catering butchers processing wild game; [220260]

(4) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed (i) wild game processors and (ii) catering butchers dealing in wild game which operate in compliance with EU regulations. [220262]

Dawn Primarolo: We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that there are 6.5 veterinary meat hygiene advisers employed in Great Britain to undertake visits to premises handling wild game to assess whether those premises meet the requirements for approval as set out in European Union Hygiene Regulations.

In 2006, there were 55 game handling establishments approved to process wild game. In 2007, there were 74 such establishments and at the end of May 2008 there were also 74. The FSA is unable to provide information as to how many catering butchers deal in wild game. There are currently 139 catering butchers under local authority control and which the FSA is in the process of assessing for approval as cutting plants under the Hygiene Regulations. Those that meet the necessary requirements will be approved by the FSA for cutting meat and for processing game if any carry out such processes and they will then fall under the control of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS).

When the new Hygiene Regulations came into force the FSA asked local authorities to identify those premises processing wild game so that they could be identified as premises that would require FSA approval. This was not straightforward as there are a number of exemptions from approval that apply for businesses supplying the local market with small quantities directly to consumers.

The FSA has made no estimate of the proportion of businesses that process wild game or catering butchers which process wild game that are compliant with the EU Hygiene Regulations, whether they require approval or not. All premises processing wild game are subject to hygiene controls carried out by either the MHS in approved premises, or by local authorities in non-approved premises.

General Practitioners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department makes available to general practitioner practices to support a transition to practice-based commissioning. [218355]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department provides a national framework for practice-based commissioning which sets clear expectations of PCTs to provide a range of support necessary to allow practices to engage fully with practice-based commissioning. The "Practice Based Commissioning: Practical Implementation" guidance document published in November 2006 describes the nature of support that PCTs should provide to practice-based commissioners, such as budgetary, analytical and management support. The precise level of support necessary will vary from practice to practice.

The "NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for Primary and Community Care" strategy has also set out how practice based commissioning is central to our ambitions for health improvement and high quality care. The document outlines the Department's intention to work with the NHS and with the professions to reinvigorate the implementation of practice based commissioning, and set out a package of measures to support this.

Health Services: Non-profit Making Associations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts which have commissioned clinical services from groups of former NHS employees have set up as social enterprise companies or third sector organisations. [216738]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect information on primary care trusts, which have commissioned clinical services from social enterprises or third sector organisations set up by former NHS employees.

Health Services: Young Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people in *(a)* Ashfield and *(b)* Huntercombe young offender institution were transferred to St. Andrew's hospital, Northampton in each year since 2000. [219222]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Two young people have been transferred from Huntercombe to St. Andrew's; one in 2004 and one in 2007. The information for Ashwell is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients resident in Milton Keynes have been referred to a private hospital for an operation in the last three years. [214932]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available on national health service funded first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs) for Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT), carried out by United Kingdom independent sector and overseas providers, including independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs).

The following table shows this information for the last three years.

Independent sector inpatient activity, Milton Keynes PCT, 2005-06 to 2007-08 (Commissioner based)

	General and Acute	
	Elective FFCEs carried out by UK independent sector and overseas providers	*Elective FFCEs carried out by ISTCs*
2005-06	1,558	223
2006-07	1,407	5,012
2007-08	1,450	1,706

Source:
Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return, Local Delivery Plan Return, Department of Health Monthly Activity Return, Monthly Monitoring Return.

Hospital Beds: Young People

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assessment and treatment beds were commissioned for young people in each year since 2000. [219223]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Commissioning for local health services is the responsibility of local primary care trusts (PCTs). PCT commissioners are responsible for assessing local health needs and meeting these needs through strategic planning and contracting with local health care providers. Recognising that PCTs' commissioning decisions are crucial to improve the population's health and well-being, the Department has launched the World Class Commissioning Programme, which aims to improve commissioning across the national health service.

The programme includes a commissioning assurance system that holds PCTs to account and rewards performance and development as they move towards world class. While commissioning decisions will rightly remain at local level, this national framework of assurance will ensure that all PCTs across the NHS are employing the very best commissioning processes to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

Hospitals

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each primary care trust area between 2002-03 and 2007-08; [219976]

(2) how many hospitals *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each health authority area between 1997-98 and 2002-03. [219977]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of new hospital schemes which opened in each strategic health authority (SHA) from 1997-98 to 2002-03 is shown in the table. Information on which primary care trusts (PCTs) these hospital schemes opened in is not held centrally but the list includes schemes commissioned directly by PCTs.

Information on hospital closures is not held centrally.

Date opened	*SHA*	*National health service trust*	*Capital value (£ million)*
30 March 2000	London	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	21
10 April 2000	North West	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	67
1 August 2000	North West	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	24
11 September 2000	South East Coast	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	94
1 October 2000	East Midlands	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	17

Date opened	SHA	National health service trust	Capital value (£ million)
17 October 2000	South Central	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	45
31 January 2001	South East Coast	Sussex Partnerships NHS Trust	22
1 February 2001	Yorkshire and the Humber	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	24
28 February 2001	London	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	96
2 April 2001	North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (Dryburn)	61
8 April 2001	Yorkshire and the Humber	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	65
25 July 2001	North West	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Trust	67
1 September 2001	West Midlands	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	28
21 September 2001	East of England	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals	158
1 March 2002	West Midlands	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	64
2 March 2002	London	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	54
4 March 2002	London	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	11
18 March 2002	West Midlands	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	87
18 March 2002	West Midlands	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	18
1 June 2002	South West	Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust	10
8 June 2002	North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (Bishop Aukland)	48
11 June 2002	London	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	15
27 July 2002	South Central	Royal Berkshire NHS Trust	84
9 September 2002	East of England	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	15
7 October 2002	London	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	76
7 October 2002	South East Coast	Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching Primary Care Trust	14
3 December 2002	South West	Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	100
16 December 2002	Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	47
25 March 2003	North East	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	18
29 March 2003	London	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	118
29 March 2003	Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	22
28 April 2003	East of England	East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust	15
29 April 2003	South Central	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	30
16 May 2003	London	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	60
23 June 2003	West Midlands	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	13
12 July 2003	North East	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	55
1 August 2003	North East	South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	122
11 September 2003	London	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	46
1 October 2003	London	Camden Primary Care Trust	26
1 November 2003	South East Coast	Surrey Primary Care Trust	29
18 November 2003	North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (Chester-le-Street)	10

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to consult primary care trusts to ensure they have sufficient staff to meet the 18-week waiting time commitment; [220254]

(2) at what point of treatment the 18-week waiting time initiative begins; and whether it will be extended to specialised services; [220255]

(3) what support and guidance will be provided by his Department to primary care trusts in England in relation to the implementation of the 18-week waiting time initiative; and if he will make a statement; [220256]

(4) whether his Department's 18-week waiting time initiative will be extended to infertility services; and if he will make a statement. [220257]

Ann Keen: The maximum 18-week waiting time applies as a national standard from 1 January 2009 onwards. The 18-week target applies to the whole period from receipt of referral made by a general practitioner or other care professional to any consultant-led service, including infertility services. There are no national plans at present to extend the scope of the 18 weeks referral to treatment target.

To support primary care trusts (PCTs) in delivery of 18 weeks a service transformation strategy has been put in place. This includes publishing 18 weeks commissioning top tips and 42 model 18 weeks commissioning pathways. These pathways support PCTs in commissioning the most effective services for their patients. The Department has provided a range of guidance including national 18 week clock rules, definitions and guides on how to apply and measure 18 week rules locally.

An 18 weeks intensive support team has been established to assist local health communities deliver the 18-week target by the end of December 2008. Copies of a step by step guide has been placed in the Library. Comprehensive information and resources on the support available to the NHS is available on a dedicated website,

http://www.18weeks.nhs.uk/

It is the responsibility of PCTs working with the strategic health authority to ensure they have sufficient staff to deliver the 18-weeks target at a local level.

Injuries

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been hospitalised following injuries caused by *(a)* seagulls, *(b)* pigeons, *(c)* rats and *(d)* other pests in each of the last five years. [220169]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished admission episodes (FAE) for those bitten by a rat in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

	Admission episodes[1]
2006-07	27
2005-06	18
2004-05	23
2003-04	21
2002-03	21

[1] FAE: A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.

Notes:

1. Assignment of Episodes to Years
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause Code—Rat Bites*
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
*Rat Bites: W5—Bitten by rat
3. Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be counted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
5. Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Learning Disability

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people with learning disabilities; what assessment he has made of the age distribution of such people; and what estimate he has made of likely equivalent figures for *(a)* 2018 and *(b)* 2028; [214301]

(2) what research the Government have commissioned on the long-term care needs of people with learning disabilities. [214302]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics (LSE) to undertake an initial study of the projected future trends in numbers of people with learning disabilities aged 18 to 65, and possible changes to their support arrangements. This is due for completion at the end of July this year and the LSE research team is in discussion with other experts in the field about ways in which a more extensive study could be made of the number, characteristics and needs of this population group. Should this more extensive project be undertaken, it would provide better intelligence of the current and future age profile of the population.

Mental Health Services: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to introduce a compulsory kitemark system of accreditation for all in-patient psychiatric wards. [216232]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are many different ways of achieving service improvement and achieving better service user outcomes in acute care without the need for mandatory accreditation. One example is 'star wards', a service user led initiative which focuses on improving service user experience and engagement when admitted, has been very successful in getting staff and service user ownership and action in improving service user experience in inpatient psychiatric wards.

The Government are also awaiting the results and recommendations of the Healthcare Commission's acute inpatient review, whose national report is due for publication in the summer. The review drew out four key themes: examining whether services had effective care pathways in place regarding admissions and discharges; provided individualised care which promoted recovery and inclusion; had service user and carer involvement in care planning, operational and strategic planning; and had systems, processes and facilities in place to ensure the safety of service users, visitors and staff.

Muscular Dystrophy: Children

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* nationally in each of the last five years. [220153]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of children diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy is not collected centrally.

NHS Treatment Centres: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W, on NHS treatment centres: Christchurch, when he expects the former NHS health centre in Saxon Square, Christchurch, to be brought back into use; and how much he expects to be paid in empty property rates before that date. [220808]

Ann Keen: The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust has now decided it does not wish to bring the property back into use. Options for the early disposal of the Secretary of State's interest in the property are now being explored. The empty property rates payable in 2008-09 amount to £24,024.

NHS: Equality

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that lesbian, gay and bisexual people are not discriminated against in the delivery of NHS services; [216588]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that lesbian, gay and bisexual people employed by the NHS are not discriminated against. [216589]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to eliminating discrimination and promoting equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people working in or accessing services in health and social care.

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (2003) outlawing discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of sexual orientation came into force in December 2003 and any staff who consider they have been discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation now have legal recourse. In the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (2007) the Government outlawed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the provision of goods and services. This means that the national health service is legally prohibited from discriminating. We also intend to broaden the duty on public sector organisations to promote equality and eliminate discrimination to cover sexual orientation in the forthcoming Equality Bill.

While it is for individual organisations in the NHS to ensure that they meet legal and ethical requirements towards those employed by them or using their services, the Department has an important role in supporting them and disseminating knowledge in this area. The Department is encouraging NHS organisations to move towards a single equality approach, and will this summer publish guidance on sexual orientation as a strand within their single equality schemes.

The Department has worked with its external stakeholder committee, the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group (SOGIAG), to produce a number of resources and guidance documents on employment, healthcare and sexual orientation. The Department has also sponsored a number of conferences on issues affecting LGB people in healthcare.

We are in the process of refreshing SOGIAG with a new appointments process for members. From September we will be taking forward a new programme of policy work to reduce health inequalities for LGB people.

The Department also assesses all new policies for their impact on people with different sexual orientations as part of its equality impact assessment process.

NHS: Information

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the *(a)* current and *(b)* planned initiatives announced by the NHS Information Centre in its presentation to the Inaugural Supplier Forum of 7 November 2007 with regard to (i) the NHS Operating Framework, (ii) NHS comparators, (iii) practice-level prescribing data, (iv) compendium of health outcome indicators, (v) GP data extraction service, (vi) electronic staff record, (vii) financial indicators, (viii) mental health minimum dataset and (ix) social care; what new information he anticipates the NHS Information Centre making available to (A) the NHS, (B) other care providers and (C) the public as a result of each of these initiatives; with which stakeholders has the Information Centre consulted in its development of these initiatives; and if he will make a statement. [195210]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) aims to be the recognised source of relevant information to improve decision making in health and social care. This includes information to support activities and initiatives set out in the 'National Health Service Operating Framework', particularly around ensuring the secondary user service (SUS) becomes the standard repository for activity for performance management, reconciliation and payment by April 2009.

NHS comparators service has been developed with NHS Connecting for Health to provide a facility for NHS registered users to compare general practitioner (GP) practice-level data on hospital admissions and the quality and outcomes framework. We have expanded the range of information. Currently there are over 4,000 users registering over 80 per cent. satisfaction with the service.

The IC has produced a prescribing data consultation document entitled 'Wider release of NHS prescribing data' (copies of this publication have been placed in the Library) which includes a feedback form and the closing date for returns is 8 August. The consultation results will then be published and any subsequent initiatives will depend on the results.

The compendium of health outcomes service has been re-procured and provides web-based information. This service will be developed to support the needs and requirements of users, particularly those involved in commissioning care.

The IC in collaboration with NHS Connecting for Health is preparing to procure a GP data extraction service (GPES). Following strict governance guidelines, GPES will co-ordinate approved data extractions from GP computer systems nationwide and provide high-quality analyses. The results will support the development of national and local policies for future patient led services. It is currently consulting with stakeholders prior to a procurement exercise.

The IC has also developed, with the Department, a number of work force financial indicators to support the comparative use of electronic staff record information. This is a web-based application which has been piloted by organisations within NHS across the Yorkshire and Humberside areas and is now being rolled out nationally.

There have been significant problems in enabling mental health minimum dataset data to flow into SUS. These problems have meant that the publication planned for April 2008 has been delayed and no data have yet been received or processed. SUS functionality is being developed for implementation later this year to enable

data to be available via SUS in 2009. An interim, alternative solution is currently being tested for receipt of annual data only but we are not yet able to confirm the timetable for delivery of the data.

The provision of new social care data will shortly commence a formal, three-month consultation, in line with national statistics requirements, in connection with a substantive review of current social care collections and publications.

NHS: Managers

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's accounting guidelines are on the declaration of the pay received during the tenure of acting chief executives of NHS trusts who were recruited through employment agencies. [219959]

Ann Keen: Sir Nigel Crisp, then chief executive of the national health service, wrote to chairs of NHS organisations on 27 March 2003 asking them to strongly encourage all senior staff to give their consent for information about their remuneration to be included in the accounts. This letter made clear the Department's view that people paid from the public purse should expect to be completely open about how much they are paid. This message was reiterated in a further letter to chairs, on 19 June 2003, which asked them to monitor progress on the disclosure of this information.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions since 2001 the breach of a contract between NHS organisation and a private sector provider of clinical services has been referred to the courts; and if he will make a statement. [218200]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations are legally distinct entities and the Department would not, as a matter of course, be involved in contractual disputes between them and private sector companies. The Department therefore does not collect information centrally on contractual disputes that are referred to the courts.

With regard to centrally procured contracts by the Department for clinical services under the Independent Sector Treatment Centre Programme, no breach of contract has been referred to the courts.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Ministerial responsibilities are of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, Lord Darzi, following publication of the NHS Next Stage Review final report. [219359]

Alan Johnson: Lord Darzi's ministerial portfolio covers the NHS Next Stage Review. He is currently looking at implementation plans.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what EU healthcare benchmarks he takes into account when assessing the National Health Service as a provider of health care. [220680]

Dawn Primarolo: No European Union benchmarks are used when performance assessing the national health service. As set out in "High Quality Care For All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report" (copies of which are already available in the Library), we believe it is important for patients, staff and the public to be able to understand how we perform compared to other healthcare systems. To do this we plan to work with other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries and with the best academic institutions in the world to agree some internationally comparable measures.

Obesity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plans to take to address health-related problems due to obesity. [220625]

Dawn Primarolo: In the six months since the £372 million "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England" was published there has been substantial progress. The forthcoming progress newsletter "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: six months on", will be published on 23 July 2008.

The newsletter highlights the steps forward for the next six months across all five themes of the strategy: children, healthy growth and weight; promoting healthier food choices; building physical activity into our lives; creating incentives for better health; and personalised advice and support for all.

Occupational Therapy: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully qualified occupational therapists have been employed by the NHS in each year since 2002. [220631]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified occupational therapists employed by the national health service in England in each year since 2002 as recorded in the National Workforce Census is shown in the following table:

Qualified occupational therapists employed in NHS in England as at 30 September each year

	Headcount	*FTE*
2002	14,749	12,541
2003	15,391	13,053
2004	16,371	13,879
2005	16,743	14,099
2006[1]	16,845	14,292
2007	17,024	14,439

[1]More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census.
(These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.)
The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent has been minimal with the removal of 507.
Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

Osteoporosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in including monitoring for osteoporosis within the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [218354]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State announced on 5 May that the Government are consulting the British Medical Association on proposals to invest an extra £100 million on improving clinical services and access for patients. The Government propose to invest an extra £50 million in enhanced clinical services, which would include improving the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis according to the best practice guidelines set out by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The amount of investment in each area is subject to consultation with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association.

We expect the content of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2009-10 to be, as usual, a matter for consultation between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association, informed by the independent expert panel.

Physiotherapy: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully qualified physiotherapists have been employed by the NHS in each year since 2002. [220629]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified physiotherapists employed by the national health service in England in each year since 2002 as recorded in the National Workforce Census is shown in the following table:

Hospital and community health services: Qualified physiotherapists employed in the NHS in England as at 30 September each year

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalents*
2002	16,885	13,586
2003	17,922	14,455
2004	19,139	15,564
2005	19,997	16,291
2006[1]	19,820	16,334
2007	20,146	16,752

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. (These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.)
The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent has been minimal with the removal of 507.
Source:
Information Centre Non-medical Workforce Census

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to begin his consultation on prescription charges and exemptions; and whether that consultation will include the question of whether asthma should be added to the list of health conditions exempt from prescription charges. [219973]

Dawn Primarolo: We will publish our planned consultation on cost neutral changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions in England later this year. This will include proposals to change the current medical exemptions.

Speech Therapy: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully qualified speech therapists have been employed by the NHS in each year since 2002. [220630]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified speech and language therapists employed by the national health service in England in each year since 2002 as recorded in the National Workforce Census is shown in the following table:

NHS qualified speech and language therapists as at September each year (England)

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalents*
2005	6,759	5,062
2006[1]	6,623	5,149
2007	6,742	5,299
2002	5,960	4,365
2003	6,243	4,707
2004	6,556	4,973

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. (These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.) The impact of duplicates on full-time equivalent has been minimal with the removal of 507.
Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Surrey Primary Care Trust

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the membership of Surrey primary care trust's exceptional cases panel is; [219218]

(2) what criteria are used by Surrey primary care trust's exceptional cases panel to assess requests for exceptional funding; [219219]

(3) whether the exceptional cases panel of Surrey primary care trust accepts requests for funding exceptional cases from *(a)* patients and *(b)* clinicians. [219220]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services on behalf of their populations and to make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all relevant circumstances. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise these issues with the chief executive of Surrey PCT.

The draft national health service constitution (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) makes clear the patient's right to expect local decisions on funding for drugs for which National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance is not available to be made rationally following proper consideration of the evidence. To underpin this, the Government will require PCTs to put in place clear and transparent arrangements both for local decision-making on funding of new drugs and for considering exceptional funding requests, and to publish information on those arrangements. Where the local NHS decides not to fund a treatment, the patient and clinician can expect an explanation.

Transsexuality

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of *(a)* transgender procedures and *(b)* gender reassignment; and what direction he gives to NHS trusts on the matter. [214753]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not issue directions to primary care trusts (PCTs) on this matter. It is for PCTs to decide on the circumstances in which they will provide gender reassignment procedures, taking into account a patient's individual clinical needs and the resources they have available to provide health care for their wider population.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of a complete gender reassignment is; and if he will make a statement. [214754]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not able to provide the information requested, as cost data relating to these specific procedures are not centrally collected.

DEFENCE

Iraq

12. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Iraq. [219818]

Des Browne: The security situation in Iraq has improved significantly since mid-2007 and, overall, acts of violence have reduced to levels last experienced in 2004. The transfer on 16 July of security responsibility for Qadisiyah province to Provincial Iraqi Control demonstrates the continuing improvement in security across the country.

In southern Iraq, UK and coalition forces continue to support the Iraqi Security Forces as they consolidate the significant progress in security brought about by the operations launched in Basra in March.

19. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on troop numbers in Iraq. [219825]

Des Browne: UK force levels in southern Iraq remain at around 4,000, operating in support of the Iraqi Security Forces in Basra. Our military commanders continue to assess the changing situation on the ground and it remains our clear intention to reduce troop numbers as and when conditions allow.

The Prime Minister will make a further statement tomorrow, setting out our plans in Iraq.

24. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for drawing down British forces in Iraq in 2008. [219830]

Des Browne: We assess that current troop levels in southern Iraq are appropriate to deliver our key military tasks, in particular completing the training and mentoring of the 14th Division of the Iraqi Army.

Our military commanders continue to appraise the changing situation on the ground and it remains our clear intention to reduce troop numbers as and when conditions allow.

The Prime Minister will make a further statement tomorrow, setting out our plans in Iraq.

Service Personnel: Benefits

13. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on arrangements for the payment of benefits for service personnel. [219819]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been regular discussions between MOD and Department for Work and Pensions Ministers on these matters.

Indeed, last Thursday's White Paper "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to Our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans" delivered a series of improvements to the way in which benefits are administered for our service community. This followed a period of significant departmental collaboration.

Service Personnel: Accommodation

14. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the standard of accommodation provided for armed forces personnel. [219820]

Derek Twigg: It is a top priority that service personnel have the high quality accommodation they deserve.

We plan to spend in excess of £8 billion on accommodation over the next 10 years.

Since 2001, some 13,000 Service Family Accommodation properties have been upgraded to the top standard and 26,000 new or improved Single Living Accommodation bed-spaces have been delivered.

Defence Maritime Strategy

15. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to implement the defence maritime strategy. [219821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We continue to make good progress in implementing the maritime element of the Defence Industrial Strategy.

The formation of BVT Surface Fleet on 1 July, which brings together the shipyards at Portsmouth and on the Clyde under one management, and the signature of the contract to build the two Future Aircraft Carriers is a clear demonstration of this progress.

The construction of the Carriers is a substantial boost to British industry and is expected to create or sustain 10,000 jobs across the UK at peak production, with around 1,000 jobs at each of the main shipyards. Along with the six T45 Destroyers, the Carriers will ensure a steady drumbeat of work in a shipyard for years to come.

Helicopters

16. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the provision of helicopters for operational service in Afghanistan. [219822]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) and for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous).

23. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will increase the number of helicopters available for the use of UK troops in Afghanistan. [219829]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) and for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous).

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many future medium helicopters his Department plans to order; and when they are due to enter service. [220249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Future Medium Helicopter project is currently in its concept phase. As with all Defence projects, it is not until Main Gate approval has been obtained that decisions such as final aircraft numbers and in-service dates are confirmed. It is therefore too early to determine the number of aircraft which will be procured or when they will come into service.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to extend the operational service life of the Puma HC1 helicopters beyond 2012-13. [220250]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An assessment phase contract was awarded in 2007 to Eurocopter to examine the scope to extend the service life of the Puma HC1. A decision on whether to extend the service life of the Puma beyond 2012 will not be taken until the Main Gate approval for this project.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue helicopters his Department plans to order in the next 10 years. [220251]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are jointly undertaking the Search and Rescue Helicopter programme, which will deliver the future UK capability. This programme is currently in its assessment phase. As with all Defence projects, it is not until Main Gate approval has been obtained that details of the future service such as final aircraft numbers can be confirmed.

Veterans

18. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on the regional pilots to improve mental health care for veterans. [219824]

Derek Twigg: NHS-led pilots are running at four sites offering a best practice, culturally sensitive, veterans' mental health service; another two will begin shortly. The service offers wider support of public and charitable providers and is being linked to the Government's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. A current focus is raising awareness among local health professionals and potential clients. An evaluation team has been appointed with the aim that, in due course, best practice should be rolled out across the UK.

Afghanistan

20. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [219826]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan is stable if fragile in places—particularly in the south and east of the country.

We need to be clear that Afghanistan is not a safe environment for those seeking to bring it the opportunities and development that it so desperately needs. If it was we would not need the armed forces there to create the security space required for reconstruction and development.

However, we should also be clear that, notwithstanding a number of tragic incidents in the past few weeks, and in the context of a difficult campaign, our military commanders assess that the underlying security dynamics in Afghanistan are slowly improving. In particular Helmand province is a considerably more secure and stable province than it was a year ago.

Regardless of the difficulties ahead—and there will be difficulties—I confidently expect that we will continue to make progress in our vital mission in Afghanistan with both the security and non-security lines of operation of our mission there.

Combined Cadet Force

22. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department gives to the combined cadet force to increase its membership. [219828]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is committed to the role that all Cadet forces play in society offering as they do a vast range of personal development and educational opportunities for young people. We support the combined Cadet forces alone with over £11 million of funding each year. The current pilot scheme for the expansion of the CCF, involving six schools, is well under way, and we are working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families in order to build on this success in the future.

Royal Army Medical Corps

25. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pinch-points he has identified within the Royal Army Medical Corps. [219831]

Derek Twigg: There are a number of pinch points within the Royal Army Medical Corps. These range from emergency medicine nurses to anaesthetists.

We are taking active steps to address the shortfalls, through a range of initiatives:

pay is reviewed by the Independent Armed Forces Review Body;

"Golden Hellos" are paid to direct entrants to specialist areas where there is greatest shortfall;

financial retention initiatives are paid to nurses in operational pinch-point specialties;

personnel are encouraged to train and remain in operational pinch-point specialties;

medical deployments are managed on a tri-service basis; and

reserves and civilian agency contractors are used where appropriate.

IT Systems

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the ATLAS consortium in delivering the contract to network the IT systems of his Department and the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [219823]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The performance of the ATLAS Consortium in delivering the Defence Information Infrastructure is continually assessed via the programme's comprehensive governance structure; general ATLAS performance is currently deemed satisfactory. Robust commercial arrangements ensure that payments to the ATLAS consortium reflect its performance and when appropriate, payment has been withheld. The Ministry of Defence and ATLAS have already made considerable progress, delivering accounts for over 100,000 users at over 500 Defence sites.

Departmental Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total cost overrun on projects sponsored by his Department which are under construction. [219827]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current estimate of the total cost overrun on major equipment projects is £3,036 million. We have taken major equipment projects to be all those with a procurement value greater than £20 million that have passed their main investment decision point but yet to reach their In-Service Dates.

Armed Forces: Accidents

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injuries to personnel have been sustained in transit as a result of *(a)* collisions and *(b)* other accidents in Snatch Landrovers since 2003. [218442]

Des Browne: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department has allocated to the *(a)* army cadet force, *(b)* air training corps and *(c)* sea cadet corps for 2009-10. [217506]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has planned for the following financial contributions to the Cadet Forces for the period 2009-10:

	£
Sea Cadet Corps	8,558,000
Army Cadet Force	43,262,000
Air Training Corps	32,314,000

Note:
These figures are based on either bids for funding (Sea Cadet Corps and Army Cadet Force) or the likely bid (Air Training Corps) and therefore cannot yet be confirmed as allocated funding.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations at each location. [219999]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of UK Service personnel deployed on operations by location at 6 July 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	14,910
of which:	
Afghanistan[2]	7,700
Iraq[2]	4,300
At sea	1,170
Kosovo	440
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Oman	280
Kuwait	200
Bahrain	70
Yemen	20
Bosnia	10
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* opticians, *(b)* ophthalmists and *(c)* other eye specialists there are among defence medical personnel. [218453]

Derek Twigg: There is a tri-Service requirement for ophthalmic surgeons which is currently met by one Royal Navy, four Army and two RAF officers.

Armed Forces: Fuels

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the increase in his Department's expenditure on fuel costs in the last 12 months has arisen as a result of *(a)* an increase in unit costs and *(b)* an increase in the volume of fuel purchased. [220103]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to determine precisely the proportion of the increase in the Department's expenditure on fuel[1] costs attributable to either volume or price. Over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, however, fuel volumes consumed in Defence are estimated to have risen by around 5 per cent. Over the same period, the Department's expenditure on fuel rose by around 25 per cent., suggesting that price was the overwhelming factor in the increase in costs.

[1] Defined as petroleum-based liquid fuels meeting internationally recognised specifications that are used to power ships and vehicles.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's estimate is of the number of television sets installed in *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation in the UK. [220660]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil actions have been brought against his Department relating to illnesses and injuries sustained *(a)* on operations abroad and *(b)* whilst serving in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the cost to the Department in each year was. [220081]

Derek Twigg: Claims are not recorded on the Department's claims database in a format that differentiates between illnesses and injuries sustained on operations abroad and while serving in the UK. However, the number of civil claims for personal injury brought against my Department by members of HM forces since 1997-98 is set out as follows. Financial data regarding the cost to my Department in terms of compensation and associated legal costs relating to this category of claimant are also set out as follows. A figure for 1997-98 is however unavailable due to the way such financial data were recorded at that time.

	Service personnel personal injury claims	*Compensation and associated legal costs (£ million)*
2007-08	603	32.7
2006-07	550	32.9
2005-06	640	26.3
2004-05	667	22.7
2003-04	604	25
2002-03	666	40
2001-02	819	32.3
2000-01	924	36.6
1999-00	752	31
1998-99	735	26.7
1997-98	730	—

Armed Forces: Internet

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department made towards the target for the provision of wireless internet facilities for the Armed Forces by Easter 2008. [206925]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The introduction of the first wireless internet facility commenced in Camp Bastion on 15 May 2008. We currently anticipate that the roll out of WiFi facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan will be complete by the end of 2008.

When the wireless project is completed, we expect that the ratio of internet connections to personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan will have improved from an average of one terminal to 50 personnel to an average of one terminal to 10 personnel where WiFi is available, a 400 per cent. increase.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate *(a)* the number and *(b)* the proportion of the population which has served at any time in the armed forces. [217326]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD does not hold a figure for the total number of living ex-service personnel. Against the 2005 Royal British Legion estimate, we judge there to be some 4.5 million veterans. This would amount to approximately 7.5 per cent. of the UK population.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether it is fully equipped; whether the present SLE is deployed; when the future SLE will take over from the present SLE; and what unit will form the next SLE. [220000]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland form the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is fully equipped in accordance with the Joint Rapid Reaction Force directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, who will assume this role from 25 July 2008.

Armed Forces: Olympic Games

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces will be competing in the forthcoming Olympic games in China. [220295]

Derek Twigg: Three members of HM forces are due to compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympic games. Two are competing from the Royal Navy, Lieutenant Peter Reed RN in the coxless fours and Lieutenant Commander Penny Clark RN in the dinghy sailing laser radial. Captain Alastair Heathcote from the Army will be in the rowing eights. All are competing for Great Britain.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of unclaimed armed forces' preserved pensions; and what steps he has taken to reconcile armed forces' preserved pensions with their beneficiaries. [220639]

Derek Twigg: Details of the number, and value of unclaimed preserved pensions are not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There is no legislative requirement for the administrators of the armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) to trace individuals who have not claimed their preserved benefits.

Personnel leaving the armed forces today receive information that clearly explains that it is their personal responsibility to claim their preserved pension at the appropriate time and provide information on how to do so. In addition, the veterans UK website contains helpful information and the issue is publicised at various MOD sponsored veteran's events held regularly throughout the UK. Furthermore, because this is a common situation across pension schemes the Department of Work and Pensions provides a free tracing service to members of pension schemes who have lost contact with earlier employers; the AFPS is registered with this service.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual complement is of each medical personnel type in each branch of the armed forces of the Defence Medical Services; [182331]

(2) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* current strength of Defence Medical Services is, broken down by (i) service and (ii) trade. [216245]

Derek Twigg: Manning data are as of October 2007 as this is the most accurate available.

The following table summarises the required manning level of the Defence Medical Services of the Armed Forces, including the requirement for a manning and training margin (MTM) and the actual number of personnel, including those in training.

	Requirement	*MTM*[1]	*Personnel -trained strength*	*Personnel in training*[2]	*Personnel total*
Royal Navy	1311	218	1378	271	1649
Army	4516	287	3783	561	4344
Royal Air Force	1748	171	1574	63	1637
Tri-service	7575	676	6735	895	7630

[1] The Manning and Training Margin (MTM) relates to personnel who are undertaking career directed professional training and those who are non-effective, for example while on terminal leave or long-term sick leave.
[2] Personnel in training does not include personnel who are already trained in a medical speciality and who are in career directed professional training.
Source:
Manning Return, October 2007

Tables which provide the figures for each medical speciality and show the requirement and the number of trained personnel (but not personnel in training) in each medical and dental personnel division of the armed forces as at October 2007, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219602]

Derek Twigg: The policy, rules and guidance on the provision of official entertainment are set out in Chapter 45 of Joint Services Publication 462 (Financial Management Policy Manual), copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The appropriate budget manager has the responsibility to verify compliance within the rules.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of residential properties owned by his Department are vacant, broken down by county. [216342]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2007-08; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [213304]

Derek Twigg: The number and value of annual appraisal-related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds and agencies), in 2007-08, are listed in tables 1 to 3 as follows. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table 4. The final table (5) shows the total value of all bonuses paid in cash terms; it is not possible at this time to give the percentage of the work force to which this refers and this will be advised at the end of July.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	186
Value of bonuses paid (£)	1,325,700
Highest bonus payment (£)	17,600

Table 2: Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	[1]16
Value of bonuses paid (£)	333,915
Highest bonus payment (£)	50,000

[1] There is one outstanding bonus payment still to be agreed.

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS (excluding MOD trading fund agencies

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	52,193
Value of bonuses paid (£)	39,695,110
Highest bonus payment (£)	4,695

Table 4: Special bonuses (excluding MOD trading fund agencies)

	2007-08
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	8,428
Value of bonuses paid (£)	3,455,124
Highest bonus payment (£)	2,000

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

Total	2007-08
Value of all bonuses paid (£)	44,589,288
Percentage of total civilian work force	[1]

[1] Staff numbers taken from departmental end year accounts not yet available.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what bonus was awarded to his Department's permanent under secretary in each year since 1997. [218516]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 July 2008]*: Although the Government, with the agreement of those concerned, may in exceptional cases decide to publish personal information about individual public servants, the general policy is to treat such information, including about variable pay, as private.

Decisions on pay and reward for permanent secretaries are considered annually by the Permanent Secretaries' Remuneration Committee and are subject to the rules and regulations governed by the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and the Cabinet Office. Since 1 April 2002, non-consolidated variable pay awards paid to permanent secretaries have fallen within the SSRB recommended ceilings imposed on the rest of senior civil service (SCS). Bonuses for performance during 2002-03 were paid in financial year 2003-04 and continue to follow that pattern as shown in the following table.

Performance year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Percentage 2006-07
Paid in financial year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
SSRB average SCS bonus ceiling[1]	3.8	4	5	6.5	7.6
Permanent secretaries range[2]	2.8 to 11.9	4.4 to 10.5	4 to 11.4	2.5 to 9.9	3.3 to 13.3

[1] Shown as a percentage of the overall SCS pay bill.
[2] Shown as a percentage of individual base pay.

Note:
Bonus awards for permanent secretaries for the year up to 31 March 2008 will be within this year's 8.6 per cent. overall ceiling for bonuses.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure his Department has incurred on the *(a)* Long Service Advance of Pay, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market Homebuy, *(d)* English Partnerships First Time Buyers Initiative and *(e)* Shared Equity services schemes in each year since 2006. [220669]

Derek Twigg: MOD's (gross) expenditure per calendar year on Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) was around £24 million in 2006, £22 million in 2007.

The Department has incurred no expenditure on New Build HomeBuy, Open Market Homebuy, and English Partnerships First Time Buyers Initiative. These are a matter for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Shared Equity Services is a commercial company providing arrangements for service personnel.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218065]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows total MOD expenditure on research activity in each of the last 10 financial years for which complete data are available. Figures are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT, expressed at current prices, and presented in £ million. Because of transitional arrangements with the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting, the figures are expressed as a percentage of the MOD net cash requirement from 2001-02 in order to provide a broad comparison over the period. Before this point, MOD reported its expenditure on a cash accounting basis.

£ millions

	MOD departmental net research Expenditure	Percentage of aggregate MOD expenditure
1996-97	672	3.0
1997-98	564	2.7
1998-99	560	2.5
1999-00	552	2.4
2000-01	566	2.4
2001-02	557	2.2
2002-03	515	1.9
2003-04	524	1.8
2004-05	639	2.2

£ millions

	MOD departmental net research Expenditure	Percentage of aggregate MOD expenditure
2005-06	598	2.0

Source:
UK Defence Statistics

The net cash requirement (NCR) is the actual money that MOD requests from the Government in order to fund its activities. The NCR takes account of movements in working capital levels (debtors, creditors, stock) while excluding all non-cash costs (e.g. depreciation and cost of capital charges etc.) The term "Department" has been interpreted as the MOD not including its trading fund agencies (i.e. ABRO, DARA, Met Office, DSTL and Hydrographic Office). This aligns with the MOD annual report and accounts.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216696]

Derek Twigg: Sickness absence rates in the MOD for the 12 months ending 31 December 2005, 31 December 2006, 31 December 2007 and 31 March 2008 are shown in the following table.

Sickness absence rates by year ending

FTE rates

	Industrial	Non-industrial	Total
31 March 2008	11.54	8.01	8.66
31 December 2007	11.85	8.22	8.90
31 December 2006	12.11	8.04	8.82
31 December 2005	12.54	8.55	9.30

Notes:
1. Data exclude staff in trading funds, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data are not readily available.
2. Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person, and excludes data for weekends, annual leave and bank holidays.
3. Rates are calculated by dividing the total working days lost for each period by a weighted 13 month average for the period listed with the first and last month receiving a weighting of 0.5, and all other months a weighting of 1.

Information prior to the 12 months ending 31 December 2005 is compiled on a previous definition for monitoring sickness absence which is incomparable with figures for 1 January to 31 December 2005 onwards.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212486]

Derek Twigg: The MOD currently recognises the following trade unions and staff associations which represent staff in a wide range of grades, trades and professions:

Non-Industrial Trade Unions

FDA

Prospect

PCS (Public and Commercial Services Union)

Industrial Trades Unions

Unite (Amicus Section)

Unite (Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) Section)

GMB (General and Municipal Boilermakers)

UCATT (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians)

Staff Associations

CPOA (Chief Police Officers Association)

DPF (Defence Police Federation)

ROA (Retired Officers Association)

Maritime Trade Unions

Nautilus UK

RMT (National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers)

Medical Grades and Civilian Practitioners

BMA (British Medical Association)

Teaching Grades

ATL (The Association of Teachers and Lecturers)

NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers)

NASUWT (The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers)

NUT (National Union of Teachers)

ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders (Formerly Secondary Heads of Association (SHA))

Locally Engaged Civilians Overseas

Germany

Ver.di (Vereinigte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft)

Gibraltar

Unite (TGWU Section)

Unite (TGWU Section)-ACTSS (Association of Clerical Technical and Supervisory Staff)

Prospect-GGCA (Gibraltar General and Clerical Association)

Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association

Cyprus

SEK (Federation of Government, Military and Civil Service Workers)

PEO (Pan Cyprian Federation of Labour—Government/Military and Social Institute Servants)

PASYDY (Pancyprian Public Servants' Trade Union)

TURKSAE (Cyprus Turkish Military Employee Trade Union)

SBA (Sovereign Bases Abroad) Police Association

Hydrographic Meteorological and Oceanographic Training Group

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Naval personnel and *(b)* civilian staff are employed by the Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic Training Group. [219460]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic (HM) Training Group came under the Flag Officer Sea Training (South) command in April 2008 and at this time was renamed FOST HM. It currently employs 21 Royal Navy personnel and no civil servants.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Snatch Landrovers have been blown up in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003; and what the date of each incident was. [218443]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218050]

Derek Twigg: 11,873 working days were lost as a result of strike action in the MOD, its agencies and non-departmental bodies; in the period 1997 to 2008, broken down as follows:

	Days
1997	Nil
1998	Nil
1999	Nil
2000	771
2001	16
2002	267
2003	Nil
2004	2,664
2005	Nil
2006	Nil
2007	8,155

Industrial action short of a strike is not recorded in terms of working days lost.

The MOD is committed to working in partnership with its trade unions and makes every effort to avert industrial action of any kind.

Military Bases

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many break-ins were reported at UK military facilities in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [206223]

Derek Twigg: The numbers of break-ins reported to the Ministry of Defence police at UK military facilities in each of the last 10 years are shown in the following table.

For the purpose of this answer we have defined break-ins at UK military facilities as all reported instances of burglary and trespassing at MOD establishments.

	Burglaries	*Trespass*
1999	76	101
2000	182	69
2001	117	104
2002	130	103
2003	123	132
2004	113	56
2005	74	80
2006	137	67
2007	90	136
2008	[1]43	[2]40
Total	1,085	888

[1] Up to 15 May 2008.
[2] Up to 12 June 2008.

Navy, Army and Air Force Institute

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit of Navy, Army and Air Force Institute, Germany was in each year since 2005; [220670]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent Navy, Army and Air Force Institute annual report and accounts. [220671]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Navy Army and Airforce Institute is a separate legal entity to MOD, and a company limited by guarantee. Details of its annual accounts including turnover and profit can be obtained on request from Companies House in the usual way.

Trident: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of civilian jobs in Scotland dependent on the Trident programme; what the locations are of those jobs; and how many there are at each site. [219728]

Des Browne: The latest available figure for civilian jobs that directly rely upon the Trident programme in Scotland is 859, as at December 2006. It was estimated at that point that there were a further 250 indirect civilian jobs based on employment relating to support activities to the Trident programme.

The 859 direct jobs are broken down by location as follows:

Location	*Number*
HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane)	48
Royal Navy Armament Depot Coulport	541
Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment	270
Total	859

WORK AND PENSIONS

Backdated Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made (1) of the effect on levels of *(a)* child poverty and *(b)* pensioner poverty of the Department's proposals to reduce the backdating period for council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement; [219203]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of its proposals to reduce the backdating period for housing benefit on levels of *(a)* homelessness, *(b)* child poverty and *(c)* pensioner poverty; and if he will make a statement. [219269]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2173-74W.

Carers' Allowances: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received carer's allowance in Darlington constituency in each of the last five years. [219622]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of carer's allowance in Darlington parliamentary constituency

November each year	*Number*
2007	790
2006	820
2005	780
2004	790
2003	790

Notes:
1. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
2. This information is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/ca/tabtool_ca.html
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Children: Maintenance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the hon. Member for West Lancashire's constituent Miss Lorraine Preston's claim for child maintenance payments will be resolved by the Child Support Agency. [216314]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 July 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the hon. Member for West Lancashire's constituent Miss Lorraine Preston's claim for child maintenance payments will be resolved by the Child Support Agency. [216314]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214660]

Mrs. McGuire: The majority of the DWP estate has been sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Land Securities Trillium under a Private Finance Initiative contract known as PRIME which runs until 2018.

The proceeds were released to HM Treasury in April 1998 for the original Department for Social Security estate and further in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the former Employment Services estate. DWP holds no valuable leases or freeholds following the letting of the PRIME Contract and its subsequent expansion.

Consequently we do not hold any information for these buildings as lease responsibilities lie with Land Securities Trillium.

For the other DWP agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) the position is outlined as follows.

The Rent Service

The following buildings are occupied where a lease becomes renewable in the next four years.

Building name	*Location*	*Tenure*	*Lease break*
Hawthorn House (1st Floor), Emperor Way	Exeter	Lease	24 March 2009
5th Floor, Holland House Oxford Road	Bournemouth	Lease	1 October 2008
4 London Court, East Street	Reading	Lease	15 June 2009
St. Mary's House (1st Floor), Victoria Road	Chelmsford	Lease	28 September 2009
1st Floor, Adelphi House, 8 Turret Lane	Ipswich	Lease	28 September 2009
Tuition House (2nd Floor), St. George's Road	Wimbledon	Lease	2 November 2009
Spectrum Building (West Wing), Bond Street	Bristol	Lease	2 January 2010
5 Victoria Court, Kent Street	Nottingham	Lease	29 October 2010
Gd Floor, Unit E, Aviator Court, Clifton Moor 3rd Floor, Rouen House, Rouen Road.	York	Lease	9 January 2011
	Norwich	Lease	2 September 2011

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

There are 21 buildings where leases are to be renewed and the locations and dates are as follows.

Building name	*Location*	*Tenure*	*Lease break/end*
AW HSE	Luton	Lease	20 January 2011
Lakeside 500	Norwich	Lease	18 September 2011
Phoenix House	East Grinstead	Lease	18 March 2012
OCNS-Harwell	Oxfordshire	Lease	24 March 2011

Building name	Location	Tenure	Lease breaklend
Hagley Road	Birmingham	Lease	24 June 2012
Haswell House	Worcester	Lease	19 February 2009
Lyme Vale Court	Stoke	Lease	8 February 2011 8 February 2016
City Gate West	Nottingham	Lease	22 December 2008
Edison Court	Wrexham	Lease	12 August 2009
Darkgate Building	Carmarthen	Lease	31 December 2009
Ballard House	Plymouth	Lease	24 March 2011
Government Building	Llanishen	MOTO	31 March 2010
Grove House	Manchester	Lease	16 July 2012
Marshall House	Preston	Lease	27 August 2011
Daniel House	Bootle	Lease	16 October 2009
Cherry Lane Warehouse	Walton	Lease	11 December 2008
Marshalls Mill	Leeds	Lease	18 February 2011
Arden HSE, 5th Fl	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Lease	24 December 2010
Edgar Allen House	Sheffield	Assigned Lease	24 March 2011
West George Street	Glasgow	Lease	8 September 2008
Longman House	Inverness	MOTO	31 March 2009

NDPBs and Arm's Length Bodies

There are no leases that are due for renewal in the next four years.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217404]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007, information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

The information provided in the tables below reflects data recorded on that system for the number of staff *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* subject to disciplinary action since April 2007.

	Number
Employees dismissed 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	202
Employees dismissed 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008	55

	Number
Employees disciplined 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	1,114
Employees disciplined 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008	235

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211762]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not readily hold information about individual number of chairs, desks and other office furnishings purchased and could provide this only at disproportionate cost. Information on expenditure that is available is provided in the following table.

£ million

Financial year	Chairs	Desks	Other office furnishings	Total cost
2003-04	—	—	—	13
2004-05	—	—	—	4
2005-06	1.5	3.5	3	8
2006-07	2	5	4	11
2007-08	1	2	2	5

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [204762]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions, which was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service, has made a total of 659 statutory instruments since its formation.

Information on statutory instruments made before June 2001 and on statutory instruments revoked is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 732W, on departmental public participation, what the cost was of each project listed; and what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned as a result of the findings of each project. [213017]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the costs, in 2007-08, of the projects listed in the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 732W, and the steps taken or planned as a result of the findings of each project are provided in the following table.

Project	*Company*	*Steps taken/planned*	*2007-08 cost (£)*
Families and Children study	National Centre for Social Research	Findings are used to help monitor and feed into various government policy areas related to families and children and their income, employment, childcare, disability, health, child outcomes and activities and on child maintenance issues.	768,891
How do people think DWP should respond to the future	Ipsos MORI	The findings of the research have been disseminated to Ministers and officials and will help improve our understanding of the public's priorities for the Department and its policies. More specifically it helped inform the command paper: Ready for work, full employment in our generation published in December 2007.	127,597
Attitudes to state pensions	British Market Research Bureau	A number of omnibus questions which helped inform policy understanding of the state pension package	5,590
Living standards	National Centre for Social Research	Results were used to inform development of living standard questions on the Family Resources Survey	128,400
Living standards (methodological work)	National Centre for Social Research	Results were used to inform development of living standard questions on the Family Resources Survey	35,599
Community Care Grants	British Market Research Bureau	Findings were used to inform policy understanding of community Care Grants.	11,280
Claimants' experiences of changes in circumstances and the effect of recovering overpayments (Phases 2 and 3)	Social Policy Research Unit, University of York	Findings informed policy development to facilitate customer change of circumstance reporting.	145,400
NatCen Omnibus Survey—exploring attitudes to child poverty	National Centre for Social Research	The findings are being used to inform our child poverty strategy and are referenced in the March 2008 publication 'Ending child poverty: everybody's business'.	20,000
British Social Attitudes Survey	National Centre for Social Research	This survey covers a range of issues and findings help inform a range of policy issues.	95,000
NatCen Omnibus Survey—measuring PSA 17 (Later Life)	National Centre for Social Research	Results will be used to provide regular monitoring information to delivery board for later life PSA (17)	7,360
ONS Omnibus survey (disability module)	Office for National Statistics	Findings are used to conduct internal analysis to monitor departmental targets in relation to disability and equality.	143,836
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	National Centre for Social Research	Findings are used to provide evidence for a range of policy areas. For example, in the past ELSA data have been used to produce key evidence for the Pensions White Paper and to inform the Government's strategy on the wellbeing of older people.	[1]400,000
Individuals' attitudes and likely reactions to the personal account reforms, 2007	Ipsos MORI	Results have informed policy development in relation to the private pension reforms.	375,500
Reasons why individuals might remain in or opt out of the personal account scheme	Ipsos MORI	Findings have helped inform policy development in relation to the private pension reforms.	62,820
Employers' attitudes and likely reactions to the personal account reforms, 2007	British Market Research Bureau	Findings have helped inform policy development in relation to the private pension reforms	257,224
Understanding employers' responses to the personal account reforms	British Market Research Bureau	This research has helped inform policy development in relation to the private pension reforms.	73,240
Pensions Education Fund	IFF Research Ltd	The findings were fed into the review of the future of the Pension Education Fund, while detailed 'lessons learned' about engaging employers and delivering information are being collated from this evaluation, and other sources, over the two year programme period to inform future policy.	41,875
Information Needs at Retirement	RS Consulting Ltd	The findings have fed into a number of related policy areas: these include the policy options for the decumulation of the pension funds of personal account holders and stakeholders' work on annuity information products following on from HM Treasury's annuities Open Market Option Review.	71,215
Customer Purchase Outcome Survey	British Market Research Bureau	The findings have allowed us to gain a clearer understanding of pension holders' purchase intentions and actions and the sources and types of information they use to enable them to make purchase decisions.	[1]10,545
Trust and confidence in pensions and pension providers	British Market Research Bureau	The results were used to contribute to the development of communications strategies for respective target audiences.	10,975
Understanding why employees do not participate in employer pension schemes	Ipsos MORI	This research aimed to understand why employees do not participate in pension schemes where there is a 3% or more employer contribution.	22,230
At Retirement Monitor 2007	Marketing Sciences Ltd	DWP are part of a consortium contributing to this survey research. The work will contribute to and inform wider research in pension reform.	[1]14,100

Project	Company	Steps taken/planned	2007-08 cost (£)
Retirement Planning Monitor 2007	Marketing sciences Ltd	DWP are part of a consortium contributing to this survey research. The work will contribute to and inform wider research in pension reform.	[1]8,500
Cost of running pension schemes: A feasibility study	RS Consulting Ltd	This research was aimed at designing a questionnaire that could be used to gather information on the administrative costs of running pension schemes. As a result of this work we will be looking to commission a large scale quantitative survey to gather detailed information on scheme administration costs	82,360
Employers Pension Provision 2007	British Market Research Bureau	Results have helped inform policy development on pension reforms, including Personal Accounts.	261,430
Understanding responses to pension forecasts	Independent Social Research Ltd	The findings form part of the evidence base being considered in the continuous development of improved strategies for informing people of their state pension entitlement	48,958
Information needs of auto-enrolled individuals	British Market Research Bureau	This study identified the information requirements and possible channels and timings of information delivery to individuals in the run up to automatic enrolment into a personal account, or qualifying workplace pension, in 2012. Findings will feed into the Enabling Savings for Retirement information and communications strategy.	50,882
State Pension Deferral	British Market Research Bureau	Results will be used to inform policy understanding of state pension deferral.	94,085
Accrual of basic state pension	National Centre for Social Research	The findings will provide a better understanding of the characteristics and BSP accrual rates of those retiring from 2010 onwards.	108,350
Pension Service customer survey	British Market Research Bureau	The research is being used to inform operational improvements to the Pensions Disability and Carers Service.	257,799
Child Support and Relationship Breakdown survey	National Centre for Social Research	The results have been used among other things to inform the development of the information and support service offered by the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.	558,978
Child support policy telephone survey	British Market Research Bureau	Findings informed the design of the information and support services as part of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission and contributed to the Bill process which will enable the changes to the CSA to commence.	9,200
Public attitudes to key aspects of the welfare reform programme	Brahm	The results are used to contribute to the development of communications strategies for respective target audiences.	40,850
Attitudes to retirement	Ipsos MORI	The results were used to stimulate public debate with regards to retirement and pension saving.	4,480
Attitudes to pension saving	YouGov	The results were used to stimulate public debate with regards to retirement and pension saving.	1,550
NatCen Omnibus Survey (module 1)—examining attitudes to mental health and employment	National Centre for Social Research	Findings from this project, together with the findings from module 2 below, have been used to develop and inform the Department's agenda on mental health and employment.	60,000
NatCen Omnibus Survey (module 2) -examining attitudes to seeking psychological therapies for mental health conditions	National Centre for Social Research	Findings from this project; together with the findings from module 1 above, have been used to develop and inform the Department's agenda on mental health and employment.	60,000
Focus groups on assesing child support client information and support needs	CapGemini	Findings were used to identify channels, format and messages that non resident parents and parents with care require through the new information and support service which will be delivered by Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.	100,000

[1] DWP contribution (this survey is funded by several Government Departments)
[2] Contribution to FSA survey
[3] Contribution to survey

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215619]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of reviews of regulation that the Department and its agencies have undertaken in the last year is not held centrally. However, the Department for Work and Pensions constantly keeps its regulation under review across policy and operations. For example the Department has undertaken a thorough review of statutory sick pay and is taking forward reforms identified in the independent review of the private pensions regulatory framework.

The Health and Safety Executive has reviewed, for example, the Factories Act 1961; the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963; and the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations 1989. Work has also started to review the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996.

Departmental Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190279]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is contained in the following table:

	Holding replies		Substantive replies			
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Total named day questions answered	Total all written questions answered
2001	157	30.7	355	69.3	512	906
2002	522	53.1	461	46.9	983	2,273
2003	154	36.3	270	63.7	424	2,027
2004	153	24.3	476	75.7	629	2,890
2005	221	38.1	359	61.9	580	2,562
2006	340	50.8	329	49.2	669	3,887
2007	421	59.8	283	40.2	704	3,421
Total	1,968	43.7	2,533	56.3	4,501	17,966

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193393]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table:

Weeks since question received, as at 25 February 2008

	Question type		
	ordinary	named day	Total
Up to two weeks	120	17	137
Between 2 and 4 weeks	124	13	137
Between 4 and 6 weeks	42	4	46
Between 6 and 8 weeks	16	1	17
More than 8 weeks	30	5	35
Totals	332	40	372

Disability Discrimination Act 2005

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance on reasonable adjustments for people with mental health conditions he has issued to assist organisations in complying with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; [220215]

(2) what Government publications contain guidance on requirements for organisations in relation to compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [220506]

Mrs. McGuire: The primary source of guidance on duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, is the range of Codes of Practice and information published by the former Disability Rights Commission. The Codes of Practice may be purchased from the Stationery Office or may be downloaded free of charge, along with other guidance, from the website of the Equality and Human Rights Commission:

www.equalityhumanrights.com

In addition, the Government have published a range of guidance giving advice to employers, service providers, education providers and others with duties under the Disability Discrimination Act on how they can meet their obligations under the Act. However, there is no centrally held list of these publications and such a list could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

My Department has published general guidance for organisations on its website about reasonable adjustments that can be made for disabled people, including people with mental health conditions.

Disabled: Respite Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to paragraph 3.11 of the paper, Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children his Department plans to provide in each of the next two years. [219446]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* Funding for breaks for carers referred to in paragraph 3.11 of Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

We have allocated up to £38 million (dependent upon demand for services) to fund the initiatives that fall to this Department to deliver. This includes up to £10 million a year to fund replacement care for carers who wish to access education or training opportunities.

Equality 2025

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on Equality 2025, how much of the expenditure was *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the annual accounts of Equality 2025 for each year since its establishment. [219393]

Mrs. McGuire: Equality 2025 does not have an administration budget, the expenditure for Equality 2025 is paid out of a programme budget.

This means the budget cannot be used to pay for resources (staffing) or capital costs, as this type of expenditure can only be met from an administration budget. Expenditure for the resources that support Equality 2025 is included in the Office for Disability Issues administration budget.

The annual accounts will form part of Equality 2025's first report, which will be published shortly. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average amount paid out under the Financial Assistance Scheme has been in each month since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [216551]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total amount paid out by the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit for each month in which payments were made has been:

Month	Initial	Annual	Gross expenditure (£)
2005			
December	13	0	36,894
2006			
January	15	0	6,371
February	27	0	35,996
March	32	0	20,072
April	45	0	39,000
May	86	0	144,000
June	149	5	213,000
July	187	27	363,355
August	240	66	346,155
September	318	76	311,301
October	377	102	212,399
November	519	118	274,684
December	904	124	686,599
2007			
January	751	136	326,659
February	823	153	359,132
March	882	175	506,441
April	937	205	311,721
May	1,014	222	305,209
June	1,073	240	348,517
July	1,116	268	352,981
August	1,419	278	1,955,995
September	2,269	291	1,575,369
October	2,717	320	1,259,933
November	3,064	371	1,146,130
December	3,333	685	1,223,222
2008			
January	3,623	844	2,374,841
February	3,868	922	1,227,357
March	4,117	971	1,168,925
April	4,371	1,114	1,073,789
May	4,558	1,202	1,342,270
June	4,938	1,412	4,657,200

While it would be possible to calculate an average payment from these figures, it would not be meaningful due to a number of distorting factors. These include:

where changes to the legislation have resulted in some members receiving substantial payments for entitlement for past periods.

the phased implementation of regulatory changes, i.e. the FAS operational unit are now 51 per cent. of the way through the uplift from 80 to 90 per cent.

in any one month there will be a combination of members receiving payments for past periods, payments only for the current month, payments for part month, and some members that will have had a FAS payment adjusted for pension credit abatement.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legal costs have been incurred by his Department in relation to the Financial Assistance Scheme in each month since the scheme was established; and if he will make a statement. [216587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no specific legal costs incurred by the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to the operation of the financial assistance scheme. Legal advice on policy and legislation governing FAS assistance levels is provided by departmental lawyers. To disaggregate this advice from other areas of advice would give rise to disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit in the UK in each of the last three years. [219874]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The information for Great Britain is in the table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain

		(outturn £ million)
	Nominal terms	Real terms 2008-09 prices
2004-05	13,158	14,698
2005-06	13,928	15,237
2006-07	14,840	15,782

Notes:
1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.
2. Figures to 2005-06 are taken from the final audited subsidy claims submitted to the Department by each local authority.
3. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet audited, and represent provisional out-turn for the year.

Source:
DWP expenditure tables.

Benefit expenditure information is available online at

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Local authority expenditure Information is available online at

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

Incapacity Benefit: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in South West Bedfordshire constituency in November 2007. [220266]

Mrs. McGuire: At November 2007, there were 2,900 claimants of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in South West Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency.

Incapacity Benefit: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working age population of Tamworth constituency received incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [220105]

Mrs. McGuire: At November 2007, an estimated 5.7 per cent. of the working age population in Tamworth parliamentary constituency were incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance claimants.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated additional annual costs (1) of allowing the pension credit assessed income period to continue automatically after the age of 80 are; and if he will make a statement; [219210]

(2) of his Department's proposals to allow pension credit to be retained for up to 13 weeks of a temporary absence abroad are; and if he will make a statement. [219211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The proposals to allow pension credit to be retained for up to 13 weeks of a temporary absence abroad and the introduction of an indefinite assessed income period for those pension credit customers aged 80 or over or who have an assessed income period spanning their 80th birthday (benefiting most customers aged 75 or over) are part of a package of pensions measures that will make claiming benefit entitlements simpler and less intrusive and deliver extra support to pensioners. This package includes the introduction of a more automatic claims process for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims made over the phone with pension credit claims, which will benefit around 50,000 pensioners over the next few years. The costs and savings associated with wider pension measures along with the costs of the proposed changes to rules on temporary absence abroad in pension credit and introducing an indefinite assessed income period for those aged 80 or over are set out in the following table.

Estimates of costs/savings: 2007-08 prices

£ million

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2015*	*2020*	*2030*	*2040*	*2050*
Total pension measures	575	-25	0	0	75	150	200	250
Of which:								
Absence abroad	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Indefinite assessed income periods for those aged 80 or over	—	-3.5	-2.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5

Notes:
1. Negative figures represent net savings.
2. The total set of wider pensions measures includes the simplification package and spending on other pension measures in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.
3. Figures relate to financial years.
4. Estimates represent combined administrative and benefit costs/savings.
5. Total estimates for the wider portfolio of pensions measures have been rounded to the nearest £25 million.
6. Estimates of pension credit absence abroad changes and the indefinite assessed income periods for those aged 80 or over have been rounded to the nearest £0.5 million.
7. Indefinite assessed income periods for those aged 80 or over are due to be introduced from April 2009 so no costs are shown in 2008. On the introduction of pension credit assessed income periods (AIPs)—where appropriate—were set for five and seven years which accounts for the high volume of AIPs reaching maturation in 2009-10.
8. Other pension measures include the up-rating of the pension credit standard minimum guarantee this year by 4.2 per cent. (more than the earnings commitment made for pension credit over the long term, the relevant average earnings figure was 3.5 per cent.) and the one-off additional amount with the winter fuel payment for the winter of 2008-09.
9. Simplification package includes the following measures: Automatic forwarding of housing benefit/council tax benefit claim details taken alongside a pension credit claim to the local authority, without the need for a signed claim form; reduction of the maximum housing benefit/council tax benefit backdating period from 12 to three months; reduction of the maximum pension credit time for claiming period from 12 to three months; increasing the length of time pension credit recipients may be abroad without losing their entitlement from four to 13 consecutive weeks; and the introduction of an indefinite assessed income period for those pension credit customers aged 80 or over or who have an assessed income period spanning their 80th birthday (benefiting most customers aged 75 or over).
10. Estimated costs and savings are consistent with the 2008 Budget settlement but it should be noted that they are based on a set of assumptions and are subject to change as new data become available.
11. Estimated costs/savings of the pension credit absence abroad and indefinite assessed income period measures have been projected forward from 2011 in line with the growth in the long-run forecast of expenditure on pension credit.

Source:
DWP modelling

Pension Credit: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost saving from the proposed reduction in the maximum period for claiming backdated pension credit from 12 to three months; and if he will make a statement. [214000]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The proposal to change the length of time allowed for customers to claim pension credit (known as backdating) from 12 to three months is part of a package of pensions measures that will make claiming benefit entitlements simpler and less intrusive and deliver extra support to pensioners. This package includes the introduction of a more automatic claims process for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims made over the phone with pension credit claims, which will benefit around 50,000 pensioners over the next few years. The costs and savings associated with wider pension measures along with the savings produced by the proposed changes to the time allowed for claiming pension credit are set out in the following table.

Estimates of costs/savings

£ million, 2007-08 prices

	Total pension measures	*Of which: Pension credit backdating*
2008	575	-55
2009	-25	-100
2010	0	-95
2015	0	-70
2020	75	-65
2030	150	-55
2040	200	-45

Estimates of costs/savings

	£ million, 2007-08 prices	
	Total pension measures	*Of which: Pension credit backdating*
2050	250	-40

Notes:
1. Negative figures represent net savings.
2. The total set of wider pensions measures includes the simplification package and spending on other pension measures in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.
3. Figures relate to financial years.
4. Estimates represent combined administrative and benefit costs/savings.
5. Total estimates for the wider portfolio of pensions measures have been rounded to the nearest £25 million.
6. Estimates of pension credit backdating have been rounded using the following convention: figures over £100 million have been rounded to the nearest £10 million and figures between £10 million and £100 million rounded to the nearest £5 million.
7. Other pension measures include the up-rating of the pension credit standard minimum guarantee this year by 4.2 per cent. (more than the earnings commitment made for pension credit over the long term, the relevant average earnings figure was 3.5 per cent.) and the one-off additional amount with the winter fuel payment for the winter of 2008-09.
8. Simplification package includes the following measures: Automatic forwarding of housing benefit/council tax benefit claim details taken alongside a pension credit claim to the local authority, without the need for a signed claim form; reduction of the maximum housing benefit/council tax benefit backdating period from 12 to 3 months; reduction of the maximum pension credit time for claiming period from 12 to 3 months; increasing the length of time pension credit recipients may be abroad without losing their entitlement from 4 to 13 consecutive weeks; and the introduction of an indefinite assessed income period for those pension credit customers aged 80 or over or who have an assessed income period spanning their 80th birthday (benefiting most customers aged 75 or over).
9. Estimated costs and savings are consistent with the 2008 Budget settlement but it should be noted that they are based on a set of assumptions and are subject to change as new data become available.
10. Estimated costs/savings of the pension credit backdating measure has been projected forward from 2011 in line with the growth in the long-run forecast of expenditure on pension credit.

Source:
DWP modelling

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on pension credit: overpayments, if he will break down *(a)* how much in overpayment was caused by and *(b)* how many cases of (i) fraud and (ii) error there were in each year. [193702]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* DWP is committed to reducing fraud and error across the benefits system, including pension credit, while at the same time increasing the identification, correction and recovery of overpayments. In line with these aims, a comprehensive error reduction strategy is in place and stretching targets have been set for the recovery of overpayments. As a result, in 2006-07, DWP identified record levels of overpayments and achieved record levels of overpayment recoveries.

Information on the level of identified overpayments in pension credit is in the following table. The trend in cash values reflects: our increasing efforts to identify cases of fraud and error; clearance in 2006-07 of a significant number of outstanding cases from the previous year, and the fact that for each year some of the overpayments dated back to the introduction of pension credit in 2003.

Identified pension credit overpayments broken down by fraud and error

	Amount of overpayment			*Number of cases*		
	Fraud (£)	*Customer error (£ million)*	*Official and other error (£ million)*	*Fraud*	*Customer error*	*Official and other error*
2004-05	66,000	2.2	4.2	73	6,700	22,000
2005-06	150,000	4.8	11.7	100	8,800	74,000
2006-07	565,000	33.4	35.7	275	59,000	109,000

Source:
DWP Debt Management.

Personal Accounts: Small Businesses

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from representatives of the small business sector on the introduction of personal accounts in 2012. [218878]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In response to the May 2006 White Paper consultation, Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system, and the December 2006 White Paper Personal accounts: a new way to save; the Department for Work and Pensions received responses from various representatives of the small businesses sector regarding the introduction of personal accounts in 2012.

The organisations broadly welcomed the Government's pension reforms. Full details of the responses are available in:

Security in retirement: towards a new pension system—Summary of responses to the consultation; and

Personal Accounts: a new way to save—Summary of responses to the consultation

DWP Ministers and officials hold meetings with organisations representing the small businesses sector on an ongoing basis.

Rented Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff worked for the Rent Service *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1997. [220622]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of The Rent Service is a matter for the chief executive of The Rent Service, Patrick Boyle. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Patrick Boyle, dated 18 July 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about The Rent Service, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff worked for The Rent Service a) at the latest period for which figures are available and b) in 1997.

a) The Rent Service had 571 (headcount) staff at the end of June 2008.

b) The Rent Service did not become an Executive Agency until 1 October 1999 therefore figures for 1997 are unavailable.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 740W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many people *(a)* received a caution and *(b)* were convicted in respect of an offence of benefit fraud in each quarter for the last three years for which figures are available; and how many of those convicted were dealt with by way of (i) a discharge, (ii) a fine, (iii) a community sentence, (iv) a suspended sentence, (v) a custodial sentence, (vi) a custodial sentence of more than six months and (vii) a custodial sentence of more than 12 months. [216777]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information broken down by the length of the custodial sentence is not available.

The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the table.

	Caution	*Conviction*	*Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community service*	*Suspended sentence*	*Custodial sentence*
2004-05							
Q1	2,131	2,306	649	414	650	41	146
Q2	2,480	2,160	648	405	608	35	180
Q3	2,371	2,092	684	411	601	41	149
Q4	3,071	2,389	668	415	578	30	124
Total	10,053	8,947	2,649	1,645	2,437	147	599
2005-06							
Q1	3,037	2,010	618	376	686	55	263
Q2	2,493	2,064	629	312	704	59	262
Q3	2,611	2,303	532	252	670	69	235
Q4	2,426	2,136	660	322	806	92	153
Total	10,567	8,513	2,439	1,262	2,866	275	913
2006-07							
Q1	3,296	1,809	510	248	652	99	222
Q2	3,234	1,749	423	187	682	156	146
Q3	2,977	1,391	343	140	470	130	137
Q4	2,515	1,807	456	215	583	145	108
Total	12,022	6,756	1,732	790	2,387	530	613

Sources:
1. FIBS (Fraud Information by Sector) and FRAIMS.
2. Quarterly conviction figures from DWP/DH Legal Group.

Available information for local authority administered benefits is in the table.

Number of people cautioned and convicted during each quarter for the last three years

	Cautions	*Convictions*
2004-05		
Q1	1,216	1,026
Q2	1,652	1,238
Q3	1,711	1,165
Q4	2,070	1,259
Total	6,649	4,688
2005-06		
Q1	1,925	1,443
Q2	2,327	1,449
Q3	2,087	1,542
Q4	3,369	1,800
Total	9,708	6,234
2006-07		
Q1	1,991	1,409
Q2	2,586	1,471
Q3	2,569	1,377
Q4	3,205	1,477
Total	10,351	5,734

Source:
Local authority housing benefit administrative returns.

Winter Fuel Payments: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Halifax received the winter fuel allowance in 2007-08. [220149]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available. In winter 2006-07, 17,940 people in the Halifax constituency received a winter fuel payment.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent data.

Young People: Mothers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the proportion of teenage mothers who receive benefits and *(b)* the proportion of benefits payments that are paid to teenage mothers. [218377]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information about the proportion of teenage mothers who receive benefits is not available. Information about the proportion of benefits payments that are paid to teenage mothers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British police officers are to be deployed with EUPOL Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [220329]

Dr. Howells: We aim to provide 20 British personnel to the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Afghanistan. As at 17 July 2008, 15 British police officers (five serving and 10 retired) had accepted posts in the mission. We await the outcome of further nominations.

Aghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British police officers were stationed in Kabul at the latest date for which figures are available. [219453]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* On 15 July 2008 there were six British police officers (four serving and two retired) working with the Afghan police in Kabul, including officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Defence police. Four more officers (three serving, one retired) will deploy later this month.

The Government currently have a total of 84 personnel deployed to work with the police in Afghanistan.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Government Departments he *(a)* consulted and *(b)* involved in the decision to authorise the deployment of British police officers to Kabul. [219630]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were all involved in the deployment of police officers to Kabul, in consultation with the Afghan Drugs Inter Departmental Unit which leads on planning for these deployments.

Ballistic Missiles

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have made their annual declaration to the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation for *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [218467]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* There are currently 130 countries subscribing to the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) against ballistic missiles. The following 59 countries submitted their annual declarations for 2006:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US and Uruguay.

And the following 78 countries have submitted their annual declaration for 2007:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, US and Venezuela.

The above information was obtained from the HCOC Secretariat and was correct as of 10 July 2008.

China: Deportation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the deportation from China of the British citizen Dechen Pemba. [220270]

Meg Munn: On 8 July Dechen Pemba, a British citizen, was deported without notice from Beijing to the UK by the Chinese authorities. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials have been in touch with Ms Pemba since her safe return to the UK. Our embassy in Beijing expressed formal concerns to and sought clarification from the Chinese Foreign Ministry on 11 July and repeated their concerns about the deportation at a meeting on 17 July. Senior FCO officials raised concerns about the manner of Ms Pemba's deportation with the Chinese ambassador Madame Fu Ying on 11 July.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage the Chinese government to promote and protect the human rights of the Chinese people. [219548]

Meg Munn: Engagement on human rights with the Chinese authorities is a Government priority. Our approach includes high-level lobbying to encourage political progress and project work to deliver concrete assistance on the ground. We also use the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue to discuss issues in greater depth. The 16th round took place in Beijing at the end of January. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, all raised human rights issues during their respective visits to China earlier this year and we have regularly expressed our concerns about the specific issue of human rights of Tibetans following the unrest in Tibet in March.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215192]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs press and media officers in London and in our missions overseas. Locally-engaged staff are recruited and paid locally and have varying terms and conditions of service. We do not hold information centrally on these staff. It is not possible therefore to provide an overall average global figure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Press and media officers employed in the UK and those recruited in the UK but working at our missions overseas are paid in line with all other FCO staff. The average cost to the FCO of a press and media officer in the UK in 2007-08 was £38,813. Those working in London also received a London location allowance of £3,000. This is the average cost of a member of staff working in the grades below the senior management structure (senior civil service).

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of employing a full-time overseas security officer *(a)* as an employee of his Department and *(b)* under a private contract; and if he will make a statement. [203483]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains security staff in around 200 locations to provide a wide range of functions, and costs vary due to local circumstances. No global comparison of the cost of direct employees and contractors has been undertaken.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of the Control Risks contract for the provision of overseas security officers in each year since the contract was let; what mechanisms exist to ensure that value for money is achieved through this contract; and if he will make a statement. [203485]

Meg Munn: The estimated cost of the Control Risks static guarding contract, since it started in October 2003 until the end of the 2007-08 financial year (FY), is £4.09 million:

Financial year	£
2003-04	247,186
2004-05	779,372
2005-06	913,084
2006-07	1,030,906
2007-08	1,120,123

The contract was competitively tendered and is subject to continuous contract management and monitoring. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office subjects all contracts to a rigorous procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Eritrea on incursions into the international demilitarised area in the border region between Ethiopia and Eritrea. [218654]

Meg Munn: The UK's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute is based on three principles: to avoid any return to war; for the border to be demarcated; and for the parties to normalise their relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin, as set out in the Algiers Agreements of June and December 2000, to which both Ethiopia and Eritrea are signatories.

As part of the above policy, we continue to request Eritrea to remove its forces from the Temporary Security Zone—the demilitarised zone established along the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, Kim Howells, set out this policy to the Eritrean ambassador on 10 July. The UK's policy has equally been conveyed to the Government of Ethiopia, notably by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin in November and by my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles in January in Addis Ababa.

In addition, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials continually reiterate these messages to both the Ethiopian and Eritrean ambassadors to London and to their interlocutors in the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea in Addis Ababa and Asmara respectively.

Iran: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed in the British embassy in Tehran on *(a)* 30 June 2007 and *(b)* 30 June 2008, broken down by department; and how many he expects to be employed on 30 September 2008. [219634]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* As of 30 June 2007, 26 UK-based staff were employed at our embassy in Tehran in the following departments:

Senior Management (2); Political and Economic (7); Press and Public Affairs (1); Commercial (2); Management and Security (6); and Visa and Consular (8).

As of 30 June 2008, 24 UK-based staff were employed at our embassy in Tehran in the following departments:

Senior Management (2); Political and Economic (6); Press and Public Affairs (1); Commercial (1); Management and Security (6); and Visa and Consular (8).

As of 30 September 2008, we expect 23 UK-based staff to be employed at our embassy in Tehran—an increase of one person in the Political and Economic section, and a reduction of one person in the Visa and Consular section and one person in the Commercial section.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 147-48W, on Iran (nuclear programme), what the evidential basis is for his statement that UN resolution 1803 has been fully implemented. [217391]

David Miliband: The UK is fully implementing all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803 (2008). The EU has already banned the supply of dual-use items covered in the resolution. Assets of individuals and entities named in the annex have been frozen by virtue of an Order in Council and the individuals have been added to the visa warnings index. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has stopped processing applications for new export credit cover for Iran. Bank Melli Iran was named as a bank of particular concern in UNSCR 1803. The UK has worked with EU partners to secure the designation of Bank Melli Iran and its subsidiaries and branches at EU level. Following designation on 24 June 2008, all assets belonging to, owned, held or controlled by Bank Melli Iran and Melli Bank Plc in the UK are frozen. HM Treasury issued guidance to financial institutions on 29 February 2008 advising them to take the risk arising from the deficiencies in Iran's anti-money laundering/counter-terrorist financing regime into account for enhanced due diligence. HM Revenue and Customs has enhanced its compliance and enforcement activity for consignments destined for Iran.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the UN Security Council Committee on Iran sanctions established under UN Resolution 1737 (2006) has received information on alleged violations of measures imposed by Resolution *(a)* 1737 (2006), *(b)* 1747 (2007) and *(c)* 1803 (2008); and what action was taken in each case. [217313]

David Miliband: We are aware that the Committee has received notifications on two occasions. In one case, the state sending the notification requested that it remain confidential while a judicial investigation continued.

In the other case, the Committee discussed information that certain Iranian entities displayed items in the Defence Services Asia Exhibition, hosted by the Government of Malaysia. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak was quoted in the media as saying this constituted

"a direct contravention of Resolution[s] 1747 and 1803".

The Committee also noted, as a result, that the Government of Malaysia closed down Iran's pavilion at the exhibition.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the UN Security Council Committee on Iran sanctions established under UN Resolution 1737 (2006) has received a request for the sale, transfer or provision of items prohibited under paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of that resolution; how many such requests have been granted; and on how many occasions such requests have been granted because Iran has stated it will not use such items in nuclear activities. [217314]

David Miliband: No requests for an exemption to the sale, transfer or provision of items prohibited under paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) have been received.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of breaches of UN sanctions prohibiting the supply, sale or transfer of arms or related material from Iran; and if he will make a statement. [217315]

David Miliband: The UN Sanctions Committee is the appropriate forum for matters relating to breaches of sanctions. The Committee has received two notifications from UN member states covering potential breaches to the supply of weapons from Iran. In one case, the state sending the notification requested that it remain confidential while a judicial investigation continued. In the other case, the Committee discussed information that certain Iranian entities displayed items in the Defence Services Asia Exhibition, hosted by the Government of Malaysia. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak was quoted in the media as saying this constituted

"a direct contravention of Resolution[s] 1747 and 1803".

The Committee also noted as a result that the Government of Malaysia closed down Iran's pavilion at the exhibition.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many written reports have been submitted to the UN Security Council following an inspection of cargoes to and from Iran in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of UN Security Council Resolution 1803; and if he will make a statement. [217317]

David Miliband: No reports have been submitted to the UN Security Council following an inspection of cargoes to and from Iran.

Iran: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests for exemptions from UN travel restrictions on Iran have been received by the committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006); and how many of these have been granted. [217312]

David Miliband: Since its inception, the Committee has received only one notification, from the Russian Federation, of the travel to Moscow, pursuant to paragraph 10 of UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), of an individual subject to the travel notification requirement. A notification received from Indonesia, regarding the travel to Jakarta of an individual working for the Atomic

Energy Organisation of Iran, was subsequently established as unnecessary as the individual was not listed under the relevant resolutions.

Iraq: Oil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the provisions in the recent technical support contracts between oil multinational corporations and the government of Iraq and *(b)* preferences for future contracts involving oil extraction attached to the technical support contract; and if he will make a statement. [219737]

Dr. Howells: The Government are aware that the Government of Iraq and international oil companies are in the process of negotiating technical support contracts. Such contracts, and the details therein, are a sovereign issue for the Iraqi government.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the legal immunity of private military contractors in the successor agreement to the UN mandate for Iraq. [219004]

Dr. Howells: The Government use private military and security companies to provide security for our diplomatic posts and for civilian officials in Iraq. As such, they play an important role in enabling us to achieve our objectives in Iraq. Although we have held initial discussions with the Government of Iraq on ways of securing a legal basis for activities by UK armed forces in Iraq following the anticipated expiry of UN Security Council Chapter VII authority, these have focussed on UK armed forces' operations and immunities. The issue of private military and security companies will be considered, if appropriate, in any future negotiations with the Government of Iraq.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the obligations of UK companies under the International Criminal Court Act 2001 in relation to the purchase of goods from illegal Israeli settlements; and if he will make a statement. [219692]

Dr. Howells: None. It is for companies to take their own advice about their legal position.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on UK companies buying goods from illegal Israeli settlements; [219693]

(2) what representations he has received on the compliance with international law of UK companies buying goods from illegal Israeli settlements. [219694]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned that goods from illegal Israeli settlements may be entering the UK under false pretences and without paying the correct customs duties. We have discussed this issue with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian General Delegation in London and non-governmental organisations. Several media outlets have also contacted us about the issue. We take this issue seriously and have alerted HM Revenue and Customs to it so that they can take appropriate action.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 April 2008, reference M7079/8, from the honourable Member for Wycombe, forwarded from the Home Office, on passport photograph requirements for visas and the hijab in relation to Dubai. [217118]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I confirm that Lin Homer, chief executive of UKBA, replied on 14 July 2008.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implementation of Road Map commitments by the Palestinian and Israeli governments, in respect of their commitments under the November 2007 Annapolis agreement; and if he will make a statement. [213460]

David Miliband: The US has appointed General Fraser to monitor implementation of the Quartet Roadmap. We expect all parties to fulfil their Roadmap obligations. This includes Palestinian work to improve their security sector, and as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said to the House on 18 June

> "it is also important that, as the President of the US said only two days ago, the Israelis stop the settlement programme that is causing so much distress among the Palestinians".

North Africa: EU External Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the EU's political and economic strategy towards north Africa during the French presidency of the EU. [218631]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary attended the EU summit in Paris on 13 July, hosted by President Sarkozy to launch the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean. The UK welcomed the efforts of the French presidency to reinvigorate the EuroMed Partnership and to ensure the development of concrete projects aimed at tackling climate change, promoting energy and food security and education and training.

Our officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in close contact with the French presidency regarding its broader agenda for north Africa. Key priorities for the EU during the French presidency include the negotiation of an EU-Libya framework agreement and the launching of negotiations on a statut avancé with Morocco. The UK maintains strong relations with all the countries of north Africa, working together on issues of migration, energy and food security and tackling the threats posed by terrorism.

Qatar: Eritrea

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Qatar on the use of funds from Qatar by the Eritrean Government for non-violent purposes. [218653]

Meg Munn: We regularly discuss developments in the Horn of Africa, including Eritrea, with the Government of Qatar at both official and ministerial level, including when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani in March 2007.

Our officials and Ministers always make clear our support for peaceful solutions to the region's conflicts and encourage the Government of Qatar to use their influence with the Government of Eritrea to promote regional stability.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to hold discussions in the immediate future with the Government of Qatar about their financial support to the Eritrean Government.

Saudi Arabia: Overseas Trade

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his Saudi counterparts and *(b)* ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on opportunities for trade between the UK and Saudi Arabia. [218632]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary holds regular discussions with the noble Lord Jones, Minister for Trade and Investment, on a variety of trade issues covering many countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The noble Lord Jones visited Saudi Arabia from 9-12 March 2008. He held talks with the Saudi Minister of Commerce, the Governor of Riyadh and members of the Saudi and British business communities.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent attacks on UN-AU peacekeepers in Darfur which resulted in the death of six peacekeepers. [219125]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 9 July in which he said "the attack on the UN-African Union (AU) peacekeepers in Darfur on 8 July was a horrific and cowardly act of violence. We reiterate the UN Security Council's demand for those responsible to be brought to justice. The work of the UN-AU peacekeepers in Darfur, operating in hugely challenging circumstances, deserves our utmost admiration and support. Yesterday's attack, and the continuing crisis in Darfur, further emphasises the urgent need for a full and rapid commitment by all sides to work with UN-AU mission in Darfur. I have emphasised in Khartoum today the pressing requirement for urgent humanitarian help and security cooperation as the basis for serious political dialogue".

The UN and the AU have begun a preliminary fact-finding investigation into the attack, which will be followed by an official investigation.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the International Criminal Court on the possible citation of President al-Bashir of Sudan; and what assessment has been made of the *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* political implications of such a citation. [220275]

Meg Munn: As a State Party to the International Criminal Court, the UK has regular contacts with the court at official level, including with the Prosecutor and his Office, over a range of matters, including the on-going investigation into the situation in Darfur referred to the Prosecutor by UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005). All contacts with the Prosecutor and his Office, and with others at the court, take place on the clear understanding of the court's, and the Prosecutor's, independent status and competence. It would be inappropriate and premature at this stage to comment or speculate on the outcome of the court's deliberations and the range of possible diplomatic and political implications.

We continue to urge all sides to show restraint, to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to engage in the African Union/UN-led political process for Darfur.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese government on reported human rights abuses against Tibetan people. [219549]

Meg Munn: We continue to monitor the situation in Tibet and the surrounding region. We have expressed our concern regularly to the Chinese authorities, both in Beijing and London, and continue to urge them to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with unrest; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed Tibet several times with Foreign Minister Yang, most recently on 12 June when they met in Paris.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to establish the extent to which human rights abuses have occurred in the Tibetan province in the latest period for which figures are available. [219550]

Meg Munn: We have regularly raised our concerns with the Chinese government about reported human rights abuses in Tibet following the recent unrest. I refer my hon. Friend to my response to written parliamentary question 218331 on 17 July, *Official Report*, columns 690-91W. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese authorities on the systematic removal by Chinese troops of symbols of religious importance and other valuable antiquities from monasteries in occupied Tibet. [220269]

Meg Munn: We regularly urge the Chinese government to respect and protect Tibetan cultural values and religious beliefs and continue to raise the issue of Tibet with the Chinese government at the highest levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did this most recently when he met the Chinese Foreign Minister on 12 June. Our officials also discussed freedom of religion in detail during the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue which took place in Beijing at the end of January.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese authorities on the situation in occupied Tibet. [220271]

Meg Munn: We continue to closely monitor the situation in Tibet and the surrounding region. We have expressed our concern regularly to the Chinese authorities, both in Beijing and London, and continue to urge them to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with unrest; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed Tibet several times with Foreign Minister Yang, most recently on 12 June.

We continue to emphasise that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama and his representatives. We are pleased that the two sides have restarted the process of dialogue, meeting in Shenzhen in May and again in Beijing from 1-2 July. We hope that a further round will be convened again soon and that this will make substantive progress.

USA: Administration of Justice

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterparts on the exercise of the principle of extraterritoriality of US jurisdiction and its effect on UK companies. [219703]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised the exercise of the principle of extraterritoriality of US jurisdiction with his US counterparts. However, Ministers and officials have been in regular contact with UK companies about applications of US extraterritoriality and officials raise issues with US interlocutors around the excessive extraterritorial reach of US jurisdiction, as appropriate.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the UN mission to the Western Sahara monitors the human rights situation; and what discussions he has had with MINURSO on this matter. [218848]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to support the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). MINURSO's mandate does not include human rights monitoring, and while I have not held recent talks with MINURSO, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in New York and Rabat are in regular contact with MINURSO representatives. Julian Harsten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the Western Sahara, and MINURSO colleagues met with our Ambassador in Rabat on 27 June to discuss the latest developments in the region.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in negotiations at the UN on the future of the Western Sahara; and what recent representations the UK has made on this matter. [218847]

Dr. Howells: The UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, chaired negotiations between the parties to the dispute in June and August 2007, and January and March 2008. Progress has been slow and in his report of 14 April, the UN Secretary-General called on the parties to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations. The UK supported the UN Security Council Resolution 1813 (30 April) in its call for the parties to co-operate fully with the UN and with each other to end the current impasse to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Moroccan Government on progress towards meeting its obligations to the people of the Western Sahara, with particular reference to mineral rights. [220276]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Western Sahara with his Moroccan counterpart. In my recent visit to Morocco in April, I echoed the words of the UN Secretary-General and called on all parties to engage in negotiations under the auspices of the UN in a spirit of compromise and realism. I also encouraged greater transparency in the field of human rights in Western Sahara in order to foster greater confidence between the parties. After a further round of negotiations held in March this year, UN Security Council Resolution 1813 was adopted on 30 April. It called on the parties to continue to show political will to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations. The UK has welcomed these negotiations and has encouraged the parties to maintain their commitment to the process.

No representation has been made to Morocco regarding the use of mineral resources in Western Sahara. The UK's long standing position remains that Morocco, the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara, and this includes their de facto control over most of the territory and maritime resources of Western Sahara.

TRANSPORT

A1(M): Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward plans to widen the A1(M) between Welwyn and Stevenage. [219699]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no proposals to widen this section of the A1(M). The widening of the A1(M) between Welwyn and Stevenage is not in the East of England Regional Assembly's list of schemes to be prioritised for construction before 2015. The Region will have the opportunity to review its programme later this year and make recommendations to the Secretary of State should they wish to bring an A1(M) widening scheme forward.

A10: Royston

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward plans for a Royston southern by-pass on the A10. [219698]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are not aware of any plans for a Royston Southern by-pass on the A10 road. As the A10 is not a trunk road, any plans would have to be proposed by the local authority, in this case Hertfordshire county council, and submitted to the Regional Transport Forum for consideration of funding through the Regional Funding Allocation along with other regional proposals.

Biofuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to revise the carbon sustainability and reporting requirements for biofuels in respect of biodiesel from palm oil grown on tropical peatland; and if she will make a statement. [219627]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The detail of the reporting requirements under the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) is a matter for the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA). The RFA has produced guidance on the carbon and sustainability information that is required from transport fuel suppliers, which is available via the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/

The Government have encouraged transport fuel suppliers to source biofuels produced from feedstocks which meet qualifying environmental standards under the RTFO. In order for suppliers to report that their biofuel has met a qualifying standard, they must ensure that its production has not destroyed or damaged large above or below ground carbon stocks, and that it has not taken place on soils with a large risk of significant carbon losses such as peatlands.

At EU level, the UK has been pressing for mandatory sustainability criteria to apply to all biofuels. If adopted in the form currently proposed in the draft renewable energy directive, these would ensure that from around 2010 or 2011 biofuels produced on newly deforested tropical peatland would be ineligible for support anywhere in the EU.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to extend concessionary bus travel for school and college students. [219000]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has no immediate plans to extend further the coverage of statutory concessions to school and college students. Local authorities retain the discretion to offer concessionary travel enhancements to young people in their area based on their assessment of local needs and circumstances, and many choose to do so.

Extending statutory concessions to young people could have significant cost and operational implications, especially as travel to school is during the morning peak and could have the unintended consequence of actually reducing the numbers walking or cycling to school.

From September 2008 the Education and Inspections Act 2006 extends entitlement to free school transport for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit. At secondary age, pupils attending one of their three nearest schools that is between two and six miles from their home, and those attending their nearest school preferred on grounds of religion or belief between two and 15 miles, will be entitled to free school transport.

Bus Services: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the year-on-year percentage change in adult bus fares in *(a)* passenger transport executive areas, *(b)* London and *(c)* other areas of England was in each year since 1986 before the effects of local and national changes in concessionary travel. [220277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the estimated percentage change in local bus fares in each year from 1985-86 to 2006-07 for England, London, passenger transport executive (PTE) areas and other areas. The estimate for 2006-07 has been adjusted to show change before the likely estimated effect of the introduction of concessionary bus fares on 1 April 2006.

Data are not available for the period which covers the introduction of the national concession on 1 April 2008. Data are not available to adjust the data series for any discretionary local concessionary arrangements.

Percentage

	London	*English PTE areas*	*English non-PTE areas*	*England*
1986-87	6	27	5	11
1987-88	5	9	5	6
1988-89	11	6	5	6
1989-90	10	8	8	8
1990-91	10	11	10	10
1991-92	10	12	8	9
1992-93	8	7	4	6
1993-94	8	5	3	5
1994-95	6	4	4	5
1995-96	5	5	4	5

Percentage

	London	English PTE areas	English non-PTE areas	England
1996-97	4	5	5	5
1997-98	4	6	5	5
1998-99	4	5	5	4
1999-2000	3	5	5	4
2000-01	0	4	5	4
2001-02	-2	5	5	4
2002-03	-1	4	5	3
2003-04	2	4	5	4
2004-05	8	4	5	6
2005-06	10	8	7	8
2006-07	8	6	6	7

Note:
The data for 2006-07 have been adjusted to show the change before the likely estimated effect of the introduction of concessionary bus fares on 1 April 2006.

Calder Valley Railway Line

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to introduce additional rolling stock on the Calder Valley line; and how many units are to be introduced. [220043]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have specified that capacity for an extra 5,100 peak passengers should be provided into Leeds by 2014. Given forecast demand, it is likely the Calder Valley line will be one of the routes benefiting from this extra capacity. We are in discussion with the train operating companies on the best way to add peak capacity but it is not possible at this stage to say how it will be allocated between routes and how many additional carriages will operate on individual routes.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in her Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [217872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither the Department nor its agencies has the information to answer the question as requested.

As recorded in the answer I gave the hon. Member on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, the Department and its agencies all have policies of switching off computer devices (PCs, monitors, and printers) when not in use, and at night, and staff are regularly reminded to do so.

Apart from occasional compliance surveys at headquarters buildings there is no mechanism to estimate the number of individual computers left on overnight and when not in use, and there are no plans to introduce this.

DfT (Central) operates an automatic shutdown of non-essential computers from 7 pm every Friday. A monitoring analysis of the effect of this indicates annual savings of 3.7 tonnes of carbon emissions (13.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide) and a cost saving of £2,600.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* officials in her Department and *(b)* employees of (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies reporting to her Department were (A) dismissed and (B) disciplined for matters related to their conduct in the last two years. [217602]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Central Department and its agencies recorded the following instances of disciplinary action relating to employee performance in the period of the last two financial years:

	Number of occurrences
Dismissed	61
Disciplined	278

These figures exclude those of the Highways Agency, who could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of her Department's budget and that of its predecessor was spent on research in each of the last 10 years. [218071]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Detailed historic information about budgets, and information prior to the formation of the Department for Transport in 2002, is not available. The following figures show the proportion of the Department's total DEL expenditure used on research between 2002-03 and 2007-08.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	[3]2007-08
DfT Research (£ million)[1]	53	70	59	56	62	62
Total DfT expenditure (£ million)[2]	9,559	10,760	10,650	10,294	12,521	12,796
Research percentage of total	0.55	0.65	0.55	0.54	0.50	0.48

[1] Taken from Table 2.1 of the SET Statistics (Science, Engineering and Technology indicators). These data can be found at http:/www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/science-funding/set-stats/index.html

[2] Taken from Table A1, (pages 207 and 208) of the Department for Transport Annual Report 2008, representing the sum of total resource DEL (including near and non-cash) and total capital DEL, less depreciation.

[3] Figures shown for 2007-08 are provisional.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days have been lost due to sickness among employees for which her Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218035]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was first established in May 2002. The number of working days lost due to sickness are:

	Days
2003	164,237.5
2004	175,860
2005	184,101
2006	188,666
2007	206,608

Departmental Travel

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008 to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet, *Official Report*, columns 399-400W, on departmental travel, if she will break down the spend on travel by body. [217521]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The breakdown for the central Department and its agencies for the last three financial years are contained in the following table:

	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
DFT Rail	89,531	153,944	151,152
DFT(c)	4,740,256	5,508,671	—
DSA	—	—	4,581,027
DVLA	626,723	679,155	685,369
GCDA	198,082	161,394	1,92,285
HA	4,549,000	4,737,000	4,697,000
MCA	1,985,177	1,955,431	2,124,759
VCA	461,979	378,745	432,074
VOSA	—	—	—
Total	12,650,748	13,574,340	12,863,666

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on taxi travel for staff in each of the last three years. [217610]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Five of the Department's seven agencies (DVLA, GCDA, HA, VOSA and MCA) do not record taxi spend separately from other travel costs, and the information could be only provided at disproportionate cost. Figures for the remaining two agencies, DFT(c) and for DFT (Rail) are included in the following table:

	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
VCA	2,581.85	2,416.75	2,061.86
DSA	—	11,256	20,556
DFT Rail	15,272.56	10,615.94	14,457.63
DFT(c)	123,128.94	—	—

DSA did not record taxi costs separately before 2006, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for DFT(c) for 2006-07, and 2007-08 are not currently available, but we expect that they will be by the end of July.

Driving Offences

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with her European colleagues on the possibility of penalty points given to foreign drivers by UK authorities being recognised in other European countries. [220544]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have had discussions with my Irish and Northern Ireland colleagues. We announced on 26 June the decision of the UK and Ireland to work together towards the mutual recognition of one another's penalty points for motoring offences, including the mutual recognition of penalty points between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We intend that the lessons learnt from co-operating with Ireland in this way will advise any further discussions we may have with other European colleagues going forward.

Exhaust Emissions: Pollution Control

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken to make low carbon travel a priority in *(a)* local transport plans, *(b)* local area agreements and *(c)* local development frameworks. [216325]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Developing low carbon travel is becoming increasingly important at the local level. Guidance published in 2004 on the second round of Local Transport Plans (LTPs1) encouraged local transport authorities to consider measures to tackle climate change. The Local Transport Bill currently before the House includes a new duty on local authorities to have regard to the protection or improvement of the environment in developing and implementing policies to be included in local transport plans. We expect to publish draft guidance on future plans towards the end of the year.

In recently agreed local area agreements 100 local authorities have adopted a target relating to indicator NI186—"Per capita reduction in CO_2 emissions in the LA area". The Department will work closely with authorities and other Departments concerned to help meet the agreed targets.

The Department has also supported the development of PPS1—Planning and Climate Change (which supplements the main Planning Policy Statement). This was published in December 2007 and provides guidance to authorities preparing local development frameworks.

Freight

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of goods was transported within the UK by *(a)* road, *(b)* rail, *(c)* aeroplane and *(d)* waterway in each of the last five years. [220633]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides figures for the years 2002 to 2006, the latest years for which information is available for all modes.

Table 1: Domestic freight transport: by mode: 2002 to 2006

Goods lifted (million tonnes)

	Road (GB)	Rail[1] (GB)	Aviation[2] (UK)	Water[3] Total (UK)	Water[3] Of which: Inland waters (UK)
2002	1,734	87	0.055	139	49

Table 1: Domestic freight transport, by mode: 2002 to 2006

	Goods lifted (million tonnes)				
				Water[3]	
	Road (GB)	Rail[1] (GB)	Aviation[2] (UK)	Total (UK)	Of which: Inland waters (UK)
2003	1,753	89	0.059	133	47
2004	1,863	100[4]	0.062	127	45
2005	1,868	105[5]	0.068	133	49
2006	1,936	108	0.068	126	51

[1] Figures for rail are for financial years.
[2] Domestic cargo handled at UK airports adjusted to eliminate double counting and excluding mail and passengers' luggage.
[3] Includes coastwise traffic and one port traffic (sea dredged aggregates and traffic with offshore installations) as well as inland waterway traffic. The component of this traffic using inland waterways is shown separately.
[4] Break in the series, increase largely due to changes in coverage
[5] Figures from 2005 onwards include some of the tonnes lifted by GB railfreight.
Sources:
Department for Transport, Office of Rail Regulation, Civil Aviation Authority

Fuels: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of taxes on fuel in decreasing car usage. [218415]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs estimates the impact of a change in fuel duty on the distance travelled by vehicles using historic data. Other things being equal, an increase in fuel duty leads to a reduction in distance travelled, although the effect is not one-for-one because many road transport journeys are non-discretionary.

Helicopters: Sea Rescue

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many search and rescue helicopters the Maritime Coastguard Agency plans to order in the next 10 years. [220252]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency Search and Rescue helicopter provision is managed through a commercial contract. They expect that to be the case over the next 10 years. The contract specifies the service provision required. The physical number of helicopters to meet that service provision is a matter for the contractor.

High Speed Trains

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she informed Network Rail that they had to consider the possibility of introducing new high speed lines in the United Kingdom; [217576]

(2) if she will place in the Library the specification she has given Network Rail for their new lines study; [217577]

(3) whether she has asked Network Rail to look into any specific proposals as part of the new lines study; [217578]

(4) what the commissioned price of the Network Rail new lines study is. [217626]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" document of October 2007 we proposed the generation of a broad range of options, which is why the Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network in March 2008. In response to this on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced, a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. Network Rail has developed its own remit for this work. The costs of the study will be borne by Network Rail reflecting their network planning function.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the capacity which could be created on the *(a)* West Coast Main Line and *(b)* East Coast Main Line by the formation of a new high-speed rail line in addition to the current tracks along those routes. [217607]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any new rail line would create significant additional capacity on both new and existing lines. On 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines, including the additional capacity that would be created. It will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast West Coast, Great Western and Midland Main Lines.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings she has had with Network Rail to discuss high-speed rail in the last 12 months. [218794]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State regularly meets Network Rail to discuss a range of issues of common interest.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the study being conducted by Network Rail into high-speed rail lines was commissioned by her Department. [219415]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network in March 2008. In response to this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines.

Highways Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what income her Department received from the Highways Agency 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217544]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency Information Line (08457 504030) enables the public to call to receive information on the motorways and trunk road network.

Calls to this number cost no more than 4p a minute. It does not generate any revenue for the Highways Agency.

Lorries: Accidents

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of reported motorway traffic incidents involved a heavy goods vehicle with left-hand drive in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and what percentage of those incidents were attributed to poor visibility or blind spots on such vehicles. [220553]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and percentage of reported personal injury motorway traffic accidents involving a left-hand drive heavy goods vehicle and the percentage of these accidents where the heavy goods vehicle had 'vehicle blind spot' as a contributory factor are shown in the table.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Number of motorway injury accidents involving at least one left-hand drive heavy goods vehicle (HGV)	593	513	470
Percentage of all motorway injury accidents involving at least one left-hand drive HGV	7	6	6
Percentage of motorway injury accidents involving at least one left-hand drive HGV where the HGV had 'vehicle blind spot' as a contributory factor	40	40	36

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported deaths there were in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside as a result of traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [220714]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities resulting from personal injury road accidents in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds city council and *(c)* Government office region of Yorkshire and Humberside, for the last five years are given in the table:

Number of fatalities

	Leeds West Constituency[1]	*Leeds city council*	*Government office of Yorkshire and the Humber*
2003	3	45	318
2004	5	45	311
2005	1	27	302
2006	1	40	304
2007	3	34	281

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary boundaries

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislative changes are required to extend the target dates for the renewables transport fuel obligation. [220061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government has stated that it intends to consult formally on slowing down the rate of increase in the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO), taking the level to 5 per cent. (by volume) by 2013-14, in line with the Gallagher review's recommendation.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, any changes to the level of the RTFO would need to be made through an amendment to the RTFO Order 2007 (SI no 3072). The draft amending order would be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, and would therefore require a debate on its content in both Houses of Parliament.

Motorways

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects on *(a)* safety and *(b)* access to incidents for emergency services of the opening of hard shoulders on motorways to general use. [220754]

Mr. Tom Harris: A detailed safety assessment, including the impact on access to incidents for emergency vehicles, was completed prior to the implementation of the M42 Active Traffic Management Pilot.

All aspects of the use of the hard shoulder as a running lane have been monitored on the M42 Active Traffic Management Pilot for the last 12 months. These early results indicate a significant improvement in safety and a reduction in incidents.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the risks to the operation of hard shoulder running on motorways arising from power failures to *(a)* CCTV cameras and *(b)* control rooms. [220837]

Mr. Tom Harris: The hazard analysis and risk assessment for the M42 active traffic management pilot scheme included an assessment of the impact of power supply failures to equipment at the roadside (including closed circuit television) and at the Regional Control Centre. The impact of power supply failure on active traffic management was assessed by the Highways Agency who concluded that there was no case for additional emergency supplies for the operation of the signs and signals.

The Regional Control Centre is provided with emergency power supplies to allow continued operation in the event of a power failure. Any section of the motorway with hard shoulder running operates in fail safe mode which means that a power failure does not introduce any additional hazard.

Motorways: Accidents

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have occurred on motorways since 2005. [219919]

Mr. Tom Harris: There has been a total of 22,240 road traffic accidents on motorways in the three year period 2005 to 2007 that have resulted in personal injury. The statistics include all motorways that are the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The latest figures available are for 2007.

Railway Network: Bicycles

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department issues to train operating companies on the carriage of bicycles on trains. [220649]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department's cycling policy document and the rail White Paper published last year set out our policy. We want all TOCs to take into account the wider benefits of cycling when considering both investments in cycle facilities and their own rules for carrying cycles.

The White Paper also announced the setting up of a task force to look into how bike and rail journeys can be better integrated. The task force includes ATOC, Network Rail, Passenger Focus, Cycling England and Transport for London. I look forward to hearing about their progress later this year.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1694W, on railways, if she will place in the Library copies of the equivalent data for 2007-08; [219414]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on railways: rolling stock, for what reason and on what date her Department ceased to hold and collate this information. [219434]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 June. This information has never been routinely collected in the Department.

Railways: Electrification

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on railways: electrification, how many staff were engaged in this work in each month of the last two years. [217527]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold information in the form requested. A number of officials within the Department are currently supporting the industry's work on electrification, in particular by providing technical and economic advice. This is to meet the Secretary of State's aim of developing a prioritised list of potential routes for electrification by the end of the year.

Railways: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effect of currency fluctuations on the cost of the Intercity Express programme. [212296]

Mr. Tom Harris: The effects of currency fluctuations on the Intercity Express programme costs were considered in the business case and will be taken into account during the assessment of bids.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1066-7W, on railways: finance, how much of the financial allocation for rail *(a)* has been allocated in 2008-09 and *(b)* was allocated in 2007-08 to (i) each train operating company and (ii) Network Rail. [219802]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* Funding for the railways is made up of a combination of direct Government grants to Network Rail, subsidy and premium payments to and from train operating companies (TOCs), along with income from the farebox. The bulk of Network Rail's income, as determined by the Office of Rail Regulation, is in turn made up of those Government grants and track access charges levied on the train operating companies (TOCs). A proportion of the income from subsidy and farebox revenue will go towards paying track access charges to Network Rail.

In view of this it is not possible to allocate Government funding for the railway to individual railway beneficiaries. That said, payments and premiums to and from individual TOCs and grant payments to Network Rail for 2007-8 will be published shortly by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. In addition, a table showing contracted payments and premiums to and from all TOCs who have extant contracts with the Government is available in the Library of the House.

Railways: Overcrowding

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answers of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1067W, on railways: overcrowding, when her Department's formula to determine train capacity, derived from dividing the interior size of a passenger vehicle by 0.45 square metres, was first used; and whether the divisor in the formula has ever varied from 0.45 square metres. [214781]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The standard of 0.45 square metres for determining train capacity was first used by the Office for Passenger Rail Franchising in 2000, and continues to apply today.

There are two specific variations: Class 376 trains, operating on Southeastern services; and for services operated by Stagecoach South West Trains to and from London Waterloo.

New (Class 376) purpose-built vehicles ordered for Southeastern are configured to serve short-distance Metro passenger flows, and the stock has been specifically configured with low density seating and appropriate grab rails for standing passengers, to ensure that passengers can stand in relative comfort for short-distance journeys; the same is true for Class 455 units operated by Stagecoach South West Trains, on services that stop within 20 minutes of leaving London Waterloo. In these cases the standard is varied to 0.35 and 0.25 square metres respectively.

Railways: Standards

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 405W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on railways: standards, for what reason and upon what date her Department ceased to gather data on the causes of train cancellation. [219442]

Mr. Tom Harris: Operational data on rail performance, including the reasons for each cancellation, is compiled by Network Rail and agreed with other rail industry parties.

The Department for Transport receives higher level information on rail performance, but does not monitor the operation of every train. This has been the case since the start of rail franchising in 1996.

Road Safety Act 2006

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the continuous insurance enforcement body provided for in the Road Safety Act 2006 to be established. [220558]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current expectation is that DVLA will be the prime public body responsible for delivery of continuous insurance enforcement with a key role being played by the Motor Insurance Bureau which holds the motor insurance database. The detail of the scheme is still under consideration and we intend to consult later in the year, including on the potential timetable for implementation

Road Traffic Control

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the level of road congestion in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency. [217620]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold data on congestion by constituency.

For the strategic roads network in England congestion is monitored using journey time reliability. Journey time reliability is the average delay for the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys measured over the period of a year. Delay is calculated as the difference between observed journey time and a reference journey time (the time that could theoretically be achieved when the traffic is free flowing).

Reliability has only been monitored since the year August 2004-July 2005. Since that time, delays for the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys have increased from 3.78 minutes per 10 miles to 3.92 minutes per 10 miles in the year June 2007-to May 2008. The yearly figures are shown in the following table.

Period	*Delay for strategic roads in England (minutes per 10 miles)*
August 2004 to July 2005	3.78
August 2005 to July 2006	3.78
August 2006 to July 2007	4.19
June 2007 to May 2008	3.92

For the large urban networks congestion is monitored through change in peak period speeds. The following table shows peak period speeds across large urban areas in England in 2002, 2004 and 2006, based on surveys conducted by this Department and Transport for London:

Miles per hour

	2000-03	*2003-06*	*2006-09*
London			
Central	9.9	10.6	9.3
Inner	11.6	11.7	11.2
Outer	16.9	16.3	—

	2002	*2004*	*2006*
West Midlands	21.1	20.5	18.9
Greater Manchester	23.2	21.0	18.5
Leeds/Bradford	20.1	20.4	20.8
Tyneside	27.8	24.7	25.5
Merseyside	23.7	19.8	18.7
Sheffield	18.8	18.6	19.0
Bristol	23.2	19.0	20.2
Nottingham	15.9	16.4	16.5
Leicester	15.6	14.7	15.8
Stoke/Newcastle-under-Lyme	24.3	16.0	17.8
Teesside	36.2	33.1	35.9
Hull	18.8	20.0	21.5
Bournemouth/Poole	21.0	19.4	19.6
Brighton/Hove	27.0	29.6	29.7
Plymouth	23.3	22.0	20.3
Southampton	16.7	19.5	17.7
Blackpool	18.8	19.4	19.7
Portsmouth	25.8	27.5	28.5

Roads: Delays

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average delay was on the *(a)* A23, *(b)* A52, *(c)* A158, *(d)* A338, *(e)* A35, *(f)* A522, *(g)* A243, *(h)* A3, *(i)* A390, *(j)* A30, *(k)* A429 and *(l)* A27 in each year since 1997. [218816]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Department for Transport only monitors delays for certain routes that form part of the strategic road network. The earliest available data for these routes are for the period August 2004 -July 2005. These routes include sections of the A23, A52, A35, A3, A30 and A27. For information on average delays for these routes, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1029-1030W.

Roads: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether any Transport Innovation Fund pump priming funds are being used to promote congestion charging in Manchester; and what restrictions apply to the use of such funding for campaigning in a referendum on congestion charging; [218837]

(2) what funding will be provided by her Department to groups campaigning *(a)* for and *(b)* against congestion charging in the forthcoming referendum in Manchester. [218838]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Transport Innovation Fund Pump Priming Funds are available for:

the development of TIF Business Cases for TIF Programme Entry;

proposals that have been formally submitted and where authorities are providing further information to support the assessment by Department for Transport and in parallel developing elements of the proposal while waiting for a programme entry decision;

preparatory costs for proposals between Programme Entry and Conditional Approval.

Funds may not be used for activities of a political nature. DFT funds are being used to support the full local public consultation on the Greater Manchester TIF bid which started on the 7 July. We have agreed with Greater Manchester that their consultation will need to meet standards for public consultation set out in Cabinet Office guidance.

The decision on whether to hold a local referendum would be for the Greater Manchester authorities and would be for them to decide the detail on how any poll is run. The Department will not provide funding to groups campaigning in any local referendum.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new items of rolling stock have been approved by her Department for use by each train operating company in the current franchise period of each. [218360]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the following information:

TOC	*New build rolling stock authorised (carriages)*	*Year of introduction*	*Comments*
Arriva Cross Country	0		
c2c	296	1999-2002	
Chiltern	29	2003-2008	
East Midlands	0		
First Capital Connect	0		
First Trans Pennine	153	2004-05	
Greater Western	0		
London Midland	219	2008-10	
Northern	0		
NX East Anglia	0		
NX East Coast	0		
South Central	134	2004, 2011	
South Eastern	174	2009	High speed stock. Ordered before current franchise
South Western	0		
Virgin West Coast	477	2001-2005	A further 106 vehicles currently being procured for introduction in 2012

The figures shown are for new-build stock only, authorised from the beginning of each franchise until 9 July 2008. The figures do not reflect any changes in fleet size at each TOC as new rolling stock may replace, or it may be in addition to, existing stock. Also, older stock may be transferred into an operator, so most TOCs showing as 'no new vehicles' actually see an increase in fleet size.

The HLOS programme, Thameslink programme and InterCity Express project will deliver additional new-build rolling stock.

Rolling Stock: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effect of the strength of the euro on the cost of new Pendolino carriages on the West Coast Main Line. [212295]

Mr. Tom Harris: The costs of the new Pendolino carriages on the West Coast Main Line comprises two elements: the first being the purchase of the carriages, while the second, and more dominant cost, being that of maintenance until 2022. The cost of the carriages in euros has been assessed at a less favourable rate than the current exchange rate. This means a worsening case scenario has been tested and the business case remains positive. All maintenance costs until 2022 will be incurred in the UK and are not subject to any exchange risk.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many proposals for the acquisition of rolling stock have been made at the informal discussion stage to her Department by train operating companies since 1st January; which companies have made such proposals; and what response her Department has made to each. [220278]

Mr. Tom Harris: Informal discussions between train operating companies and the Department for Transport are commercially confidential; proposals for rolling stock acquisition would in any case be made later, as part of a formal process.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of changes over the last 12 months in *(a)* the sterling

to euro exchange rate, *(b)* raw material costs and *(c)* the cost of capital on the cost of (i) new Pendolino carriages for the West Coast Main Line, (ii) the InterCity Express Programme and (iii) the 1,300 extra carriages promised in the Government's high level output statement of July 2007. [220407]

Mr. Tom Harris: All the effects of currency fluctuations on the Pendolino lengthening project; the Intercity Express programme; and the 1,300 extra carriages promised in the high level output specification have been included in the appropriate business cases.

The effects of raw material costs together with the current cost of capital and any exchange rate alterations will be taken into account during the assessment of all the received bids.

The three projects are in various stages of the competitive bid process, where all aspects of the final offer prices are evaluated. Risk assessments are carried out on a monthly basis and the business cases remain positive.

Severn Tunnel

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has identified any long-term structural problems in the Severn Tunnel. [220046]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2EE.

Thames River Crossing

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on the Thames River Crossing; and if she will make a statement. [221455]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proposed Thames Gateway bridge is a Transport for London project, and is therefore a matter for the Mayor.

In terms of the Crossing at Dartford, the Department is undertaking a review that considers making better use of the existing Dartford infrastructure and the possible requirement for a new Lower Thames Crossing. This is expected to report around the end of 2008.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which company manufactured, and in which country, the trains in service on Thameslink routes. [219879]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current Thameslink routes are served by a fleet of class 319 electrical multiple units (EMUs) which were built by British Rail Engineering Ltd. (BREL) in the UK. Over the next few years, as the Thameslink Programme progresses, a number of additional routes will be incorporated into the Thameslink network. The services on these routes are currently operated by class 317 EMUs also built by BREL in the UK, class 365 EMUs built by ABB Transportation (the successor to BREL) in the UK and class 375 and 377 Electrostar EMUs built by Bombardier Transportation (the successor to ABB) in the UK.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2008, on roads, if she will estimate the annual change in carbon dioxide emissions that will result from the implementation of the proposals in the statement. [220616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The carbon impacts depend on scheme by scheme decisions. We always assess the impacts on carbon of all major schemes as part of the NATA appraisal process. Carbon impacts will therefore be assessed as scheme proposals are developed in detail.

When deciding whether to increase road capacity to improve traffic flows and reduce congestion, we will take account of any impact this will have on the overall level of CO_2 emissions from transport. In cases where we decide to go ahead with increasing capacity, we will build the CO_2 impacts into our plans to keep CO_2 emissions within the carbon budgets set under the Climate Change Bill.

Transport: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what allocation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency has made for consultancy fees, excluding technical transport related consultancy, in relation to (i) roads, (ii) railways and (iii) administration in 2008-09. [220614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not break down its budget for consultancy into technical and non-technical transport related consultancy. The requested information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the Highways Agency, I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1452W, on transport: consultants.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1452W, on transport: consultants, what consultancy services are budgeted for by her Department in relation to *(a)* roads, *(b)* railways and *(c)* other matters in 2008-09. [220615]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The types of consultancy services that the Department purchases are Information Technology, Finance, Transport, Human Resources, Management Consultancy, Property Construction and Estates, Legal and some types of research. However, to provide budget information for each type of service for the current year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Transport: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1195-6W, on transport: fuels, if she will place in the Library copies of the most recent sensitivity analyses produced for a high oil price scenario. [218813]

Ms Rosie Winterton: *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Copies of the following reports have been placed in the Libraries of the House:

"Road Transport Forecasts for England 2007—Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model."

"Transport Demand to 2025 and the Economic Case for Road Pricing and Investment."

Transport: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what spending her Department has provided to improve the transport infrastructure of West Sussex in the last 10 years. [219966]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the introduction of local transport plans in 2000, West Sussex has received around £120 million for local transport improvements and maintenance schemes on local roads, as well as approximately £23 million for local major transport schemes and supplementary funding.

Investment by the Highways Agency in smaller scale trunk road improvements has been in the order of £7 million, while further major scheme investment is currently being developed as part of the regional funding allocation, for the A27 at Chichester and the A23 at Handcross and Warninglid.

West Sussex has also benefited from new trains and associated, power supply and depot upgrades delivered as part of the Mark 1 "slam door" stock replacement programme—the total value of the investment (benefiting West Sussex and other parts of London and the south-east) is in the region of £2 billion.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to reduce traffic congestion in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [219967]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The regional element of Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DfT's Response to Eddington) is still at the stage of identifying key challenges to be delivered post 2014. This will need to include mechanisms for, inter alia, barriers to productivity including addressing congestion and climate change.

Steps currently being taken in West Sussex to reduce traffic congestion on trunk roads include:

Operational management

About £4.7 million Local Network Management Schemes.

The HA's Traffic Officer service on the M23 dedicated to managing traffic and provide rapid response to clear debris, carry out immediate repairs and implement traffic management.

Carrying out routine maintenance outside of peak travel times.

Infrastructure improvement (in current regional funding allocation)

A23 Handcross to Warninglid (in Mid Sussex) (programmed for 2012).

A27 Chichester bypass improvements (programmed for 2015).

Local Transport Improvements

Local roads are the responsibility of West Sussex county council.

Local Transport Plan funding to West Sussex over the last 10 years amounts to about £143 million. We do not have the data to identify a figure separately for local transport investment in Mid Sussex.

Funding is allocated within the local authority according to local priorities. In its Local Transport Plan, West Sussex has identified congestion in the major centres and strategic roads as one of their top priorities.

Traffic Management

The Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Local Transport Bill (currently before Parliament) shall give enhanced powers to local authorities in their quest to reduce traffic congestion.

Travelling People: St. Leonards

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department will take steps to remove the unauthorised encampment at the Avon Heath lorry park off the A31 at St. Leonards. [220807]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since learning of the unauthorised encampment at Avon Heath lorry park on 19 May 2008, the Secretary of State has followed procedures under the relevant Acts to remove the Travellers. Steps to date have included all necessary site visits and welfare reports, serving a notice to vacate on the 16 June 2008 and preparing for a court hearing which is scheduled for 21 July at Bournemouth county court.

West Coast Main Line

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the consequences for the delivery to schedule of the West Coast Main Line upgrade of any failure by Network Rail to meet each of the 25 milestones agreed with the Office of Rail Regulation, broken down by milestone. [219645]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has reviewed Network Rail's delivery plan for the West Coast Main Line and concluded that the plan is achievable, provided Network Rail robustly and diligently manages the delivery of the work against the revised programme.

In its Network Rail Monitor for 2007-08 published 5 June 2008, the ORR stated its intention to monitor 25 delivery milestones to certify that Network Rail remains on target to deliver the West Coast Main Line improvements. Two significant milestones were achieved on 5 and 29 May with the successful commissioning of new infrastructure on the Trent Valley four tracking project (Stages 1 and 3) and between Rugby and Nuneaton (Stage G).

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will provide a monthly report on progress towards the 25 milestones for the West Coast Main Line upgrade agreed between the Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail. [219683]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport and Network Rail meet regularly to monitor progress on the West Coast Main Line. The 25 milestones are, however, matters between the Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions have been brought and *(b)* fixed penalty notices have been issued by (i) police and (ii) local authorities for (A) fly-tipping, (B) graffiti, (C) dog fouling, (D) the dropping of litter and (E) parking offences in each year since 2006. [219139]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw) on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2053-2055W.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Information held by DEFRA on fixed penalty notices for local authorities for 2007 will be available in the winter of 2008.

Bail

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many suspects have been granted conditional bail in courts in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; [220263]

(2) how many suspects were granted bail for indictable offences in courts in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; [220264]

(3) how many suspects granted bail in courts in England and Wales in each of the last five years were subsequently convicted and received a custodial sentence of *(a)* up to 12 months, *(b)* between 12 months and four years, *(c)* over four years and *(d)* an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection. [220265]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number of defendants remanded on bail, for all offences including indictable offences, by all courts in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be found in the following table. The data include those held in custody at any stage during proceedings. The bail data supplied relate to the offence at the outcome of court proceedings, which may differ from the original charged offence. These data are taken from the 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales' publications, 1997-2006. Data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not distinguish between those released on conditional and unconditional bail.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

My Department does not collect data in a form that enables identification of the number of defendants granted bail in courts in England and Wales in each of the last five years who were subsequently convicted and received a custodial sentence of *(a)* up to 12 months, *(b)* between 12 months and four years, *(c)* over four years and *(d)* an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection.

Estimated number of persons remanded on bail at magistrates' or the Crown Court, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1]

Thousand

	Total number bailed at all courts[3, 4]									
Offence group[2]	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Indictable	383.9	393.2	373.7	390.6	387.4	376.8	357.5	369.1	331.2	316.1
Summary (other than motoring)	116.1	147.0	126.6	113.9	129.6	127.3	138.0	153.0	154.0	155.2
Summary motoring	101.5	100.0	93.4	78.6	81.8	81.4	103.3	111.0	104.7	91.1
Total	601.4	640.2	593.7	583.1	598.7	585.5	598.7	633.0	590.0	562.3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] The offence is that which the defendant is acquitted or convicted of, which may differ from the original offence the defendant was charged with.
[3] Includes those also held in custody at some stage and those failing to appear to bail.
[4] Excludes defendants reported as failing to appear to a summons although some of these cases, having been initiated by a summons may have resulted in the defendant being remanded on bail.

Notes
1: Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database.

Community Orders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether time spent travelling to unpaid work appointments counts towards an offender's community sentence. [220646]

Mr. Hanson: In general, offenders are expected to travel to Unpaid Work appointments in their own time. If, however, they live in a location that requires them to spend more than 30 minutes travelling in each direction, the time over 30 minutes is credited against their sentence. The total amount of time credited in this way, however, must not exceed 10 per cent. of their sentence. Once they have reported for work, any time spent travelling to, or between, work sites is counted as part of their sentence.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether hours in which an offender is available to perform unpaid work but work cannot take place count towards an offender's community sentence. [220647]

Mr. Hanson: The current normal practice is that when an offender has reported for Unpaid Work but work cannot take place, the offender is allowed to go home and is credited with one hour. This is in accordance with a recommendation from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. When it is necessary to terminate a work session early, normal practice is to credit the hours to the point at which the offender is discharged from work for the day. Guidance will be issued by the National Offender Management Service in respect of both of these points.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217858]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions under the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Most of the Department's IT equipment is switched off over night, as a matter of routine. There are some PCs that have to be left on in order to safeguard overnight data processing on some systems. We are working with our IT suppliers to put in place a technical solution to address this. Meanwhile, staff using these PCs are advised to switch off printers and monitors only.

Within the National Offender Management Service, including Her Majesty's Prison Service, computers that are logged off but left switched on will automatically shutdown.

The cost of electricity consumption associated with specific electronic devices being left on cannot be determined as invoices do not distinguish this expenditure. We will be exploring whether this information could be obtained in the future.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many files containing information about members of the public have been lost by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [220332]

Mr. Wills: The number of lost files containing information about members of the public is not recorded centrally. However, my Department will be reporting on data security incidents in its resource accounts which were laid before the House on 21 July 2008.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217388]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and parts of the Home Office, namely the National Offender Management Service, including the prison and probation services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The figures in the following table show the number of staff taking early retirement for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs for the period mentioned, and for the first complete year of the new Ministry of Justice.

Staff taking early retirement has been taken to mean those staff retiring before their minimum retirement age. The minimum retirement age, of any member of the Ministry of Justice and associated agencies, is the earliest age at which anyone to whom the Pension Choices Scheme applies can retire with superannuation benefits. This is currently age 60 for most grades, or 55 for staff who have an entitlement to reserved rights under the 1987 'Fresh Start' arrangements.

Information on the age of staff retiring has been derived from the Ministry's HR Chrimson, HM Prison Service personnel corporate database and Oracle HR management systems. All of these systems are liable to the normal inaccuracies associated with any large reporting system.

Number of staff retiring before their minimum retirement age

			April to May
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*Total*
Ministry of Justice	n/a	87	87
The former Department for Constitutional Affairs	32	n/a	32
Her Majesty's Court Service	460	533	993
Public Guardianship Office	4	4	8
The Tribunal Service	35	50	85
Wales Office	2	2	4
Her Majesty's Prison Service	n/a	174	174

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* white, *(b)* African, *(c)* Bangladeshi, *(d)* Pakistani and *(e)* African-Caribbean people are registered to vote in the UK. [218991]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any estimate of the percentage of *(a)* White, *(b)* African, *(c)* Bangladeshi, *(d)* Pakistani and *(e)* African-Caribbean people registered to vote in the UK.

However, the Electoral Commission found in their report, "Understanding Electoral Registration", published in September 2005 that the groups least likely to be registered to vote included young people, those residing in private rented accommodation and those belonging to certain minority ethnic groups. Registration rates among White, Asian (those from Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities) and Black Caribbean groups were similar.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) to take all necessary steps to register eligible electors. These steps include sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house-to-house inquiries and inspecting records that the ERO is permitted to

inspect. The Government believe that these steps should help to tackle under-registration.

House of Lords: Reform

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the White Paper on the reform of the House of Lords, what his working assumption is on the number of working peers appointed by the political parties between 2008 and 2013 for the purpose of calculating the number of peers under each alternative model outlined in section 8 of the White Paper. [220638]

Mr. Straw: The modelling assumed that between now and 2013, 28 new life peers are appointed. Broadly, this reflects the current rate of appointments by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. No assumptions were made regarding party political nominations specifically, as there is no obvious basis on which to make assumptions about the number and timing of such appointments, because the pattern has varied considerably in the past.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that the rights of victims and their families are safeguarded when a convicted person is subject to a hospital order rather than given a prison sentence; and if he will make a statement. [220580]

Maria Eagle: We have enhanced the rights of victims to information, where the offender is sentenced by way of a restricted hospital order, in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Those rights will be extended to cases where the offender receives an unrestricted hospital order by amendments in the Mental Health Act 2007, due to be implemented in November.

Where the offender has a restricted hospital order, the National Offender Management Service works with victims who wish to be kept informed, advising them about the offender's management as far as medical confidentiality allows, and passing to decision makers any representations victims wish to make about conditions for their protection in the event of the offender's discharge from hospital.

Offenders: Death

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases of the unexpected death of an offender while serving a custodial sentence in a prison or a young offender institution the family or next of kin of the deceased paid either some or all of the legal costs arising from inquest proceedings in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what sum on average was paid by the family or next of kin in such cases. [218876]

Maria Eagle: Inquests into deaths in prison custody are inquisitorial fact-finding processes, heard by a coroner with a jury. The information is not available in the requested format but figures for the number of cases where funding has been provided for families through legal aid exceptional funding is given in the following table. Figures are not available on whether those who were granted legal aid also had to pay a contribution to their own legal costs, but contributions are not normally requested.

	Number of cases granted exceptional funding	*Number of cases exceptional funding refused/abandoned*
2003-04	70	15
2004-05	54	20
2005-06	93	13
2006-07	80	20
2007-08	87	13

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* under 19 and *(b)* over 18-year-olds have been convicted for illegally carrying (i) knives and (ii) other weapons in (A) 2007 and (B) 2008, broken down by police authority; and if he will make a statement. [219141]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1434-42W.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Offensive Weapons: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18 and *(c)* over 18 years were (i) charged, (ii) convicted and (iii) sentenced to immediate custody for possession of a knife in each of the last five years. [219252]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons aged 10 to 15, 16 to 18, and 19 and over, who were proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for possession of a knife, in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information on numbers proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons aged 10 to 15, 16 to 18, and 19 and over, who were proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for possession of a knife, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006

	10-15			16-18			19 and over		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody
2002	440	360	13	1,200	964	65	5,323	4,014	695
2003	378	323	13	1,137	921	60	5,413	4,152	688
2004	470	400	8	1,214	1,004	78	5,668	4,486	729
2005	486	418	15	1,233	1,034	79	5,600	4,553	876
2006	529	477	18	1,364	1,145	93	5,806	4,747	964

Notes:
1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3. Having an article with blade or point in public place.
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (I)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1). Having an article with blade or point on school premises.
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* between 10 and 17 years, *(b)* between 18 and 24 years and *(c)* 25 years and over were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of knife possession offences in each of the last five years. [219443]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of persons proceeded against magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possession of a knife, by age group, in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possession of a knife, by age group, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against			Found guilty		
	10-17	18-24	25 and over[4]	10-17	18-24	25 and over[4]
2002	1,205	2,253	3,503	972	1,712	2,654
2003	1,131	2,176	3,621	939	1,706	2,751
2004	1,244	2,328	3,780	1,035	1,905	2,950
2005	1,295	2,339	3,685	1,113	1,946	2,946
2006	1,449	2,483	3,767	1,265	2,045	3,059

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3. Having an article with blade or point in public place.
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (I)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1). Having an article with blade or point on school premises.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] May include a few persons aged 18 or over where the age did not form part of the data supplied.
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Parc Prison: Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities there are to provide health care to young people at Parc *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution. [219221]

Mr. Hanson: The delivery of primary health care provision at HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Parc forms part of the contractual arrangements between the Director of Offender Management in Wales and the operator. The Welsh Assembly Government has responsibility for the provision of all other health care services to people held there.

The various clinics and services available at HMP/YOI Parc include the following:

Induction programme for new admissions "Introduction to Healthcare Services"

Education "Pathways" programme, "Sex, Health and Relationships"

Fit For Life (Well Man)

Immunisations/vaccines including: meningitis, BCG (TB vaccine) and hepatitis

Genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics

Smoking cessation and other health promotion

Opticians

Dentist

Doctor/GP access

Mental health assessments by resident registered mental nurses

Chiropodist

Provision for in-patient care.

All other services that would be required from local hospitals would be arranged by the resident health care team.

The Welsh Assembly Government has funded Bridgend Local Health Board to provide a mental health in-reach service (i.e. a secondary health care service) to Parc.

Health Commission Wales is the responsible commissioner of a Tier Four Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and Forensic Adolescent Consultation Treatment Service. These services can be accessed through the normal way via referral by clinicians in primary and secondary health care.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216686]

Maria Eagle: The highest 10 payments made by the Department all related to the Prison Service and are listed in the following table for 2007-08.

Amount of damages[1]	*Contested or uncontested*[2]	*Nature of incident*
£760,000	Court award	Accident related injury
£520,000	Court award	Assault
£220,000	Settled before hearing	Assault
£200,000	Court award	Psychiatric injury
£160,000	Settled before hearing	Industrial injury
£150,000	Settled before hearing	Accident related injury
£150,000	Settled before hearing	Psychiatric injury
£150,000	Settled before hearing	Medical negligence
£130,000	Settled before hearing	Fatality
£130,000	Settled before hearing	Psychiatric injury

[1] In order to prevent any claimant being identified the damages have been rounded to the nearest £10,000.
[2] All claims are defended until such time as the evidence indicates otherwise.

Pleural Plaques

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his Department's consultation paper CP 1408 on pleural plaques, which Government department will have responsibility for any disbursement of payments from the public purse in relation to each option set out in CP 14/08; and if he will make a statement. [219960]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation paper considers the issues that arise in relation to changing the law of negligence and invites views on whether this would or would not be appropriate. It also seeks views on the merits of offering no fault financial support to people diagnosed with pleural plaques, and on two possible ways of doing this. Decisions on the appropriate way forward, including any issues in relation to funding, will be taken in the light of consultation.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his Department's consultation paper CP14/08, on pleural plaques, what estimate he has made of the potential liability falling on the public purse under policy options *(a)* 4 and *(b)* 5; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the overall cost under each option proposed that might fall on the public purse. [220309]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation paper discusses the possible approaches in relation to the funding of any no fault scheme which might be introduced under policy option 4 or 5. Decisions on the appropriate way forward will be taken in the light of consultation.

The initial impact assessment accompanying the consultation paper estimates the potential cost of option 4 to be between £52 million and £196 million (excluding set-up costs), and of option 5 to be between £780 million and £4.8 billion (excluding set-up costs).

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners *(a)* convicted of drugs offences, *(b)* assessed as requiring drug treatment and *(c)* undergoing drug treatment have been housed in police cells under Operation Safeguard in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by number of nights housed in a police cell. [218880]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Prisoners are subject to a risk assessment prior to being held under Operation Safeguard. Past or present drug misuse or treatment, or the need for treatment, do not necessarily render a prisoner unsuitable to be held in police cells overnight.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders *(a)* began and *(b)* were released from an indeterminate sentence for public protection in the last month. [220797]

Mr. Hanson: During May 2008 120 prisoners were received into prison establishments in England and Wales having been sentenced to an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection; over the same period three IPP prisoners were released.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoner Escorts

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions court authorities have not produced a defendant in court in due time in the last period for which figures are available. [219972]

Maria Eagle: The production of defendants from custody to courts in England and Wales is the responsibility of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and is contracted out to private escort companies. Contractors produced 556,508 prisoners in court in 2007-08, of which 626 were reported as resulting in a delay to court proceedings.

The contractors have a target of delivering 85 per cent. of prisoners by the due time; that being, generally 9.30 am for prisoners due to appear before midday and 11:30 am for prisoners due to appear after midday. Nationally, contractors met that target throughout 2007-08. The number of cases involving remand defendants not produced from custody for their trial hearing was 51 in the Crown court and 846 in the magistrates courts.

Total figures for the number of criminal cases where one or more defendants failed to attend on the first day of their trial and which resulted in the trial being adjourned to another date are shown in the following table.

April 2007 to March 2008

	Crown court	Magistrates' courts
Total trials listed	35,318	190,155
Total ineffective trials	4,329	34,841
Total cases where defendant(s) failed to attend trial hearing	1,138	7,282

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners do not have their case recorded on the NOMS pre-release section database. [220799]

Mr. Hanson: The database referred to which the hon. and learned Member refers is designed to record information on those cases in which officials in the Public Protection Unit in the National Offender Management Service have a direct involvement. Therefore, it holds data on prisoners serving a life sentence or an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection. It also holds data on determinate sentence prisoners who have been recalled to custody following release on licence or who have had an oral hearing to consider their parole application. It does not hold information on other determinate sentence prisoners.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* juvenile prisoners have been diagnosed with dangerous and severe personality disorder. [220798]

Maria Eagle: Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) is not a clinically defined condition but describes individuals who have been assessed as posing a high risk of further sexual or violent offending, linked to the presence of severe personality disorder.

Information provided by DSPD units indicates that:

between July 2004 and June 2008 a total of 281 men and nine women were found on assessment to meet the DSPD criteria and admitted for treatment in a high secure setting.

between January 2006 and December 2007 a total of 181 men were found on assessment to meet criteria and accepted for treatment either in medium secure DSPD units or under supervision in the community.

DSPD services are only available for adults.

Prisons

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies or employers are members of the corporate alliance working with prisons. [220644]

Mr. Hanson: Employers who support the Reducing Re-offending Corporate Alliance have agreed to employ offenders or are contributing to improving offenders' skills or employability. In signing up to the Alliance they have agreed that their experiences can be used to promote the case for employing offenders with other employers.

Employers that have signed up to the Reducing Re-offending Corporate Alliance are:

Aramark, Action Housing and Support Ltd., Aire Valley, Alfa Electric, Angel-Fish Cleaning Company, A-One, Barclays, Barhale, British Institute of Cleaning Science, Blaydon RFC, Blue Sky, Boots, Boss Training, Bovis Lend Lease, Breeze Cafe and Deli, Business in the Community, Cadbury Schweppes, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS, Camden Garden Centre, Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development, Cisco Systems, Clayport Library, Club 4 Kids, Coachers, Coleman Construction, Compass, Construction Leeds, Cooplands, Costco Wholesale, CRI, CST Associates, Dead Earnest Theatre, DHL, Doncaster and Rotherham District Motor Trades, East View Housing, Ecovert FM, Eden Project, Enterprise, Fifteen Foundation, Foundation Training Company, Fyffes Group, Garforth Building Supplies, G Sport Gym, GM Procure, Grimsby Fish Dock Enterprises, Hastings Council, Horizon Recruitment, Horton Housing Association, Hughes Brothers, Immedia Productions, Interserve FM, John Laing Training, JS Humidifers, Jury Inns, Leeds city council, Kalyx, KPMG, Leicester Cares, Levi Solicitors, LUSH, Marshall Tuffles, Martha Trust, McGinley Recruitment Services, Mersey Mail, MLS Ltd., Nacro, Oxfam (County Durham), Pecan, Pestalozzi International Village, Ramada Jarvis, Recruitment and Employment Confederation, Reed Elsevier, Safer London Foundation, Sainsburys, Second Byte IT, Serco, Sheffield Cathedral, Shell UK, Southampton council, South Tyneside Library, Sova, TA Horn, Tesco, Tomorrow's People, Turning Point, UBS Investment Bank, UK Railways Ltd., VT Shipbuilding Ltd., Wakefield Welfare Association, Wates, Wessex Water, Wiltan Ltd., Working Links, WYTS, YMCA England.

Prisons: Electronic Surveillance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 104W, on prisons: electronic surveillance, how many covert surveillance operations relating to hon. Members were authorised by the Home Secretary in 1999; what the Government's policy was in 1999 on the surveillance of hon. Members meeting their constituents in prison; and if he will make a statement. [220619]

Mr. Straw: It is our policy to neither confirm nor deny covert surveillance operations in prisons. I refer the hon. Member to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair's written answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 4 December 1997, *Official Report*, column 321W, which made it clear that the Wilson doctrine applied to telephone interception and to the use of electronic surveillance by any of the three security and intelligence agencies. Visits by MPs to prisoners in prisons were not excluded from this policy.

Prisons: Food

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost per day of the food allowance for prisoners in *(a)* prison cells and *(b)* police station cells. [219140]

Mr. Straw: The cost of providing food in prisons is approximately £2 per prisoner per day. For prisoners held in police cells under Operation Safeguard, the cost, agreed between NOMS and ACPO, is up to a ceiling of £12. This may be exceeded under exceptional circumstances.

The difference arises because the provision of food in prison can be planned with much greater certainty and prison establishments are able to make use of bulk purchasing.

Prisons: Homicide

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many homicides have occurred in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [218879]

Mr. Straw: The answer is given in the following table.

Homicides[1] in prisons and YOIs

	1997	1998	2000	2003	2004	2005	2007
(a) Prison							
HMP Birmingham	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
HMP Cardiff	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
HMP Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
HMP Garth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Leeds	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
HMP Leicester	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
HMP Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
HMP Liverpool	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Manchester	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
HMP Risley	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
HMP Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
HMP Wayland	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Woodhill	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) YOI							
HMYOI Feltham	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
HMYOI Stoke Heath	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

[1] This includes apparent and suspected homicides where no conviction has been obtained and/or inquest verdicts have not yet been returned. This table does not include uncategorised deaths which may subsequently be classified as homicides by NOMS.

Prisons: Medical Equipment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions are equipped with readily accessible and operational defibrillators; and what measures are in place to train staff in (i) defibrillator use and (ii) cardiopulmonary resuscitation. [218877]

Mr. Hanson: There are no central records of defibrillators held in prisons and young offender institutions. It is the responsibility of the governing governor or director of each prison or young offender institution to determine the requirements for first aid training and training in defibrillator use for their establishment by conducting a risk assessment and training needs analysis in line with Prison Service general training requirements and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) legislation.

Prisons: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons employ a voluntary sector coordinator. [220643]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order 4190 "Strategy for working with the Voluntary and Community Sector" (2002) includes a mandatory action for governors, area managers and head of groups to "give responsibility to a member of their senior management team for oversight of voluntary and community groups as part of their job description". Although some prisons have a dedicated voluntary sector co-ordinator, this role is usually undertaken part-time by the head of reducing re-offending, head of learning and skills, the diversity manager, a member of chaplaincy or another member of staff depending on the establishment.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made towards the UK withdrawing its reservation to article 36(c) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [219961]

Mr. Hanson: The United Kingdom (UK) does not have a reservation against Article 36 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I assume the hon. Gentleman's question refers to the UK's reservation against Article 37(c) of the Convention.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families (Beverley Hughes) and I are considering the findings of an official level review into whether or not the reservation remains relevant to the secure estate for children and young people in England and Wales. The reservation against Article 37(c) applies to the United Kingdom as a whole and so we are considering the overall position with the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office.

Volunteer Referral Order Panel

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason members of the Volunteer Referral Order panel are disqualified from serving in that capacity for more than six years; and if he will make a statement. [220806]

Mr. Hanson: The tenure of volunteer youth offender panel members is currently limited to a maximum period of six years; an initial three year period which can then be extended to a maximum of six. These terms are set out in "Referral Orders and Youth Offender Panels—Guidance for courts, Youth Offending Teams and Youth Offender Panels" issued jointly by the Home Office,

Lord Chancellor's Department and the Youth Justice Board in February 2002. This guidance is currently being reviewed and the matter of tenure for volunteer youth offender panel members is being considered as part of this review. In the interim, volunteer panel members may have their service extended by a further year. The review is expected to be completed this autumn.

Young Offender Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many violent incidents involving knives and other offensive weapons occurred in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what proportion of such incidents involved prisoner (i) on prisoner and (ii) on staff violence in each such year; [218875]

(2) how many *(a)* knives and *(b)* other offensive weapons have been found in (i) young offender institutions and (ii) prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [218881]

Mr. Straw: The Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS) processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The data provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. In addition information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) defines violence in prisons as 'any incident in which a person is abused, threatened or assaulted. This includes an explicit or implicit challenge to their safety, well-being or health. The resulting harm may be physical, emotional or psychological'. This definition takes into account the impact of fear on emotional health and well-being.

The numbers on IRS given in the tables refer to all incidents recorded as assaults. These may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on prisoner, prisoner on officer, other (including miscellaneous assault information) and prisoner on other. The recorded incidents of prisoner on officer are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes in this category assaults on other prison staff. The category 'prisoner on other' contains few entries and these may also include prison staff as well as visitors, legal visitors etc. However, for the purpose of this response the categories 'prisoner on officer' and 'prisoner on other' are used to answer the question regarding prisoner on staff assaults.

In the majority of assault incidents there is no recorded use of weapon. The figures in relation to staff are very small so that proportions are not meaningful.

Figures are available for the last eight years. The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst) where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system which is not currently accessed from Prison Service headquarters.

There is no definition for offensive weapon therefore all weapon types recorded have been shown.

Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form.

Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. This policy has recently been revised and from mid-2007 applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. The strategy requires each prison to undertake regular analysis of the problem areas, consider solutions and provide an action plan to improve personal safety and reduce violence. All closed establishments are required to undertake a cell-sharing risk assessment to inform cell allocation. A good practice toolkit supports the violence reduction strategy and guides establishments to develop practical solutions, including environmental and physical measures as well as alternative ways of managing behaviour.

As set out in the NOMS National Security Framework (NSF), establishments deploy a comprehensive range of robust searching techniques and security measures to detect and uncover weapons at the point of entry or concealed in the establishment. Such measures include the rub down and full searching of prisoners, staff and visitors, as appropriate; the use of technical devices, such as metal detectors; the deployment of searching dogs and the routine and intelligence-led searching of living accommodation and communal areas.

While figures indicate that the numbers of assaults has risen in recent years, it is not possible to quantify how much of this is due to the rise in prison population, increased reporting, better data processing, or an actual increase in incidents. The increase during the earlier part of the period is most likely to do with changes in the reporting system (increase in available fields/ranges of incident capture). Additionally, a violence reduction strategy—dating from 2004 and revised in 2007—has further encouraged better recording. Rises in assaults may also be linked to imported violence (more prisoners held for violent offences (in 1996 prisoners held for offences of violence against the person accounted for 18 per cent. of first receptions into immediate custody, by 2005 this had risen to 23 per cent.)).

The reported numbers are useful for internal management purposes, but they should not be considered as absolute. Data on assaults are complex. In particular, the level of detail requested here means that the totals in this response will not necessarily match figures provided in previous NOMS responses.

(a) Incidents involving weapons in young offender institutions

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Prisoner on prisoner								
Prison population[1]	65,194	66,403	71,218	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,689
Knife/Blade	17	12	10	7	11	11	20	27
Other sharp instrument	3	4	0	3	2	6	8	8

(a) Incidents involving weapons in young offender institutions

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Blunt instrument	40	40	34	50	52	55	47	57
Ligature	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hot liquid	10	4	5	2	13	15	3	6
Spitting	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Food	3	2	2	2	2	4	6	6
Thrown furniture	5	4	9	10	5	6	8	6
Thrown equipment	1	0	1	0	2	2	4	5
Other	85	101	115	128	133	144	140	173
Total	150	167	177	202	228	245	237	288

(b) Prisoner on staff

Chemical incapacitant	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Knife/Blade	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Other sharp instrument	0	2	2	0	0	4	0	1
Blunt instrument	9	5	2	4	9	15	9	6
Hot liquid	5	1	1	2	2	5	5	5
Excreta/Urine	5	1	0	1	2	4	1	2
Spitting	1	2	0	0	3	2	2	0
Food	8	5	4	5	8	11	5	6
Thrown furniture	2	2	2	6	4	5	4	2
Thrown equipment	2	2	1	8	1	0	4	2
Other	31	23	38	40	51	54	71	71
Total	67	43	50	66	81	107	97	98

Note:
Two young offender institutions in England and Wales re-rolled to prisons in this period. Their figures are included in table (b).

(b) Incidents involving weapons in prisons in England and Wales

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
(1) Prisoner on prisoner								
Prison population[1]	65,194	66,403	71,218	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,689
Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chemical incapacitant	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Knife/Blade	112	99	105	130	132	144	183	208
Other sharp instrument	20	31	26	28	30	27	40	46
Blunt instrument	128	119	141	169	145	141	168	137
Ligature	1	6	3	1	2	3	2	2
Hot liquid	29	29	29	30	17	21	24	43
Excreta/Urine	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Spitting	0	3	4	5	3	2	2	4
Food	6	6	10	10	6	8	6	4
Thrown furniture	14	13	8	16	15	13	14	11
Thrown equipment	4	6	5	10	7	9	12	11
Total	315	302	331	399	357	371	451	491
Prisoner on staff								
Chemical incapacitant	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Knife/Blade	5	11	6	17	19	11	12	15
Other sharp instrument	3	4	4	2	6	3	2	2
Blunt instrument	20	21	17	19	17	16	21	23
Ligature	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hot liquid	10	13	7	13	10	10	14	12
Excreta/Urine	9	9	10	22	18	23	24	21
Spitting	21	10	11	26	10	13	18	14
Food	25	24	16	30	16	16	23	22
Thrown furniture	8	13	6	13	13	13	15	7
Thrown equipment	7	7	6	12	10	11	10	12
Other	117	134	123	187	153	160	168	148
Total	224	246	207	342	272	276	310	277

The following table demonstrates that, when taking into account the prison population for each year, there has been a relatively low increase in the proportion of assault incidents involving bladed instruments since 2000:

(c) Proportion of assault incidents involving use of a knife/bladed instrument or other sharp instrument

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Assault incidents	9,423	10,695	11,514	11,833	12,555	14,405	15,047	15,224
Weapon incidents (Knives/blades/sharps)	157	153	153	187	201	206	265	310
Weapon								
Weapon use per 50 assaults	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0
Prison population[1]	65,194	66,403	71,218	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,689

[1] MOJ statistics.

The information requested in relation to the number of knives and offensive weapons found in prisons and young offender institutions is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Young Offender Institutions: Emergencies

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* prisons in England and Wales to ensure that staff invoke appropriate response procedures in the event of (i) fire, (ii) death and (ii) other emergencies; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure that prison staff are trained in such procedures. [218874]

Mr. Hanson: HM Prison Service provides instructions to ensure that governing governors and directors of both prisons and young offender institutions have contingency plans in place in the event of fire, death and other emergencies.

Public and private sector prison staff receive the appropriate training to ensure they have required skills and knowledge to deal with incidents of fire, death and other emergencies in prisons. It is the responsibility of individual prisons to assess the training needs of their staff to ensure these incidents are managed effectively.

Young Offender Institutions: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what protocols are invoked upon the discovery of a knife or other offensive weapon in prisons and young offender institutions in England and Wales. [219082]

Mr. Straw: Any offensive weapons found within prisons and young offender institutions will be seized and reported to the prison security department where the incident is dealt with according to the circumstances involved. The discovery of firearms or explosives must be reported to the police immediately. The discovery of offensive weapons such as knives, kitchen or workshop implements or improvised weapons should be reported to the police if there is evidence to suggest that the weapon is intended for use in a criminal offence such as a serious assault.

Possession of an offensive weapon is a disciplinary offence and prisoners will face an internal adjudication if the matter is not dealt with through the courts. The conveying of an offensive weapon into or out of a prison or passing of such an article to a prisoner is a criminal offence and will be dealt with accordingly.

Policy and guidance on the handling of weapons found within prisons is contained within the National Offender Management National Security Framework, which sets outs procedures for the preservation and continuity of evidence in cases where weapons are found.

Young Offender Institutions: Speech Therapy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has commissioned on the effects of providing speech and language therapy in young offender institutions and secure training centres in the last three years. [219217]

Maria Eagle: There has been no research commissioned specifically on the effects of providing speech and language therapy in young offender institutions and secure training centres in the last three years.

Professor Karen Bryan's research in this area, published in 2004, funded by the Helen Hamlyn Trust and supported by HM Prison Service, has been used to inform the new reception screen developed by the Youth Justice Board. All young offenders receive health screening on reception into prison, and in addition, a screen for their educational needs.

A strategy looking at the health and social care needs of children across the criminal justice system is currently in development and due for publication in 2008. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Health, Department of Children, Schools and Families, Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board, and is intended as an integrated and holistic response to the health and social care needs of these children.

Young Offenders

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of juvenile offenders were attending school at the time of their conviction in 2007. [219230]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to the educational status of young offenders upon conviction are not recorded centrally. However, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has a performance indicator to ensure that 90 per cent. of all young people supervised by youth offending teams are in suitable full time education, training or employment at the end of their order. These data are published in the YJB annual statistics and are available on their website: www.yjb.gov.uk

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether responses to the Youth Justice Board's

consultation exercise on the scaled approach will be published in full; [220514]

(2) when the responses to the Youth Justice Board's consultation exercise on the scaled approach will be published; [220515]

(3) when he will publish the evaluation report of the Youth Justice Board's scaled approach pilot; [220516]

(4) what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the evaluation of the piloting of the Youth Justice Board's scaled approach. [220613]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board is completing compilation of the responses to the consultation exercise on the scaled approach and revision of the Scaled Approach framework based on the responses. These will be published together in the autumn.

The evaluation of the scaled approach pilot will also be published. Evidence and recommendations from an initial draft of the evaluation were used to inform the development of the scaled approach framework. The report is being finalised for publication which includes an academic peer review and review by Ministry of Justice Analytical Services. This should be completed over the summer to allow publication in the autumn.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Boilers: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to protect consumers from excessive charges for replacement boilers. [218179]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 requires a trader who agrees to provide a service—including the provision of a replacement boiler—to carry out that service with reasonable care and skill, for a reasonable charge (unless the price is fixed by contract) and within a reasonable time (unless the time is fixed by contract). It also requires that any goods and materials supplied are of satisfactory quality. If the trader fails to comply with these requirements the law treats the matter as breach of contract and a consumer could, if necessary, pursue a claim for redress through the civil courts.

Business: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his definition of a rural business is; and what estimate he has made of the number of rural businesses in England. [217664]

Mr. McFadden: There is no standard industrial classification for a rural business but in 2004 Government agreed to define a rural business in England as a business registered at an address in an area defined as rural by the 2004 definition of rural. This defines settlements with populations of 10,000 or more as urban, and those with less than a 10,000 population as rural.

Analysis of the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register by Defra shows there were 476,490 businesses registered for VAT or PAYE in rural areas in England in 2005. This represents 28 per cent. of the total number of VAT and PAYE businesses registered in England, which was 1,712,745 in 2005.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to reduce the level of administrative burdens on rural businesses. [217953]

Mr. McFadden: BERR's plans to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on businesses, including rural businesses, are set out in our Better Regulation Simplification Plan.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the UK's capacity to meet its carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets with the current level of technical expertise available to industry and the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [201298]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government remains committed to meeting its CO_2 emissions reduction targets, and is confident that the correct strategies and mechanisms are in place to achieve this, including the UK Climate Change Programme, tighter building regulations and the EU emissions trading scheme.

Companies: Fraud

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) to which authority Companies House refers for prosecution complaints relating to false registration of a registered address; [218539]

(2) which authority receives complaints from property owners against companies which falsely register their office address as the property owner's address; [218540]

(3) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* companies were prosecuted for false registration of a registered office pursuant to sections 12 and 363 of the Companies Act 1985 in each of the last 12 years; and what penalties were imposed. [218541]

Mr. Thomas: Under the Companies Act 1985, there is no offence directly related to a company providing false information relating to the address of its registered office. Nevertheless, over the last 12 months, Companies House received 49 complaints relating to the address of the registered office. These were mostly from occupiers of addresses that are the registered offices of companies with which they have no links. In these circumstances, it may be possible for the occupier to bring court proceedings against the company.

The Companies Act 2006 makes it an offence for a person knowingly or recklessly to deliver a document to the registrar or to make a statement to him that is misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular. This provision will come into force on 1 October 2009. This offence might be committed if a company notified without permission another's address as the address of the company's registered office.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217864]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has implemented software to automatically turn off all PCs, that may have been left on, at an agreed time overnight. As a result, no energy is consumed overnight by IT desktop devices.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of staff in his Department and its predecessor have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218728]

Mr. Thomas: BERR's records, and its predecessor, the Department for Trade and Industry, show:

	BERR HQ including UKTI staff who have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days	
	Number	*Percentage*
2007-08	385	12
2006-07	478	12.5
2005-06	480	11

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates his Department has made of the amount of energy consumed by circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [219191]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's Market Transformation Programme estimates that the energy consumed by circulator pumps was about 1.7 TWh for domestic properties and about 3.4 TWh for non-domestic properties in the UK in 2006.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much additional funding the Government have committed to *(a)* the Clean Technology Fund and *(b)* the Strategic Climate Fund following the Heads of Government agreement on energy and climate change at the G8 summit. [218870]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The UK intends to make available an £800 million contribution to the Strategic Climate Fund announced at the Hokkaido G8 summit, a proportion of which will be allocated to the Clean Technology Fund. Part of the UK's contribution will also be allocated to the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience.

The exact allocations to these (and other programmes funded through the Strategic Climate Fund) have yet to be determined since some aspects of the sectoral programmes are still under design. Roughly two thirds of the £800 million will be allocated to climate change mitigation, and one third to climate change adaptation.

The joint DEFRA/DFID Environmental Transformation Fund-International Window (ETF-IW) will finance the UK's contribution. The ETF-IW is in addition to current climate and ODA spending for both DFID and DEFRA.

EU Trade: Palestinians

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value has been of imports of produce into *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU under the interim EU-Palestinian Authority Association Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [219745]

Mr. Thomas: The Association Agreement between the European Community and the Palestinian Authority was signed in February 1997. Its trade provisions came into force on an interim basis on 1 July 1997.

For the period July 1997 to December 2007, EUROSTAT's Comext trade statistics database recorded UK and EU imports of goods from the Occupied Palestinian Territories worth about €7.8 million and €72.9 million, i.e. about £5.3 million and £48.7 million respectively.

Fireworks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department plans to take to encourage safe and responsible celebrations on and around Guy Fawkes Night in 2008. [218527]

Mr. Thomas: BERR is responsible for fireworks legislation, as well as the promotion of the safe and responsible use of fireworks. Every year the Department carries out a publicity campaign to ensure the UK population has adequate information about firework safety, with the objective of reducing the number of accidents relating to fireworks.

We currently produce a range of literature, which is available online and updated annually, including: copies of the fireworks safety code for adults and children; schools packs; posters and leaflets for retailers; and a campaign toolkit for local Trading Standards teams.

The BERR fireworks safety website was restructured in 2006 and now forms the focal point of our activity. All communications will carry the website address

www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks.

This year's campaign will also involve close working with other fireworks safety interest groups and the media to promote the important safety message on and around Guy Fawkes day, as well as other festivals involving the use of fireworks.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217894]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's contracted catering service provider does not have sufficiently detailed information available to answer this question fully and to produce it would involve disproportionate cost.

Currently, orders are placed for between 100-140 portions of fish per day, with the main species being haddock, salmon, hake, plaice, skate, mackerel and catfish.

All fish is sourced from sustainable sources in line with Marine Stewardship Council guidelines.

Independent Food Stores

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his latest estimate is of the change in the number of independent food stores in the last 12 months; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the regulatory burden on such businesses. [216356]

Mr. McFadden: The Competition Commission's Final Report on its Investigation of the Groceries Market, published on 30 April 2008, estimated that the number of convenience stores operated by small businesses stayed approximately at the same level (34,554 in 2006 and 34,505 in 2007). The report also estimated that the number of specialist grocery stores, which includes greengrocers, butchers, fishmongers and bakeries fell from 18,985 in 2006 to 18,465 in 2007.

As part of the Enterprise Strategy published this year, the Government will consult on the introduction of a new system of regulatory budgets for Departments. These would be budgets setting out the limit of regulation that can be introduced within a given period. Adopting such a forward looking limit on the costs of regulation would be a world first, and further support Britain as one of the best places in the world to do business.

The Enterprise Strategy also announced the Government's intention to build on our 'think small first' policy for small business by investigating where small businesses could be exempted from new regulation. When regulation is necessary, the Government will fully explore different approaches to regulating small businesses to ensure the regulation is proportionate and appropriate to the context of small business.

Foreign Investment in UK

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of jobs *(a)* safeguarded and *(b)* created by inward investment into the UK in 2007-08. [219023]

Mr. Thomas: On 2 July UK Trade and Investment announced that in 2007-08 it recorded 1,573 decisions to invest in the UK, and 45,051 new jobs plus 58,488 safeguarded jobs associated with these investments.

Post Offices: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* income, *(b)* expenditure and *(c)* profitability of the (i) Linslade, (ii) Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, (iii) Eaton Bray, (iv) High Street South, Dunstable and (v) Luton Road, Dunstable post offices was in each of the last three years. [218993]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to the provisions of section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 in respect of the withdrawal of postal services from settlements in national parks; and if he will make a statement. [215710]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* In developing such proposals under its Network Change programme, Post Office Ltd. is required to comply with the access criteria set by Government, to take account of geographical factors, including distance to alternative outlets, and to consider availability of public transport, local demographics and the impact on local economies.

I understand that Post Office Ltd. has specifically consulted the Dartmoor National Park Authority in respect of its post office closure and new outreach proposals in its Devon area plan. The authority's response, together with all other responses received in response to the local public consultation, will be carefully considered in reaching final decisions.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the 2,500 post offices proposed for closure in May 2007 have been allowed to continue in operation. [218999]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Disclosure of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sanctions there are in postmasters' contracts with Post Office Limited for breaking confidentiality agreements in relation to *(a)* the network change programme and *(b)* any other matter. [218178]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services: Fraud

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases of fraudulently redirected mail the Royal Mail discovered in each of the last three years for which figures are available; what steps Royal Mail is taking to counter this practice; and if he will make a statement. [218372]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which board members of each regional development agency have responsibility for rural affairs. [217666]

Mr. McFadden: Regional Development Agency Board members with responsibility for rural affairs are as follows:

Advantage West Midlands—Michael Oakes

East of England Regional Development Agency—Lord Edward Iveagh

East Midlands Development Agency—Cllr Geoffrey Stevens

Northwest Regional Development Agency—Peter Allan

ONE NorthEast—Ian Brown

South East of England Development Agency—Poul Christensen

South West Regional Development Agency—Harry Studholme

Yorkshire Forward—Lord Christopher Haskins.

Small Businesses: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many business start-ups took place in Bexley in each of the last three years; [211600]

(2) how many business registrations for value added tax there have been in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London in each year since 2000. [211601]

Mr. McFadden: VAT registration data provide the only readily available indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in Bexley and London are shown in the following table for 2000 to 2006. Data for VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Number of new VAT registrations and VAT registered businesses

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
VAT registrations								
Bexley	585	620	545	580	580	535	560	–
London	36,330	33,400	32,955	35,750	35,320	34,875	34,825	–
Stock of VAT registered businesses								
Bexley	4,790	4,870	4,995	5,045	5,140	5,225	5,280	5,385
London	270,875	277,595	281,225	282,920	289,130	294,815	301,975	309,225

Although the number of new VAT registrations in each area has fluctuated between 2000 and 2006 the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased in both Bexley and London over the period. The stock of VAT registered businesses in Bexley district has increased by 595 (12 per cent.) between the start of 2000 and the start of 2007 and in the London region there has been an increase of 38,350 (14 per cent.) over the period.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Supermarkets

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will appoint an independent ombudsman and draw up a code of practice to regulate trade between supermarkets and local suppliers. [219138]

Mr. Thomas: In its report into the Supply of Groceries in the UK, published on 30 April, the Competition Commission (CC) identified that excessive risks and unexpected costs were being transferred from grocery retailers to suppliers. To address this concern, the CC is extending the supermarkets code of practice (SCOP) to include a larger number of retailers and prohibit some practices that take place. The CC is also seeking undertakings from the grocery retailers covered by the new groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) to establish an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance with the GSCOP. If the CC is unsuccessful in establishing the ombudsman within a reasonable period of time, the CC will ask BERR to take the necessary steps to set up an ombudsman. BERR would then carry out a full consultation.

Trade Unions: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on the Trade Union Modernisation Fund in each year since its establishment. [217362]

Mr. McFadden: The costs accrued are as follows:

	£
2006-07	1,505,964
2007-08	1,674,000
2008-09	18,918

[1] Year to date

Utilities: Billing

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on compulsory payment of bills by direct debit; and if he will make a statement. [219024]

Malcolm Wicks: In general, companies offering goods and services are free to use whatever contractual terms and conditions they consider reasonable, including those involving methods of payment. If prospective customers are unhappy with these contractual terms and conditions they can attempt to renegotiate the terms in question or find an alternative provider.

Direct debit is often the most cost-efficient payment method for companies because, among other things, it guarantees payment and reduces invoicing costs. Companies often offer a discount, therefore, on their standard charges for those paying by direct debit.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of GCSE results at grade A* to C were achieved by schools that have had *(a)* full and *(b)* partial refurbishment under the Building Schools for the Future programme in each of the last five years. [219284]

Jim Knight: There are currently 13 schools which have completed their full or partial refurbishment through the Building Schools for the Future programme and so the contribution made by these schools to the number of A*-C grades at GCSE is very small. Following is a table of the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C GCSE grades (or equivalent) in each school.

New build schools

Name	*Local authority*	*Percentage of pupils GCSE achieving 5 A*-C grades (or equivalent)*				
		2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Solihull Centre for Inclusive Learning (Merston and Forest Oak Special Schools)	Solihull	[1]—	0	0	0	0
Bamburgh School	South Tyneside and Gateshead	14	5	22	8	14
Sixth Form Centre	Haringey	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Brunel Academy[3]	Bristol	31	23	25	23	n/a
Sandon High School	Stoke	47	49	42	49	42
The Michael Tippett School	Lambeth	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
Bristol Metropolitan College[4]	Bristol	31	31	31	28	43
All Saints	Newcastle	13	23	40	32	48
The Chaucer Business and Enterprise College	Sheffield	25	24	27	20	39
Oxclose	Sunderland	71	66	69	62	66
The Elmgreen School	Lambeth	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Birches Head	Stoke	33	32	36	49	45
The Ifield School	Kent	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No pupils entered
[2] Not available. Not in KS4 tables
[3] Previously known as Speedwell Technology College
[4] Previously known as Whitefields Fishponds
[5] Not available. Opened in September 2007
Note:
Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August)

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Building Schools for the Future projects are planned to take place in schools which had fewer than 30 per cent. of their pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grade C or above, including English and mathematics in 2007; and how much funding is due to be allocated to such schools for the programme; [219285]

(2) how many Building Schools for the Future projects are due to take place in schools that did not achieve 30 per cent. of their pupils obtaining five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2007; and what the expenditure on those projects will be. [219566]

Jim Knight: As explained in my response to the hon. Gentleman's question 217564 on 15 July, *Official Report*, column 378W, Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding is provided to local authorities as an 'envelope' to allow allocation of resources to individual schools reflecting the local view on priorities and needs. Details of allocations to BSF local authorities are included in the answer to his question 217532 on 15 July, *Official Report*, column 377W.

15 secondary schools, where in 2007 fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils attained five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics, are expected to open in new or remodelled BSF buildings this financial year. A further 256 will benefit from funding as part of current Building Schools for the Future projects, either through Local Education Partnerships, the Partnerships for Schools National Framework or as One School Pathfinders. An additional 73 are included in pre-BSF private finance initiative projects, and 29 are being, or have been built under the DCSF Academies programme.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Consultants

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the expenditure which has been incurred by schools and local authorities on consultancy services related to the Building Schools for the Future programme. [219578]

Jim Knight: We do not hold details of the expenditure schools and local authorities have made on consultancy services related to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The Department recommends that a local authority should set aside approximately 3 per cent. of the value of its BSF project for consultancy services to support the authority through the procurement process. In addition BSF funding includes an allowance for professional fees (including architects and other design consultants, as appropriate) of 12.5 per cent. of construction costs for new build projects and 15 per cent. of construction costs for refurbishment projects. It is for local authorities to manage all project costs, including fees.

Children in Care: Clinical Trials

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care have taken part in drug trials in each of the last 10 years, broken down by pharmaceutical company involved. [220679]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2007. [217329]

Jim Knight: 136,861 pupils did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2006/07. This was 23.7 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

33,909 pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2006/07. This was 44.7 per cent. of eligible pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom will be established; [219405]

(2) what research has been undertaken since 2004 to monitor the participation of young people in *(a)* music and *(b)* learning outside the classroom in the natural environment; [219406]

(3) how much his Department has spent on implementation of *(a)* the music and *(b)* the learning outside the classroom manifesto in each year since 2004; and what forecast expenditure is for such activity for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [219408]

(4) how many children have had access to learning outside the classroom in the natural environment in each of the last five years; [219409]

(5) how many staff in his Department work on the implementation of *(a)* the music and *(b)* the learning outside the classroom manifesto. [219407]

Jim Knight: The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom will be established by March 2009. The Department does not routinely collect information on pupils' access to and participation in learning outside the classroom in the natural environment. In 2006 the Department commissioned "Education Outside the Classroom: An Assessment of Activity and Practice in Schools and Local Authorities", which can be found at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research

The Department does not routinely collect information on young people's participation in music. In 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2007 the Department commissioned surveys of local authority music services, which collected data on the prevalence of music tuition. Survey reports are available at www.dcsf.gov.uk/research.

The Department has 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working on learning outside the classroom policy and support for the Manifesto partnership's delivery of their agreed Action Plan. There are 1.5 FTE staff working on music policy and the delivery of music education. The extent to which that resource is spent on the Music Manifesto is not readily quantifiable. Through the Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom partnership, we are encouraging schools, local authorities and visit providers, to sign up to the vision that "every young person (0-19) should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances". More than 1,000 have already done so. The Department is supporting the Manifesto partnership to realise this vision through funding of just under £4.5 million between 2006-07 and 2008-09. Funding is not yet allocated for 2009-10.

The Music Manifesto is a campaign to which over 2,000 signatories from every part of the music sector have signed up with joint aims to improve music education. The Department has funded the campaign since 2003. Since the Music Manifesto's second report "Making Every Child's Music Matter" in 2006, Government funding has been targeted on programmes arising out of the main recommendations of that report. Other Music Manifesto signatories are also making their responses to some of the report's recommendations, and their response is being led by the independent Music Manifesto Partnership and Advocacy Group. An announcement of £332 million government funding for music education over the next three years was made last November and further details set out in the announcement of 20 June.

Drama: Further Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many colleges listed drama as *(a)* a specialism, *(b)* a second specialism and *(c)* a combined specialism in each of the last three years. [218864]

Jim Knight: Schools specialising in drama will normally be designated as specialist Arts colleges. The Arts specialism covers performing arts, visual arts or media arts, or combinations of the three; we do not keep records of which particular strands individual schools focus on. The number of schools that have been designated with Arts college status in each of the last three years is listed in the following table:

	Specialism (a)	*Second specialism (b)*	*Combined specialism (c)*	*Total*
2006/07	60	7	6	63
2006/07	39	5	10	54
2007/08	33	1	7	41
Total	122	13	23	158

In addition, there are two Performing Arts Academies and the Brit School—the only City College for the Technology of the Arts, which is dedicated to education and vocational training for the performing arts and associated technologies.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on the education maintenance allowance in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [219238]

Jim Knight: The budget allocations for the education maintenance allowance for the comprehensive spending review period are 2008-09 £549 million; 2009-10 £529 million; 2010-11 £529 million.

Latest expenditure estimates are 2008-09 £531 million; 2009-10 £544 million; 2010-11 £560 million. DCSF officials are working with the Learning and Skills Council to establish whether these latest estimates are a robust and accurate basis for funding.

Forecasts of expenditure beyond this period are not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the education maintenance allowance on *(a)* improving retention and *(b)* widening participation in education; and if he will make a statement. [219239]

Jim Knight: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) pilot evaluation evidence showed that:

(a) EMA had a positive and significant impact on post-16 retention: there was a 6.1 percentage point increase in participation in full-time education throughout the two-year period beyond compulsory schooling among eligible young people in pilots areas, compared to young people with the same characteristics in control areas without EMA.

(b) EMA led to increases in participation nationally by 3.8 percentage points for 16-year-olds and 4.1 percentage points for 17-year-olds. The evaluation showed relatively greater impact for low/middle achievers and lower socio-economic groups. These increases in participation have been sustained since the national roll-out of EMA. More recent analysis has found positive and statistically significant impacts of EMA on attainment as well as participation. These positive impacts have been particularly strong among more disadvantaged groups such as those from the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what comparative assessment he has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* accuracy of marking of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests in (i) 2008, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [218861]

Jim Knight: Judgments about the quality of marking are a matter for Ofqual. In a published letter to the Secretary of State on 4 July, the chair of Ofqual, Kathleen Tattersall, made it clear that from the evidence available marking quality is at least as good as in previous years and justifies releasing the key stage 2 and key stage 3 test results.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Halifax did not receive their key stage 2 and 3 results on the expected date in 2008. [219026]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) announced on 4 July that there would be a slight delay in releasing the key stage 2 (KS2) and key stage 3 (KS3) test results. The delay will affect all pupils who sat the KS2 and KS3 national curriculum tests, the majority of whom will be in years 6 and 9.

Education: Travelling People

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve education provision for gypsy and traveller communities. [220062]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families provides funding to local authorities through the Children's Services Grant to improve provision and outcome for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils and many local authorities use this to maintain a Traveller Education Support Service which works closely with schools on issues relating to GRT pupils.

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme, part of our National Primary and Secondary Strategies, was launched in 2006 and aims to improve the quality of provision, improve rates of attendance and standards of behaviour and thus raise attainment for GRT pupils. 47 schools in 12 local authorities are currently involved in this programme and a further 40 schools in 10 new local authorities will join the programme in autumn 2008.

We have also recently published, in February 2008, "The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People". This document offers practical advice to local authorities, schools, pupils and parents on how to raise ascription and attainment among GRT pupils.

Equality

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the Disability Discrimination (General Qualifications Bodies) (Relevant Qualifications, Reasonable Steps and Physical Features) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 have not been the subject of a disability equality impact assessment. [217495]

Jim Knight: We have consulted with the interested disability organisations about laying the draft regulations (dated 19 June 2008) without carrying out an equality impact assessment. A consortium covering Scope, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Skill, the British Association of the Teachers of the Deaf, the British Dyslexia Association and the National Deaf Children's Society has told us it is reluctantly prepared to accept this approach. This is in order to avoid delays which could disadvantage disabled candidates or those considering whether or not to undertake a course.

When I took the DDA General Qualifications regulations through the House last summer I made it clear that the practice of exemptions from parts of an assessment, and therefore the resulting enhancements, will continue to be lawful after September 2007. This absolutely remains the Government position.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority did not gain five A* to C GCSEs including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language in 2007. [217193]

Jim Knight: This information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many maintained schools offer a Chinese GCSE course; [217198]

(2) how many pupils in year 11 were not entered for any GCSE examinations excluding equivalents in each of the last 10 years; [217202]

(3) how many pupils did not sit five GCSE examinations, including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents, in each of the last 10 years. [217217]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils gained five GCSEs at A*-C including English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language and either history or geography in 2007. [217612]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 109,630 pupils (16.9 per cent.) at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalent including English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language and either history or geography GCSEs.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools entered one or more pupils for GCSE examinations in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* biology, *(d)* chemistry, *(e)* physics, *(f)* history, *(g)* geography, *(h)* French, *(i)* German and *(j)* Chinese in 2008. [219564]

Jim Knight: Information about GCSE examinations in 2008 will not be available until October.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many eligible pupils did not gain (1) a GCSE in mathematics in each year since 1997; [219572]

(2) a GCSE in English in each year since 1997; [219573]

(3) a GCSE in mathematics at grade C or above in each year since 1997; [219574]

(4) a GCSE in English at grade C or above in each year since 1997; [219575]

(5) at least one GCSE, excluding equivalents, in each year since 1997. [219577]

Jim Knight: The information required can be found in the following table.

GCSE achievements of 15-year-old pupils in all schools, based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year

	Total number of pupils	Number who did not achieve A*-C	Number who did not achieve A*-G	Number not entered for subject
Mathematics				
2007	656,432	304,299	62,673	43,946
2006	648,942	307,035	57,547	38,399
2005	636,771	307,945	54,958	35,976
2004	643,560	324,686	58,684	37,558
2003	622,122	323,382	59,986	37,105
2002	606,554	308,765	55,378	37,703
2001	603,318	316,637	57,992	39,466
2000	580,393	310,588	57,819	40,459
1999	580,972	320,311	64,459	44,193
1998	575,210	325,268	74,982	48,328
1997	586,766	336,770	76,522	52,774
English				
2007	656,432	269,433	50,205	43,753
2006	648,942	271,091	51,728	42,327
2005	636,771	271,650	53,325	43,134
2004	643,560	284,310	57,573	45,939

GCSE achievements of 15-year-old pupils in all schools, based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year

	Total number of pupils	*Number who did not achieve A*-C*	*Number who did not achieve A*-G*	*Number not entered for subject*
2003	622,122	274,583	52,784	44,895
2002	606,554	271,235	54,299	46,355
2001	603,318	278,088	54,573	47,926
2000	580,393	267,808	52,769	47,166
1999	580,972	274,520	55,723	50,799
1998	575,210	283,568	60,504	55,227
1997	586,766	294,590	67,212	53,418
All subjects				
2007	656,432	152,944	30,802	23,562
2006	648,942	153,425	31,982	24,601
2005	636,771	154,508	32,778	24,253
2004	643,560	162,999	35,503	26,656
2003	622,122	159,730	33,747	25,844
2002	606,554	154,633	33,324	25,887
2001	603,318	158,567	33,647	26,592
2000	580,393	154,769	32,905	26,875
1999	580,972	160,506	35,597	29,678
1998	575,210	165,465	38,380	30,823
1997	586,766	173,197	45,074	35,232

Gorton Education Village

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the sources of funding are for the rebuilding of Cedar Mount School and Melland School into Gorton Education Village; and what the cost of that rebuilding is. [219534]

Jim Knight: The Gorton Education Village project in East Manchester will create a single-site campus on an eight acre site providing 900 co-educational spaces and 110 specialist support special educational needs (SEN) places. This 100 per cent. new build project will combine Cedar Mount High School with Melland SEN High School. Construction commenced in September 2006 and the Education Village is due to be operational at the start of the new academic year in September 2008.

Manchester city council has been allocated £202 million of Government capital grant to Manchester for the schools in its wave 1 Building Schools for the Future project and the council has set aside approximately £10 million to supplement this. The Government funding includes £16.4 million for Cedar Mount School and £9.7 million for Melland School. Manchester city council has established a programme-level contingency fund, some of which may be allocated to the Gorton Education Village project.

Music: Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary age children took music lessons in schools outside the national curriculum in each London borough in each of the last five years. [219583]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally.

However, in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2007, the Department commissioned surveys of local authority music services, which collected data on the prevalence of music tuition. Survey reports are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projected=15161&keyword=music%20services&keywordlist1=Local%20authorities&keywordlist2=Arts&keywordlist3=0&andor=or&type=0&resultspage=1

These are national data rather than broken down by local authority, but they provide an indication of the music tuition that children and young people are receiving.

Personal Income: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account was taken of the parameters set by the devolution settlement in the development of the proposed powers to pass information on an individual's benefits, income tax and tax credit status to the Welsh Assembly Government in clauses 72 and 73 of the Education and Skills Bill. [220308]

Jim Knight: The Welsh Assembly government has been fully involved in the development of these proposals. The Welsh Ministers have devolved responsibility for education, skills, economic development and regeneration and therefore have a legitimate interest in the data sharing proposals as they will help them to monitor their policies to improve skills and the levels of sustainable employment in Wales. The Welsh Assembly government will supply data on the learning achievements of learners in Wales to DWP and will have access to aggregated data with items that explicitly identify individuate removed. These data will be on income tax, tax credits and benefits.

Section 72 and 73 of the Education and Skills Bill will enhance the ability of the Welsh Assembly government to analyse the effect of their spending on education and skills training, identify opportunities to modify activity to improve economic and social outcomes in Wales; and generally to assist in ensuring that their decisions with regard to education and training are made on a sound

basis. Education outcome data supplied from Wales will be matched at an individual level by DWP, but will only be used for analysis in Wales as an aggregated dataset. The precise nature of the data items that will be matched and aggregated has yet to be defined.

Private Education: Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent schools sent representatives to the national conference to discuss the new diplomas. [216609]

Jim Knight: Those independent schools represented at the national conference test December on "14-19 Reforms and independent Schools" are listed as follows:

'Independent School Recommendation at the 14-19 Reforms and Independent Schools' conference on 3 December 2007

Final attendee list: independent schools

Licensed Victuallers' School
London East Academy
Bearwood College
The King Alfred School
Queen's Gate School
Trinity School
Moira House School
Bradford Girls' Grammar School
Reed's School
Bristol Cathedral School
St. Mary's School Cambridgeshire
The Towers Convent School
St. Mary's School Buckinghamshire
Redland High School for Girls
Kingston Grammar School
Beaulieu School Jersey
Wolverhampton Grammar School
Dodderhill School
The Gregg School
Gads Hill School
James Allen's Girls' School
Bury Grammar School
St. James Independent School for Boys
The Royal School
Warminster School
The Maynard School
Croydon High School for Girls
Havington School
Combe Bank School
King William's College
St. Swithun's School
Uppingham School
Brighton College
Sutton High School GDST
Thetford Grammar School
Kings School
St. Bees School
Uplands School
Yam School
The King's School, Canterbury
Sutton High School
Peniel Academy
Wakefield Girls' High School
Queen's College London
Lancing College
St. Albans High School for Girls
Purcell School
Shrewsbury School
Clifton High School
Saint Nicholas School
Princethorpe College
Rushmoor School
Gateways School
Luckley-Oakfield School
Kingswood School
The Abbey School
St. Teresa's School
Northampton High School
Farrington School
Leighton Park School
Stanbridge Earls School
Palmers Green High School
St. Dominics Priory
Canbury School
Ryde School
Harvington School
Withington Girls' School
St. Benedict's School
Langley School
Magdalen College School
City of London School for Girls
Wellington College
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Birkdale School
Gosfield School
Forest School
Francis Holland School
International College, Sherborne School
Bolton School
Solihull School
The Dixie Grammar School
Cranford House School
Holy Trinity School
Dean Close School
Norwich School
Malvern St. James Worcestershire
Wimbledon High School
Kent College
Dunottar School
Rugby School
The Princess Helena College
Howell's School
Ewell Castle School
The Towers Convent School
Exeter School
Northamptonshire Grammar School
Reed's School
Tudor Hall
Hull Collegiate School
St Gabriel's
The New Eccles Hall School
Amberfield School
Stover School

Ipswich High School
Riverston School
South Hampstead High School
New Hall School
St. Leonards Mayfield School
Glenalmond College
The Godolphin and Latymer School
King's School, Bruton
St. James Independent School for Senior Girls
St. Mary's College
Wakefield Girls' High School
Rookwood School
Lechurst Swan
The Manchester Grammar School
Harrow School
Brigidine School
The Mount School
Frensham Heights School
Ampleforth College
Burgess Hill School for Girls
Kirkham Grammar School
Austin Friars St. Monica's School
Worth School
D'Overbroek's College
Hurtwood House School
Battle Abbey School
The Elvian School
Hethersett Old Hall School
Hampton School
Taunton School
Latymer Upper School
Gateways School
Bablake School
Dame Alice Harpur School
Peterborough High School
Elmhurst School for Dance
Culcheth Hall School
King Edward's School Surrey
Northwood College
Uplands School
Hampton School
Streatham and Clapham High School
Thornton College
Putney High School
Bury Lawn School
St. Ursula's School
Peterborough and St. Margaret's School
North London Collegiate School
Sir William Perkin's School
The Lady Eleanor Holles School
St. Columbia's College
Oldham Hulme Grammar Schools
Babington House School
Rishworth School
Warwick School
Leckford Place School
Normanhurst School
Queen Anne's School
St. Andrew's School
Teesside High School
King Edward VI High School for Girls
Bedford High School for Girls
Shrewsbury High School
Ryde School
Sherborne School for Girls
Lord Wandsworth College
Eton College
Thorpe Hall School
Our Lady's Abingdon
The Perse School
Cheltenham College
The John Lyon School
Bruton School for Girls
Stowe School
Merchant Taylors' School
Casterton School
Derby High School
St Gabriel's
Loughborough Grammar
Bridgewater School
Thornton College
St Joseph's Convent School
St. Helen's School
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Frewen College
Bedford Modern School
Manchester High School for Girls
St. David's School
Farlington School
Ockbrook School
Stamford High School
Burgess Hill School for Girls
Red House School
Sackville School
Bootham School
Tormead School
Reigate Grammar School
Our Lady's Abingdon
The Marist Senior School
Merchant Taylors' Girls' School
Hall School
Worksop College
Queens College Taunton
Kingsley School
St. Helen's School
The Portsmouth Grammar School
Portland Place School
Leicester High School for Girls
Haileybury School
Luckley-Oakfield School
Salesian College
Manor House School
Nottingham High School
Greenacre School for Girls
Milton Abbey School
Silcoates School

Schools: Bus Services

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what powers local authorities have to include schools from outside their areas in their school bus pass schemes; [218983]

(2) who is responsible for policy on school bus passes; [218990]

(3) what the objectives of the Government's changes to school bus passes in 2006 were. [219087]

Jim Knight: Local authorities have to make transport arrangements where they consider it necessary to secure a child's attendance at school. If transport is necessary, then it must be provided free of charge.

In most cases, it is for the home local authority of the individual child to decide if transport is necessary. A child will be automatically entitled to free transport if they are of compulsory school age and attend the nearest suitable school regardless of whether it is in the child's home authority or not, and the school is further away than the 'statutory walking distance'. The statutory walking distances are two miles for pupils below the age of eight and three miles for those aged eight and over.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 introduced extended rights to free home to school transport for low income families. One of the objectives of the new school travel legislation is to secure fair access to schools—especially for children from low income groups, where lack of affordable transport can act as a barrier to choice.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has policy responsibility for Home to School Transport. The issuing of bus passes is a local decision made at the discretion of the local authority.

Schools: Sanitation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools have been criticised by Ofsted for having poor toilet provision in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [217680]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 July 2008:

Parliamentary question number 217680: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many (a) secondary and (b) primary schools have been criticised by Ofsted for having poor toilet provision in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The inspection framework for maintained schools does not have a specific judgement on toilet and washroom provision. However, inspectors consider the welfare of learners and the provision for their needs. Therefore, where there is concern about toilets, they may give details in the text of the report. On occasion, inspectors have also commented favourably on good quality provision.

Since 2001, inspectors have reported on the unsatisfactory state of toilets in 290 secondary schools and in 700 primary schools from a total of 32,300 inspection reports scrutinised. 3,100 reports made some mention of toilet provision and, within these reports, a range of more positive findings were reported in primary and secondary schools. A typical example is the role of the student council in raising funds to refurbish toilets.

In relation to both secondary and primary schools, there has been a reduction in negative responses from 2001 to 2007. In 2001 there were 200 references and by 2007 there were only 25.

These results should be treated with caution. As there is no requirement to report on toilet provision, whether or not this is mentioned is up to the professional judgment of the inspector concerned.

At present, Ofsted also inspects all independent schools not associated with the Independent Schools Council, approximately 1100 out of a total of 2,500 schools in England. The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 set out the standards for Ofsted's inspection of independent schools. Regulation 5(k) requires that there are sufficient washrooms for staff and pupils, including facilities for pupils with special needs, taking account of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. Since autumn 2003, 378 primary and 823 secondary schools in the Independent sector have been inspected. Of these, 59 primary (14%) and 113 secondary (16%) have recorded a fail for this regulation.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Sustainable Development

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what progress has been made against each of the eight existing doorways in achieving the aspirational 2020 targets for sustainable schools; [219395]

(2) how many schools are taking part in the National Framework for Sustainable Schools. [219396]

Jim Knight: The Ofsted Self-Evaluation Form invites schools to include information about their performance against the National Framework for Sustainable Schools. However, using the framework is voluntary and we do not collect data about how many schools have chosen to follow the framework or on individual schools' progress against each doorway towards the 2020 targets.

Respondents to the consultation on the National Framework for Sustainable Schools in summer 2006, and pilot users of the "s3: Sustainable Schools Self-evaluation" first published in May 2006, asked for interim targets for schools aiming to be sustainable by 2020. We have updated the s3 and published guidance "Planning a Sustainable School—driving school improvement through sustainable development" and using this guidance, schools can identify their own milestones of progress to becoming a fully sustainable school by 2020.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families of the cohort which began secondary school in 2003-04, how many were on the school register at the beginning of the school year in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2007-08. [219280]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many National

Challenge schools have been visited by Ministers in his Department and its predecessors in the last three years; [217555]

(2) how many visits *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have made to schools which had fewer than 30 per cent. of their pupils in 2007 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade C or above including English and mathematics in the last 12 months. [219283]

Jim Knight: The National Challenge programme was launched in June. Those schools eligible to receive support (those which had fewer than 30 per cent. of their pupils in 2007 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade C or above, including English and mathematics) were only identified in January of this year using 2007 schools data. Since January, Ministers have visited 24 of those schools and colleges, including 12 visits made by the Secretary of State.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which National Challenge schools achieved an improvement in their GCSE results which was greater than the national average in the last two years. [217627]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many placements of children with special educational needs in each local authority have been appealed against in each of the last three years. [219974]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of appeals registered with the Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal against each local authority for the last three years is shown in the following table.

	Number of Appeals		
	1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	*1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006*	*1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005*
Barking and Dagenham	7	8	13
Barnet	40	32	40
Barnsley	8	6	6
Bath and North East Somerset	9	11	7
Bedfordshire	15	26	34
Bexley	37	48	20
Birmingham	83	119	158
Blackburn with Darwen	5	7	2
Blackpool	1	4	3
Bolton	5	5	6
Bournemouth	4	4	3
Bracknell Forest	3	7	5
Bradford	21	23	23
Brent	8	17	22
Brighton and Hove	9	12	14
Bristol, City of	49	52	53
Bromley	87	80	53
Buckinghamshire	26	35	30
Bury	9	9	11
Calderdale	16	19	27
Cambridgeshire	27	38	26
Camden	17	9	11
Cheshire	27	46	26
City of London	0	0	0
Cornwall	12	24	20
Coventry	3	6	2
Croydon	62	78	65
Cumbria	17	17	15
Darlington	0	0	3
Derby	10	7	8
Derbyshire	16	19	24
Devon	38	35	32
Doncaster	16	8	4
Dorset	17	15	11
Dudley	11	7	17
Durham	30	28	37
Ealing	15	20	31
East Riding of Yorkshire	9	6	7
East Sussex	66	81	68
Enfield	31	41	22
Essex	179	138	127
Gateshead	4	6	9
Gloucestershire	25	25	19
Greenwich	11	14	21
Hackney	23	28	41
Halton	0	2	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	21	12	17
Hampshire	115	98	84
Haringey	14	32	26
Harrow	19	18	28
Hartlepool	01	0	0
Havering	4	1	0
Herefordshire	3	9	4
Hertfordshire	70	74	84
Hillingdon	11	20	10
Hounslow	15	12	6
Isle of Wight	10	8	9
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Islington	8	5	7
Kensington and Chelsea	7	8	10
Kent	133	160	149
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	15	14	9
Kingston upon Thames	11	13	24
Kirklees	13	24	15
Knowsley	5	8	9
Lambeth	44	58	59
Lancashire	43	63	66
Leeds	13	25	21
Leicester	27	30	23
Leicestershire	74	37	26
Lewisham	52	72	78
Lincolnshire	65	43	42
Liverpool	28	26	21
Luton	3	7	7
Manchester	24	26	28

	Number of Appeals		
	1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	*1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006*	*1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005*
Medway	23	16	14
Merton	15	21	14
Middlesbrough	8	5	7
Milton Keynes	8	8	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	4	3
Newham	23	25	19
Norfolk	56	53	40
North East Lincolnshire	13	9	15
North Lincolnshire	2	15	11
North Somerset	16	13	10
North Tyneside	8	2	10
North Yorkshire	26	30	13
Northamptonshire	25	16	16
Northumberland	4	7	6
Nottingham	7	5	12
Nottinghamshire	30	21	9
Oldham	6	14	11
Oxfordshire	15	25	21
Peterborough	8	8	15
Plymouth	9	8	6
Poole	8	8	6
Portsmouth	9	7	10
Reading	9	2	4
Redbridge	28	30	18
Redcar and Cleveland	5	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	18	25	29
Rochdale	5	5	3
Rotherham	19	20	22
Rutland	0	1	0
Salford	9	14	9
Sandwell	4	8	11
Sefton	7	15	6
Sheffield	35	33	15
Shropshire	17	46	23
Slough	7	5	2
Solihull	9	15	12
Somerset	27	32	26
South Gloucestershire	13	11	8
South Tyneside	2	1	4
Southampton	23	16	7
Southend-on-Sea	10	14	12
Southwark	37	41	46
St. Helens	3	3	3
Staffordshire	17	37	36
Stockport	9	20	6
Stockton-on-Tees	1	3	5
Stoke-on-Trent	19	7	15
Suffolk	53	74	55
Sunderland	10	5	10
Surrey	125	120	120
Sutton	23	16	8
Swindon	4	9	7
Tameside	18	4	7
Telford and Wrekin	3	4	6
Thurrock	7	11	11
Torbay	2	2	4
Tower Hamlets	12	2	4
Trafford	10	13	17
Wakefield	9	7	5
Walsall	14	13	27
Waltham Forest	15	24	32
Wandsworth	30	30	35
Warrington	5	6	1
Warwickshire	10	18	9
West Berkshire	10	7	4
West Sussex	56	43	39
Westminster	10	14	11
Wigan	4	10	14
Wiltshire	23	58	47
Windsor and Maidenhead	9	17	14
Wirral	7	6	9
Wokingham	5	6	8
Wolverhampton	4	2	9
Worcestershire	15	24	38
York	5	1	4
Total	3,110	3,411	3,215

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time was between the lodging of an appeal with a special educational needs and disability tribunal and a tribunal decision in each of the last three years. [220320]

Kevin Brennan: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) records the average time taken from registering an SEN appeal to issuing a decision by the school year from September to August. This information has been previously published in the SENDIST annual reports.

The following table shows the average time taken from registration of an SEN appeal by SENDIST to the time a decision following a tribunal hearing is issued.

School year	*Number decisions issued*	*Average number of months*
2004-05	1,147	4.4
2005-06	1,038	5.2
2006-07	1,045	5.5

Note:
Not all appeals registered end up with a decision as a substantial number of appeals are withdrawn by the parent or conceded by the local authority.

SENDIST also registers claims of disability discrimination and the following table shows the average time taken from registration of a claim to the issue of a decision.

School year	*Number of decisions*	*Average number of months*
2004-05	55	6.1
2005-06	56	5.5
2006-07	85	5.7

SENDIST reports that these claims have proved to be more complicated than SEN appeals involving much paperwork, lengthy hearings and many witnesses and this is reflected in the average disposal time.

World Book Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department took to involve schools in celebrating World Book Day in 2008. [218528]

Jim Knight: The Department funds the National Literacy Trust (NLT) to run the National Reading Campaign, which promotes reading for pleasure throughout the whole community. To celebrate World Book Day, the NLT contributed a double-page article for the World Book Day magazine, distributed to schools, including suggestions for how schools could take part. NLT also featured World Book Day on the front page of the NLT and Reading Connects websites, and promoted the Day in the training courses which they offer to teachers.

The National Reading Campaign forms part of the 2008 National Year of Reading (NYR), also funded by my Department. The NYR aims to promote and celebrate reading for all, and in all its forms—"anything, anytime, anyplace". World Book Day was highlighted on the NYR website as part of the "challenge period" prior to the official launch of the year on 31 March 2008.

Wright Robinson Sports College

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the sources of funding for the rebuilding of Wright Robinson Sports College in Manchester, Gorton constituency are; and what the cost of the rebuilding is. [219535]

Jim Knight: The Government supported the rebuilding of Wright Robinson Sports College through the private finance initiative (PFI). Manchester local authority received £35 million PFI credits which equates to a capital value of £24.1 million.

The total value of the contract let by Manchester local authority was £29.79 million.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the net financial effect of the e-borders programme on the aviation industry. [211107]

Mr. Byrne: It has been estimated that the capital investment required over 10 years is in the region of £52 million (of which £32 million falls to UK based carriers). The total running costs over the same period are projected to be an estimated £278 million (of which £171 million falls to UK carriers). These estimates have been based upon figures provided by carriers and the assessment of Project Semaphore.

The potential financial costs to the aviation industry of implementing the data collection requirements of the e-Borders programme have been analysed as part of a regulatory impact assessment, connected with the laying of secondary legislation to permit data collection and sharing by the border agencies. The regulatory impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/eBorders-RIA-2008-01-10?view=Binary

There will be a potential benefit to carriers with reduction in carriers liability (CL) and removals costs. The ability of carriers to provide evidence that passengers appeared properly documented at the start of their journey will help them avoid the imposition of a CL charge. This would, in turn, reduce the incidence of detention and removal costs for carriers.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects all passenger movements to utilise passenger name record data; [215514]

(2) for which UK routes she expects passenger name record data to be used by December 2013. [215511]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently no plans to collect passenger name record data for all passenger movements.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to launch the consultation into the Authority to Carry scheme. [218410]

Mr. Byrne: The Government have committed to a full consultation period on the introduction of an Authority to Carry scheme. This consultation period will be launched following the completion of ongoing development work and initial discussions with stakeholders.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1241W, on borders: personal records, when she expects the first manual phase of the Authority to Carry scheme to be implemented. [218434]

Mr. Byrne: In line with our commitment in 'Securing the UK Border', an Authority to Carry scheme will be implemented following the introduction of regulations required under s124 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. These regulations will be brought forward for parliamentary approval in due course, following a 12-week consultation period.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extended functionality and services in relation to the e-borders programme have been agreed. [218796]

Mr. Byrne: The following extended functionality and services to the e-Borders Programme have been agreed:

Capture of Other Passenger Information (OPI), including reservations data, on selected routes in advance of arrival or departure;

Capture of data on selected domestic routes in advance of arrival or departure;

Profiling of passenger data.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role Deloitte have played in the e-borders programme; at what cost to date; and what the full contractual cost of using Deloitte is estimated to be. [218829]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* Deloitte consultancy services provided support to the procurement process to acquire a service provider for the e-Borders Programme. Their role included assisting with bidder

discussions and contract finalisation activities. Since the contract was awarded to Trusted Borders, and subsequent to the transition phase from procurement to implementation, Deloitte has provided advisory support to various workstreams of the programme. This is in relation to the design of the e-Borders solution.

The cost to date of the services provided by Deloitte is £23.8 million. The full contractual cost is unavailable as Deloitte support is ongoing with, a variable resource requirement.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extended functionality and services to the e-borders programme have been agreed since the contract with Raytheon began; whether the other consortia which competed for the contract were informed of the extended functionality and service requirements prior to the selection of the Raytheon consortium; and whether any of the original consortia bidding for the contract submitted extended functionality and service requirements in their original bids. [218831]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* Since the award of the e-Borders Programme contract, a number of extended functionality and service requirements have been agreed. These services are:

Other Passenger Information (OPI);

Domestic Travel System Services (DTS);

Profiling.

A number of possible additional services were identified during the procurement process (including OPI, DTS and Profiling) and were not therefore included in the original bids.

OPI, DTS and Profiling services were identified as requirements before contract award. Both shortlisted bidders were aware of these and included them in their BAFO responses.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to minimise any harmful effects arising from police questioning of victims of crime. [218164]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency, alongside the Association of Chief Police Officers, work to improve the professional competence of all police officers and staff tasked with conducting investigations by assessing individual practitioner's performance measured against established national standards. These standards are applied, not just at the conclusion of interview training, but also throughout an individual's career by supervision, appraisal and review of performance.

The intermediary special measure provision of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 is currently being rolled out nationally with completion expected by September. As well as providing support at the trial for vulnerable witnesses, an intermediary assesses a witness at the investigative stage and provides support to ensure that the witness is asked appropriate questions.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) updated "Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Guidance for Vulnerable or Intimidated Witnesses, including Children", which was launched in autumn 2007. This provides guidance and best practice on how to interview appropriately vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, how to identify their needs and wishes and the support available to them. OCJR is currently in the process of revising the other guidance in the suite of documents published in 2001-02 to support the implementation of Special Measures. This includes the guidance document "Vulnerable Witnesses: A Police Service Guide", which is aimed at aiding front-line officers identify vulnerable witnesses, so that they can receive the support they need.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place in her Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219598]

Mr. Byrne: Department budget holders are responsible for ensuring that in considering proposals relating to the expenditure of alcohol for hospitality, all relevant financial implications, including those relating to propriety, regularity and value for money, are taken into account.

They are also responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the information held on the accounting system for their area and, where applicable, that accounting records are maintained in a form suited to the requirements of management as well as in the form prescribed for published accounts.

Home Office expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The definition of hospitality includes the provision of drink for non civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the schedule of charges levied for minor works under the Home Office facilities management contract with Ecovert FM for 2 Marsham Street. [218276]

Mr. Byrne: Ecovert FM is contracted to the 2 Marsham Street PFI provider Anne's Gate Properties (AGP). The PFI contract contains what was at the time a standard confidentiality clause. The supplier has advised that it does not wish this commercially sensitive information to be disclosed and I am therefore unable to disclose the information requested.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which external agencies and companies personal data held by her Department has been transferred in the last 12 months. [180401]

Mr. Byrne: All sharing of personal data is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998) and the Human Rights Acts (1998). The

Home Office also has a number of pieces of legislation permitting the disclosure of information, subject to the DPA and HRA, including:

Crime and Disorder Act 1998;

Police Acts 1996, 1997 and 2006;

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

Identity Cards Act 2006;

Children Act 2004; and

Social Security Administration Act (1997).

In order to protect the public, the Home Office shares personal data with a number of other organisations including law enforcement agencies, other border control agencies, agencies involved in the protection of children and vulnerable adults, and agencies responsible for vetting and barring.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217408]

Mr. Byrne: The number of staff who were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008, is set out in the attached table. —

The Department's disciplinary procedures have a number of stages, some informal and some formal. Information on the procedures is available to staff through the department's intranet sites, to which all staff have access.

Breakdown of disciplinary action across Home Office

	Dismissed	*Disciplined short of dismissal*
Home Office headquarters	6	7
UK Border Agency	105	310
Identity and Passport Service	24	73
Criminal Records Bureau	0	0
Total	135	390

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of her Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218068]

Mr. Byrne: The information is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Proportion (percentage)*
1998-99	0.23
1999-2000	0.22
2000-01	0.29
2001-02	0.28
2002-03	0.43
2003-04	0.37
2004-05	0.59
2005-06	0.27
2006-07	0.17
2007-08 (estimated outturn)	0.27

The Home Office 2008 Departmental Report (publication Cm 7396), published in May 2008, details outturn and planned spend on research activities for years 2002-03 to 2007-08. Similar information for years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 can be found in the Home Office 2005 Departmental Report (publication Cm 6528), published in June 2005; 1998-99 figures can be found in the Department's 2003 Annual Report (Command Paper 5908).

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214713]

Mr. Byrne: When arranging inward secondments, the Home Office operates a selection policy for appointment on merit on the basis of fair and open competition, in accordance with the guidance set down in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code. The exception to this policy of fair and open competition—an exception which is allowed under the code—is where there is an urgent business need to fill a post and an individual is known to have the skills and experience required for the role. In these cases, the secondee can be appointed without a fair and open competition process, but the secondment period is expected to be limited to a period of 24 months or less.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215922]

Mr. Byrne: The Home office has undertaken a variety of measures to reduce waste generated and sent to landfill. These include segregation of all recyclable materials from HO headquarters waste, use of double-sided printing where possible to minimise paper waste and the raising of staff awareness through dedicated sustainable development intranet pages advising staff on what they can to do to reduce waste arisings in the office. The Home Office, in line with other Government Departments, has recently stopped providing commercially bottled water at meetings in an effort to further reduce the amount of waste generated.

Deportation: Sudan

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported to *(a)* Darfur and *(b)* Khartoum in each year since 1997. [219418]

Mr. Byrne: Removal statistics are recorded on a country basis only and the requested information would only be available by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost . Destination data have only been collated since 2004; published information prior to this is not available.

35 persons were removed or departed voluntarily to Sudan in 2004; 60 in 2005; 90 in 2006 and 80 in 2007. Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes

run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and information for 2006 and 2007 is provisional.

Further National Statistics on removals from the UK are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

On 9 July 2008, Ministers announced that the Government have deferred enforcing the return of non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers to Sudan pending the outcome of a country guidance case that is due to be heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the near future. The case, originally listed to be heard in May, is currently waiting to be relisted and will address the safety of return to Khartoum.

Domestic Violence: Immigration

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to extend the domestic violence rule to include all abused women with insecure immigration status. [198372]

Mr. Byrne: If a woman has suffered abuse, but due to her particular circumstances is unable to meet the requirements of the immigration rules relating to domestic violence, it is already open to her to apply for leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain outside the immigration rules.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of emergency calls were met within the target time by the Metropolitan Police in each of the last three years. [219112]

Mr. McNulty: The City of London's emergency calls are also dealt with by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The MPS has adopted a target time of 15 seconds for responding to 999 calls.

In 2004-05 86.4 per cent. of calls were responded to within the MPS target time, in 2005-06 85.1 per cent. were responded to and in 2006-07 the figure was 81.3 per cent.

These data are based on provisional information which has not been verified with individual police forces.

Entry Clearances: Iran

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the British Embassy in Tehran received on the visa application procedure in each of the last 36 months; and how many were dealt with within the target 24 hour response time. [219628]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* Details of complaints received by the visa section at the British embassy in Tehran in each of the last 30 months is given in the following table. Data prior to January 2006 are not held. Please note that the published target time for dealing with complaints is 20 days, not 24 hours. These data have not been published and should be treated as provisional.

	Number of complaints	*Number dealt with within 20 days*
2006		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	3	3
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	0	0
October	2	2
November	0	0
December	0	0
2007		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	1	1
April	0	0
May	1	1
June	6	6
July	1	1
August	1	1
September	0	0
October	4	4
November	0	0
December	0	0
2008		
January	3	1
February	0	0
March	1	1
April	2	1
May	0	0
June	0	0
Total	25	22

Essex Police Authority: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* operational police officers per head of population there were in Essex Police Authority in (i) 2007 and (ii) to date in 2008. [217744]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following table.

Data are collected annually and data relating to 31 March 2008 will be released on 22 July 2008.

Police officer strength for Essex police force area, as at 31 March 2007 (FTE)[1,2]

	Total officers per 100,000 population	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*
2007[3]	203	196

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.

Fish Supplies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much fish was procured by her Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217895]

Mr. Byrne: My Department, inclusive, of its agencies does not contract directly for food or fish supplies but procures catering services through wider Facilities Management (FM) or operational service contractors.

To obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Foreign Nationals

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the percentage of foreign nationals who will be counted *(a)* in and *(b)* out of the UK under the border and immigration system in 2008. [203605]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* It is estimated that the e-Borders system currently captures the details of approximately 50 per cent. of the total number of foreign nationals (defined as non-EEA citizens) travelling in and out of the UK.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, whether UK Border Agency staff were able to ascertain the identities of passengers who left the domestic arrivals area prior to the error being identified. [213091]

Mr. Byrne: There were five incidents where international passengers were misdirected to the domestic arrivals area by either British Airways or the British Airports Authority staff.

On three of the occasions, a number of individuals had left the domestic arrivals area prior to the error being identified. UKBA staff completed checks on the individuals who had entered to ensure that they did not present a known risk to the UK.

The airline provided UKBA staff with the relevant passenger information that was held on their systems, in line with established protocols and procedures. This was then used to carry out the necessary checks on all of the passengers who had travelled on the flights involved. These checks included cross checking the details of all those who had been on board the aircraft against Home Office databases. In addition, passengers' details were also passed on to the Metropolitan Police Service who carried out additional security checks.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, on what date each of the flights referred to occurred. [213184]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* Two flights were misdirected by British Airways staff on 27 and 31 March.

On 3 April a flight was erroneously coached into the domestic baggage hall.

On 19 April, the driver of the passenger bus went to the incorrect coaching area and erroneously dropped some passengers into the domestic arrivals area.

On 21 April a flight was being coached from a remote stand into the main terminal, the final bus went to the incorrect coaching area and erroneously dropped seven passengers into the domestic arrivals area.

All of these incidents were the result of errors made by the employees of either British Airways or the British Airports Authority. When notified of these events UKBA staff worked closely with the airport operator to secure the domestic arrivals area and to redirect the passengers to the appropriate area.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, on what date she was informed of each of the security lapses referred to in the answer. [213186]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* Of the five occasions where international passengers were misdirected by BAA or BA staff to the Domestic Arrivals area, the UK Border Agency, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, was immediately notified. UKBA staff then took appropriate and immediate remedial action.

All the necessary checks were carried out on the arriving passengers with every passenger being checked against the warnings index. On no occasion during these checks was there any security alert, and none of the passengers who entered the UK presented a known security risk.

The procedural issue was quickly addressed with the airport authority and the carriers. There have been no further occurrences of misdirecting flights through the Domestic area.

Given that there was no direct threat or risk to the UK, arising from the procedural problem, the issue was not raised beyond the Head of the Border Force.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, what steps UK Border Agency staff took to monitor the effectiveness of the reviews of security. [213188]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* After each incident detailed in my response of 16 June, a review was conducted in conjunction with both the British Airports Authority and British Airways and these reviews identified a number of actions to reduce the risk of reoccurrence. Since these were implemented, the UK Border Agency has continued to monitor to ensure that further misdirections do not occur. This monitoring activity involves a combination of CCTV coverage, formal and discreet observation by UK Border Agency Staff to ensure that airline and airport staff are operating the correct procedures. In addition, a regular series of review meetings has been set up between the senior management teams of UKBA, BAA and British Airways to specifically monitor these issues.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219019]

Mr. Byrne: None. The requirement to prepare home information packs applies to the marketing for sale of residential properties. My Department has not been involved in any such transactions since 1 August 2007.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish statistics on human trafficking including information from police and UK Border Agency operations that have taken place since 2005. [217968]

Mr. Coaker: We have provided regular information on statistics in relation to human trafficking both in relation to Operation Pentameter 1 and more recently, on 2 July, the announcement on 2 July of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2.

There is no intention to produce a separate document on statistics on human trafficking given the large amount of information already available.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked persons have been placed in *(a)* the fast track system and *(b)* the new asylum model since March 2007. [219279]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the numbers of people identified as subjects of trafficking who have applied for asylum and been considered under these processes is not available and could be available only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Entry to fast track asylum processes is carefully assessed on an individual basis in accordance with suitability criteria. A person would usually be considered unsuitable for the detained fast track where there is independent evidence from a recognised organisation, such as the Poppy Project, that they had been a victim of trafficking.

On 14 January 2008 the Home Secretary announced that the Government intend to make the necessary legislative and procedural changes to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking before the end of this year as part of its wider strategy to combat trafficking. These changes will include implementing a National Referral Mechanism to help co-ordinate the identification of victims and to ensure that their status is recorded centrally. Our plans are developing and we are on track to ratify at the end of the year.

Illegal Immigrants: Ostend

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people attempting to enter the UK illegally via Ostend in the most recent period for which figures are available. [218628]

Mr. Byrne: The Belgian authorities estimate that in the first six months of 2008 they have prevented 632 separate clandestine attempts to enter the UK from Ostend.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to try to reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering the UK from Ostend via Harwich and other UK ports. [218629]

Mr. Byrne: The creation of the UK Border Agency has further strengthened our border by enabling customs and immigration staff to work more effectively and efficiently alongside one another as a single team protecting our borders.

Harwich is one of five flagship ports where new ways of working have already been implemented. As part of this work, customs staff in Harwich received training and powers to search for clandestine entrants and to detain any illegal immigrants. This has led to increased coverage of the immigration risk at the port.

We cannot disclose specific information relating to Intelligence Operations or deployment of staff at specific UK ports, as this information could prove of significant value to those seeking to circumvent our border controls. To release such information would impede our ability to prevent and detect immigration and customs offenders, thereby prejudicing the security of the UK border.

Illegal Immigrants: Police Custody

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to local police forces on the detention of illegal immigrants. [202945]

Mr. Byrne: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) applies to all persons detained in police custody, including those detained under immigration legislation. No additional guidance specifically for immigration detainees in police cells has been issued.

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) will respond to every police request where they encounter and arrest people who they have confirmed have been smuggled into the UK in lorries and take that person to immigration detention if appropriate. The UKBA have worked closely and in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers and have established Immigration Crime Partnerships with 85 per cent. of Constabularies in England and Wales with a target to increase this to 90 per cent. by 2008 and 100 per cent. by March 2009. The Government's plans, set out in 'Enforcing the Deal' published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

Immigrants: Catering

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the numbers of skilled restaurant staff, especially chefs, who speak English to the required level, whom the (i) China and (ii) South Asian restaurant trades will be able to recruit overseas. [163799]

Mr. Byrne: The Migration Advisory Committee is responsible for providing independent advice to the Government on skill shortages and migration. The Committee will report in August.

Immigrants: Deportation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants were deported from the United Kingdom between October 2006 and October 2007. [162036]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly basis. The numbers are broken down by asylum applicants, including dependants, and those who have not claimed asylum. The latest published information covers the final quarter in 2007 and is published in table 8b: Persons removed from the United Kingdom, in the quarterly web-based Asylum Statistics bulletin.

It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process people have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigration

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on the application of new paragraph 327B of the Immigration Rules. [197641]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance on the application of new paragraph 320(7B) was made available to immigration officers and entry clearance officers on 1 April, and has been updated to take account of the concessions that have been announced to the changes since then.

The guidance for entry clearance officers can be found in chapter 26.17 of the Entry Clearance Guidance, available at:

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/chapter26/.

The guidance for immigration officers will be published in the summer and will be available at:

www.ukba.gov.uk.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will exempt from the no recourse to public funds rule persons fleeing all forms of violence who are subject to immigration control. [198371]

Mr. Byrne: Where a person makes a claim for asylum, regardless of the grounds on which that claim is made, and including asylum claims made on the basis of violence, that person will be supported by the UK Border Agency until that claim is determined, and will have no other recourse to public funds. If a person is subsequently granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom they are granted leave that enables them to access public funds.

Additionally, the immigration rules enable an applicant who has limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as the spouse, unmarried partner, registered civil partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or person present and settled in this country and whose marriage or relationship breaks down during the probationary period as a result of domestic violence to be granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom at which point they are not prohibited from accessing public funds.

In March we announced a new scheme where victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs. Further details on this programme of work are still being worked up and will be available later this spring. The proposals under the new scheme will strengthen the way in which domestic violence cases are considered enabling those victims who are vulnerable to access immediate support.

We have worked with the third sector and other partners to provide victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation with comprehensive support since 2003. In 2007 the UK became a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings which we are committed to ratifying by the end of 2008. This will enhance existing measures and will provide all identified victims of trafficking with minimum levels of support during a 'reflection period' and access to temporary residence permits in certain circumstances.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that the Minister of State gives personal consideration to the exceptional aspects of the case of Mrs. Sara Said, the constituent of the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam. [219330]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the UK Border Agency to comment on individual cases but we will write to the hon. Member detailing our consideration of Mrs. Said's case.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal One in the first six months of 2007. [164048]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency did not commence collating queue performance information in its current format until August 2007. It is therefore not possible to provide the average waiting time for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via Heathrow Terminal one for the

first six months of 2007. Please find following, however, a table providing the most up-to-date queue performance at major London airports, including Heathrow, for the month of May.

The UK Border Agency recognises that it has a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public remains a priority.

There are currently arrangements in place at most ports to benchmark performance. Heathrow is among those airports that are currently using a 45 minutes (non-EEA) and 25 minutes (EEA) queuing time as such a benchmark. This is the maximum wait time in which we aim to process passengers and in turn informs staff deployment as well as informing considerations on further investment.

We are clear that the average queuing times are well within these benchmarks but we will continue to work on reducing the occasions where those figures are exceeded.

Queuing times during May 2008 for London airports

Location	*Heathrow*	*Gatwick*	*Stansted*	*London City*[1]
Non-EEA				
Average queue length (minutes)	12	15	12	3
Percentage over benchmark	2	4	0	0
	14 out of 598 measures	11 out of 270 measures	0 out of 95 measures	0 out of 74 measures
EEA				
Average queue length (minutes)	4	8	7	3
Percentage over benchmark	1	2	0	0
	8 out of 599 measures	5 out of 270 measures	0 out of 95 measures	0 out of 68 measures

[1] London city operates single queues but these are predominantly EEA passengers.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Gatwick South Terminal in the first six months of 2007. [164049]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency did not commence collating queue performance information in its current format until August 2007. It is therefore not possible to provide the average waiting time for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Gatwick South Terminal in the first six months of 2007. Please find following, however, a table providing the most up-to-date queue performance at major London airports, including Gatwick, for the month of May.

The UK Border Agency recognises that it has a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public remains a priority.

There are currently arrangements in place at most ports to benchmark performance. Gatwick is among those airports that are currently using a 45 minutes (non-EEA) and 25 minutes (EEA) queuing time as such a benchmark. This is the maximum wait time in which we aim to process passengers and in turn informs staff deployment as well as informing considerations on further investment.

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Percentage over benchmark	1	2	0	0
	8 out of 599 measures	5 out of 270 measures	0 out of 95 measures	0 out of 68 measures

[1] London city operates single queues but these are predominantly EEA passengers.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many educational establishments are expected to be involved as sponsors under the proposed points-based immigration system. [197758]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* As the new licensing regime for colleges has not started, it is not possible to predict how many will pass.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a foreign international in the UK may apply to immigrate under the points-based system while remaining in the UK. [218251]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* A foreign-national who is in the UK may be given permission to stay under the points based system if he or she is here in an immigration category from which the immigration rules allow "switching" into the part of the new system that the applicant wants to join.

For example, someone who is currently here as a work permit holder or student and wishes to switch into the highly skilled tier of PBS (Tier 1 (General)) may do so, provided he or she meets the other requirements of the immigration rules. But someone who has entered the country as a visitor or illegally may not. Full details may be found in part 6a of the immigration rules, available on the UK Border Agency website.

Immigration: Appeals

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against immigration decisions were allowed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in each of the last three years; in how many of these cases the UK Border Agency and its predecessor *(a)* issued status documents and *(b)* made the appropriate passport endorsement within (i)

one month, (ii) three months (iii) six months and (iv) were the six months of the determination; and if she will make a statement. [202221]

Mr. Byrne: The figures for the number of appeals against immigration decisions allowed at the first substantive immigration judge hearing are given as follows.

The figures are rounded to the nearest 10. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are the latest provisional information from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's database.

Managed migration figures include all immigration decisions where the applicant is already in the United Kingdom. Entry clearance figures include all immigration decisions where the appellant is outside the United Kingdom but exclude applications for visit visas.

Information on the length of time taken to issues status documents and make the appropriate passport endorsements in each case are not routinely kept and the cost would be disproportionate to provide the information requested.

	Managed migration	*Entry clearance*
2005-06	4,970	11,690
2006-07	5,510	21,580
2007-08	6,640	18,560

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target time her Department sets for the issue of status documents following a determination by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to allow an appeal against *(a)* a decision to refuse indefinite leave to remain, *(b)* an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse entry clearance to join a spouse in the UK and *(c)* an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse an application for a visit visa; what the average time for the issue of such documents in each circumstance was in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [202223]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State for the Home Department does not set a target for the issue of status documents following an allowed appeal against *(a)* a decision to refuse indefinite leave to remain or *(b)* an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse entry clearance to join a spouse in the UK or *(c)* an entry clearance officer's decision to refuse an application for a visit visa.

Information on the time taken between promulgation of an appeal determination and the issue of status papers or a visa, or the relevant endorsement of a passport in each individual case is not routinely kept by either the Appeals Implementation Unit nor UK Visas and the cost would be disproportionate to provide the information requested.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children who are British citizens are in immigration detention; and for how long they have been there. [207583]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* There were no children with British citizenship in any immigration removal centre as at Thursday, 22 May 2008. The UK Border Agency does not detain children who are British citizens. However, where a foreign national subject to enforced removal is parent to a child with British citizenship, it is possible for that child to accompany the parent through the enforcement process on a voluntary basis. Such situations are not common and would only occur where deemed to be in the child's best interests with all parties in agreement and the parent providing consent. The child's status in the removal centre would effectively be that of a guest.

Immigration: Latin America

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on removal of people without documents to Latin America; and if she will make a statement. [217789]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* UK Border Agency officials meet with European Union (EU) colleagues on a regular basis within EU working group frameworks to discuss returns management issues. There has been no formal discussion in recent time on removal of people without documents to Latin America, and as far as we are aware none are planned.

Immigration: Standards

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* targets have been set, *(b)* guidance issued and *(c)* objectives determined in relation to (i) the time to be taken for processing applications for leave to remain and (ii) information on the progress of such applications to be passed to the applicant, broken down by each stage of the consideration process; and if she will make a statement. [218905]

Mr. Byrne: Service standards in relation to processing of applications for further leave to remain and settlement in the United Kingdom are published on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/

UKBA staff work to these standards and managers report on these standards to Ministers on a regular basis. These standards are only applicable to applications made by those with valid leave at the time of the application.

Applicants receive an acknowledgment letter on receipt of their application which sets out the service standards. Information on processing times is also available to applicants on the UKBA website.

Information on the progress of cases is not provided routinely to applicants at each stage of the consideration process but applicants can contact the Agency for progress on their applications via the Immigration Enquiry Bureau (IEB) or by letter.

Metropolitan Police: Uniforms

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the percentage of Metropolitan Police officers who are *(a)* in uniform and *(b)* in plain clothes at any one time. [218994]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The deployment of officers to uniform and non-uniformed functions is an operational matter for the Commissioner.

Offenders: Deportation

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any exceptions to the rule which provides that a person deported from the UK having been convicted of a criminal offence may not return within 10 years. [218479]

Mr. Byrne: The only exceptions to the rule are where refusal to revoke the deportation order would breach our international obligations under the Human Rights Convention or the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Office of the Surveillance Commissioners: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 202W, on the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners: Inspections, which local authorities were inspected. [218289]

Mr. McNulty: The figures provided by the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners on its inspections of local councils are published in its annual reports. It is not their practice to publish a more detailed breakdown or identify particular councils.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate she has made of the cost. [212111]

Mr. Byrne: No Home Ministers will attend the Beijing Olympic Games. The number of Government officials attending has not yet been finalised.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the highest 10 payments made by her Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216685]

Mr. Byrne: During the period 1 July 2007-30 June 2008, the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, settled a total often personal injury claims, with the total compensation awarded amounting to £165,727.68.

The claims are broken down in the following table.

Personal injury claims from 1 July 2007 to 30 July 2008

Nature of incident/claim	*Contested*	*Compensation (£)*
Work Related Stress	Yes	115,000.00
Injury resulting from a fall	Yes	11,044.00
Repetitive strain injury	No	10,000.00
Repetitive strain injury	No	8,000.00
Injury resulting from a slip	Yes	7,705.00
Repetitive strain injury	No	7,000.00
Tripped over door	Yes	3,000.00
Collapsed Aorta	No	1,728.68
Trapped hand in door	Yes	1,250.00
Manual handling injury	Yes	1,000.00

Police Cautions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage and *(h)* drugs offences police cautions were given in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such cases were first offences. [219172]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of offenders issued with a caution for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage and *(h)* drugs offences in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify what proportion of cautions were first offences.

Cautions data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The number of defendants issued with a caution for offences relating to various types of offences in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1,2,3]

Offence type	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Violence against the person	23,607	28,760	36,610	51,020	57,273
Sexual offences	1,203	1,359	1,553	1,761	1,922
Burglary	5,771	5,568	5,604	6,451	7,687
Robbery	408	422	451	622	712
Theft and handling stolen goods	54,214	54,466	61,944	67,619	72,369
Fraud and forgery	5,335	5,484	6,036	6,936	8,024
Criminal damage	3,102	3,726	5,495	7,246	9,018
Drug offences	44,922	45,707	32,621	34,390	37,426

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time on average *(a)* all officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident and (ii) non-incident related paperwork in each year since 2003-04; and how long each spent on average on patrol in each year. [219154]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W.

Police: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised from the police precept in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each police authority in England and Wales in 1997-98; and how much is expected to be raised in 2008-09. [218291]

Mr. McNulty: Information is set out in the following table:

Council tax requirement

Police authority	*1997-98*	*£ million 2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	25.56	85.26
Bedfordshire	9.50	27.49
Cambridgeshire	11.71	41.99
Cheshire	17.12	50.34
Cleveland	8.60	29.27
Cumbria	9.23	31.66
Derbyshire	15.09	48.05
Devon and Cornwall	26.30	85.66
Dorset	16.60	47.94
Durham	8.88	26.70
Essex	29.28	77.63
Gloucestershire	10.05	41.14
Greater Manchester	40.17	98.76
Hampshire	31.76	91.65
Hertfordshire	17.59	60.23
Humberside	13.44	44.33
Kent	28.70	79.68
Lancashire	22.86	63.39
Leicestershire	14.50	49.93
Lincolnshire[1]	13.40	54.09
Merseyside	27.03	56.68
Metropolitan	181.83	664.97
Norfolk	13.03	52.05
North Yorkshire	13.42	57.12
Northamptonshire	21.25	40.86
Northumbria	12.99	33.77
Nottinghamshire	14.92	47.63
South Yorkshire	18.87	47.04
Staffordshire	17.71	58.81
Suffolk	11.30	37.50
Surrey	15.04	92.05
Sussex	29.06	79.87
Thames Valley	40.62	123.93
Warwickshire	9.17	32.63
West Mercia	19.66	71.71
West Midlands	39.56	74.88
West Yorkshire	31.84	82.30
Wiltshire	11.78	35.59
England total	899.38	2,824.59
Dyfed-Powys	8.24	33.86
Gwent	8.67	33.70
North Wales	11.24	51.25
South Wales	19.49	63.60
Wales total	47.64	182.41
England and Wales total	947.02	3,007.00

[1] Lincolnshire police authority will be required to set a revised budget requirement and council tax following approval by the House of Commons on 9 July of an order to cap the authority in 2008-09. *Source:* DCLG—from English Police Authorities/WAG—from Welsh Police Authorities.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have received firearm injuries while on duty *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* broken down by police force area in each year since 1997. [219107]

Mr. McNulty: Data on crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapons) from 1997-98 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer was injured[1] by a firearm (excluding air weapons), by police force area 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Police force area	*Total injuries*
1997-98	Metropolitan	2
	Northamptonshire	1
	Nottinghamshire	1
	West Midlands	2
	England and Wales total	6
1998-99[2]	Devon and Cornwall	2
	Greater Manchester	3
	Leicestershire	1
	Metropolitan	5
	England and Wales total	11
1999-2000	Avon and Somerset	1
	Cheshire	1
	City of London	1
	Metropolitan	2
	Staffordshire	1
	West Midlands	4
	England and Wales total	10
2000-01[3]	Greater Manchester	5

Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer was injured[1] by a firearm (excluding air weapons), by police force area 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Police force area	Total injuries
	Metropolitan	1
	South Yorkshire	2
	England and Wales total	8
2001-02	Metropolitan	1
	Staffordshire	1
	Warwickshire	3
	West Midlands	5
	England and Wales total	10
2002-03[4]	Gloucestershire	1
	Metropolitan	6
	Northamptonshire	2
	West Midlands	3
	England and Wales total	12
2003-04	Cheshire	1
	Devon and Cornwall	1
	Metropolitan	7
	Nottinghamshire	1
	West Midlands	2
	West Yorkshire	2
	England and Wales total	14
2004-05[5]	Avon and Somerset	2
	Devon and Cornwall	1
	Greater Manchester	7
	Hampshire	1
	Humberside	1
	Metropolitan	9
	West Midlands	2
	England and Wales total	23
2005-06	Cheshire	2
	Devon and Cornwall	3
	Lancashire	1
	Merseyside	1
	Metropolitan	7
	Nottinghamshire	1
	West Midlands	4
	West Yorkshire	4
	England and Wales total	23
2006-07	Cheshire	1
	Dyfed Powys	1
	Gloucestershire	3
	Greater Manchester	1
	Humberside	1
	Leicestershire	1
	Merseyside	1
	Metropolitan	4
	West Midlands	5
	West Yorkshire	2
	Wiltshire	1
	England and Wales total	21

[1] Includes fatal, serious and slight injuries.
[2] There was a change in counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[3] Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[4] The national Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[5] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England and Wales were in post on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by rank; and how many in each rank were *(a)* Black and *(b)* Asian. [219115]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 94W.

Police: Resignations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers left the police service *(a)* within two to five years, *(b)* within five to 10 years and *(c)* after more than 10 years of joining in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area. [219108]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2254-2268W.

Police: Sight Impaired

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Metropolitan Police officers trained in firearms handling have been taken off front line duty due to vision problems or impairments in the last three years. [218440]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruit applications have been turned down due to vision problems or impairments in the last three years. [218441]

Mr. McNulty: In the last three years to 31 March 2007, a total of 26 individuals have been rejected after having their eyesight tested at the medical assessment stage.

This represents a total of 0.1 per cent. of the total number of applicants during the same period.

These data are based on provisional information which has not been verified with individual police forces.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Taser stun guns have been *(a)* drawn, *(b)* arced as a demonstration warning, *(c)* applied in a drive stun and *(d)* fired by each police force since 2003. [219105]

Mr. McNulty: The latest figures on the use of Taser by each police force in England and Wales, published by the Home Office on 12 May 2008, can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://science.homeoffice.gov.uk/hosdb/about-us/news/539349.

Police: Voluntary Work

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to support volunteers who work for the police, with particular reference to staffing police stations. [219109]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1070W.

Political Parties: Conferences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs were of policing the annual party political conferences in each of the last three years; and from what budget these costs were met. [219114]

Mr. McNulty: Costs of policing annual party conferences fall to the relevant police authority. The Home Office has provided additional grant to the authorities responsible for policing the annual conference of the two main parties. The amount of additional grant paid in the last three years is set out in the following table:

National autumn conferences	*Force*	*Amount of Government special grant (£ million)*
Labour		
2006-07	Greater Manchester	3.984
2007-08	Dorset	5.320
2008-09	Greater Manchester	6.500
Conservative		
2006-07	Dorset	2.150
2007-08	Lancashire	1.797
2008-09	West Midlands	4.500

Powers of Entry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the timetable is for the review of state powers of entry into private property; [218210]

(2) what the timetable is for the review of powers of entry to publish its *(a)* options paper and *(b)* consultation paper; [218279]

(3) whether the review of powers of entry has completed its first phase on determining all existing powers of entry; [218280]

(4) how many separate proposals for new powers of entry have been referred to her Department in the last 36 months following her Department's guidance on powers of entry; [218281]

(5) who the members are of the review of state powers of entry into private property; [218301]

(6) what representations the review of state powers of entry into private property has received from *(a)* members of the public and outside organisations and *(b)* public bodies, Government departments or quangos. [218302]

Mr. McNulty: The Powers of Entry Review is being carried out by the Home Office in conjunction with other relevant Government Departments and agencies who exercise statutory investigative or enforcement powers. Progress on the review is set out on the Home Office website at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/.

The webpage contains tables listing the powers of entry and entry, search, seizure or inspection identified to date and by whom and when those powers can be exercised. The review is now entering stage 2 and working with investigative and enforcement agencies on (a) assessing the continuing need for the powers and (b) raising public awareness and understanding of their rights and expectations. On completion of this work, the Government will launch a public consultation exercise on the findings of the review and next steps. The public consultation exercise is expected to commence in the autumn 2008. We will consider any parliamentary process in the light of the outcome of the public consultation.

A record is not currently held centrally on proposals submitted by other Departments for new or amending powers of entry.

Rape

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces are equipped with readily available test kits to secure samples in the event of a complaint of drug rape. [219100]

Mr. McNulty: Since 2007, all police forces in England and Wales have had access to early evidence kits. ACPO guidance "Investigating Serious Sexual Offences", published in 2005, states that they should be readily available. These kits are intended to ensure the effective recovery of non-intimate forensic samples, including urine samples where drug or alcohol analysis is required.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* the Scottish fruit industry and *(b)* seasonal agricultural workers of changes to the seasonal agricultural workers scheme; [218208]

(2) what representations her Department has received from the Scotland Office on changes to the seasonal agricultural workers scheme. [218209]

Mr. Byrne: I have received representations from the Scottish branch of the National Farmers Union and there are ongoing discussions between the Home Office and stakeholders on this issue. I am aware that some employers are reporting difficulties attracting migrants from the 2004 EU accession countries and we will

continue to monitor the situation. However, it remains the Government's policy that labour needs skills at lower skill levels can be met from an expanded EU labour force. It is consistent with the principle of Community preference that the SAWS remains open only to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania while restrictions on nationals of those countries' access to the labour market remain in force.

Surveillance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of complaints the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has upheld since it was created. [218293]

Mr. McNulty: From 2 October 2000 to 31 December 2006—the most recent date for which figures have been published—the Investigatory Powers Tribunal issued determinations in respect of 554 complaints. During that period it has only upheld a complaint once. This related to two complainants who lodged a joint complaint. The details were reported in the Interception of Communications Commissioner's report of 2005, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the use of surveillance and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [218282]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave him on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W.

Terrorism

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the heat map produced by her Department's Office for Security and counter-terrorism showing the 30 areas deemed most prone to Islamist extremism. [218287]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are working with local partners to ensure that information relevant to planning future work on preventing violent extremism is shared. For national security reasons it is not possible to place all of this information in the public domain.

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projects undertaken by Westminster city council have received grant-aid funding from her Department since 1999. [217098]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's grant-related payments to Westminster city council are set out in the following table.

£

Project	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Childs Protection Training	600	—	—	—
Adults and Families	2,264,315	1,171,225	76,544	—
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	1,563,840	1,748,819	1,403,076	1,868,625
Antisocial Behaviour	115,000	88,116	144,060	—
Sports Unit Positive Futures	29,005	84,701	—	—
Young People Substance Misuse	445,211	588,654	564,670	500,734
Enabling Grant	65,000	135,000	—	140,000
Drug Interventions Programme	—	1,201,447	2,302,318	2,016,349
Graffiti Pilot	—	2,996	—	—
Single Non Emergency Number	—	69,968	—	—
Indefinite Leave To Remain	—	359,072	90,459	—
Respect Grant	—	—	221,079	294,622
Safer Streets—Homeless	—	—	—	106,000
Criminal Justice IT	—	367,027	—	—

Information relating to payments made between the years 1999-2000 and 200304 could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Written Questions: Administrative Delays

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to question 206678 tabled by the hon. Member for Torbay on 15 May 2008, on Mr. Christian Ofori-Addo. [218688]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1247W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees at the Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre have been in detention for *(a)* between three and six months, *(b)* between six and nine months, *(c)* between nine and 12 months, *(d)* between 12 and 18 months and *(e)* more than 18 months. [218688]

Mr. Byrne: Information on persons detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Service Removal Centre for all periods of time requested is not available; this information could be obtained only through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

However, management information currently available shows that of the persons held in detention for at least nine months and detained at Yarl's Wood as at 10 July 2008, one has been in detention for between nine and 12 months, four have been in detention for between 12 and 18 months and four have been in detention for more than 18 months.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries those people detained at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre who have been detained there for more than nine months are due to be returned; and how many do not have current removal directions. [218689]

Mr. Byrne: Those people detained at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre for more than nine months as 10 July 2008 are recorded as nationals of Liberia, Nigeria, Jordon, Kenya, Vietnam, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In seven of these cases removal directions are not currently set.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many re-convictions of young offenders there were in each police force area in each year since 1997; and what percentage of convictions of young offenders this represented in each year. [219052]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Information on re-offending by juveniles by police force area is not available. Figures for re-offending by juveniles were published in May of this year in "Re-offending of Juveniles: new measures of re-offending 2000 to 2005 England and Wales", but the data sets used do not enable analysis by police force area. The full report can be found online at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-juveniles-2000-05.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 July 2008

OLYMPICS

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff in her Office have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218979]

Tessa Jowell: None.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people were employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) at the most recent date for which figures are available; what the staffing costs of the ODA will be in 2008-09; and how many of the ODA's staff work on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning and *(c)* financial oversight. [219273]

Tessa Jowell: As of 30 June 2008, the ODA employed 212 members of staff. This consists of permanent staff, fixed-term contract staff, and secondments. The overall management costs budget for 2008-09 is based on an ODA headcount of 276. The agreed total budget for ODA management costs for 2008-09 is £24,223,000. This budget has been set to cover salary costs, including employer national insurance contributions, employer pension contributions and bonus payments that are payable to eligible staff based on performance and achievement of overall objectives.

The ODA currently has 128 members of staff working in project management roles across a number of ODA teams.

The ODA is leading the first phase of legacy which is focused on cleaning, clearing, and creating the park and the development of new infrastructure, utilities, and venues. The second phase is led by the LDA and is focused on what the park is used for after the games. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of those ODA staff who are exclusively working on legacy planning roles as every project within the programme is considered with legacy in mind, ensuring that legacy requirements are incorporated into design briefs, specifications and business plans.

The ODA currently has 15 employees working in the Finance and Business Planning Team who work closely with the delivery partner on the financial oversight of the programme. In addition the ODA has engaged Ernst and Young to provide an internal audit service.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 567-8W, on the Olympic games, what estimate he has made of the cost of Ministers from her Department and departmental officials attending the Beijing Olympic games. [219477]

Tessa Jowell: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, and travel by DCMS officials is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Library.

I and my Private Secretary will be travelling to the Olympic games. The cost of my visit will be covered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today by my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport.

Olympic Games 2012

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she plans to take to ensure that the 2012 Olympics have an effective economic and social legacy in all parts of the UK. [217670]

Tessa Jowell: In June this year we published the Legacy Action Plan (LAP) which sets out the long-term benefits we hope to stimulate through hosting the Olympic games and Paralympic games in 2012, and how we plan to achieve them. This is unprecedented as no other host city has ever been at this stage of planning, nor so committed to a broad and sustainable legacy, this early in preparations.

The LAP sets out the Government's priorities for UK-wide legacy as defined by our five legacy promises, published in Our Promise for 2012 in June 2007. This includes a target to help get two million people more active through sport and physical activity by 2012. Sport England will seek to get one million more active through sport; they will do this through new engagement with national governing bodies and through county sport partnerships.

Further to the announcement in June, Government have now set out further details of the £140 million cross-Government free swimming scheme. The scheme is designed to encourage as many local authorities as possible to participate in making swimming free for over-60s and under-16s in their local communities, but also to stimulate ambitious authorities to maximise and sustain uptake through other initiatives such as free lessons for adults who cannot swim, the introduction of swimming co-ordinators and to provide incentives for the most ambitious to move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

The LAP also includes initiatives to stimulate economic and social benefit by increasing tourism and improving access to skills and business opportunities. This includes, for example, the London 2012 Business Network giving business across the UK access to the 75,000 contracts in the London 2012 supply chains worth £6 billion.

Facilities in the London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide which will be published in Beijing will also have the opportunity to attract inward investment and showcase their local area on an international stage. UKTI are also developing programmes to use the games as a springboard for export.

In addition to the LAP, each of the English regions and nations has its own plan for legacy initiatives at local level that complement this work.

As Members of Parliament we should do everything we can in our constituencies to ensure that the opportunities and long-term benefits generated by the games are realised at local level across the UK.

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was paid to KPMG as Olympic advisers in each year since its contract began. [219274]

Tessa Jowell: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's sole contract with KPMG, to date, covered the period from October 2005 to July 2006 when KPMG were commissioned to review cost estimates for the 2012 Games. The cost of this contract was £1,190,000, inclusive of VAT.

The Olympic Delivery Authority paid KPMG in 2006-07 £255,000, and in 2007-08 £1,585,000. Both figures are inclusive of VAT. The costs are attributed to the financial evaluation of tenders, financial support and advice.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she next expects to make an announcement on Olympic funding; and if she will make a statement. [221409]

Tessa Jowell: I have no plans to make a further announcement on Olympic funding. The public sector funding provision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remains as set out in my statement to the House on 15 March 2007.

Olympic Games 2012: Police

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for St Albans of 2 April 2008, on policing for the Olympic Games in London in 2012. [221389]

Tessa Jowell: A letter of response to the hon. Member for St. Albans will be sent shortly.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many full-time equivalent members of staff in her Office are employed on work in relation to railways; how many of those work on *(a)* project management, *(b)* project oversight and *(c)* financial oversight; and what plans she has for related future staffing levels. [221433]

Tessa Jowell: No members of staff in the Minister for the Olympics Office are employed on work in relation to railways.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219590]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219940]

David Cairns: All Scotland Office expenditure, including all money spent on hospitality, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220826]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date the Scotland Office has not instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in any of the last 10 years.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221368]

David Cairns: Since 27 June 2007, the Scotland Office has undertaken one public consultation, "Sorting the Ballot".

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221626]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office, along with the Wales Office and Ministry of Justice, is funding a series of reports on devolution from University College, London. The Scotland Office has agreed to contribute £25,000 over three years towards this work.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W, on departmental conferences, when he expects to publish information on official and charity receptions for 2007-08. [221266]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made today.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what UK Government databases may be accessed by third parties, following Commission Decision 2008/291/EC, OJ L98 of 10 April 2008; what statutory safeguards exist for personal privacy; and if he will make a statement. [217983]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what UK Government databases may be accessed by third parties following Commission Decision (EC) 2008/291, and what statutory safeguards exist for personal privacy. (217983)

Commission Decision (EC) No 2008/291 updates the list of scientific research institutions that have passed statutory checks for their competence to carry out research using certain statistical datasets held by Eurostat, the statistical office of the Commission.

The statistical sources that may be accessed by researchers in admissible institutions are listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002 (as amended):

European Community Household Panel (ECHP)

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Community Innovation Survey (CIS)

Continuing Vocational Training Survey

Structure of Earnings Survey (SES)

European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

Adult Education Survey

Farm Structure Survey

The UK contributes data to each of these sources. At present only ECHP, LFS, CIS, EU-SILC, and SES micro-datasets have an agreed anonymisation standard and available in that form for research use. Eurostat and member states are working on an anonymisation design for the other sources. The anonymisation standards are equivalent to the standard ONS uses for the datasets it places for research use through the UK Data Archive at Essex University.

Researchers in admissible institutions may be provided with data when the statutory safeguards in Commission Regulation (EC) No 831/2002 are met. This requires the researcher to submit a detailed written request setting out the research proposal. The UK authority that contributed data to the source must be informed of the request, and can withhold permission for its data to be provided.

A contract with Eurostat must be in place that specifies the research purpose and the necessary organisational and technical measures to keep the data secure. The data provided are also protected by the statutory prohibitions on disclosure in Chapter V of Council Regulation (EC) 322/97.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 247 to the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe, how many of the three million people to whom he referred are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens. [221207]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the information produced by the Office for National Statistics which shows that 2.9 million more people are in work since 1997:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable01.xls

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Property

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners under what conditions bishops and clergy of the Church of England occupy episcopal and parish property for which the Church Commissioners are responsible; whether bishops and clergy are required to abide by the provisions of Church of England Measures to use such property; and if he will make a statement. [218199]

Sir Stuart Bell: Diocesan bishops occupy see houses under licence from the Church Commissioners who have the power, under section 3 of the Episcopal Endowments and Stipends Measure 1943, to house diocesan bishops.

Refusal to abide by Church of England Measures would be a matter of clergy discipline, which is not the responsibility of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners are not responsible for parish property occupied by clergy or property occupied by suffragan bishops.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many home information packs have been commissioned by the Church Commissioners or its representatives to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219020]

Sir Stuart Bell: Home information packs have been provided by the Church Commissioners in relation to 143 The Quadrangle Tower, London W2 (at a cost of £359.65), 114 The Quadrangle Tower, London W2 (at a cost of £347.65), and Flat 4 Devonport, London W2 (at a cost of £359.65).

In all three cases the Commissioners did not purchase the voluntary home condition report.

Monuments: Inspections

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided by the Council for the Care of Churches on approaches to the inspection of memorials. [219067]

Sir Stuart Bell: A copy of the guidance from the Council will be placed in the Library on 22 July 2008.

Redundant Churches

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many Church of England churches in England have been taken out of use for worship in each year since 1997. [219068]

Sir Stuart Bell: The numbers of Church of England churches in England closed for regular public worship in each year since 1997 are as follows:

	Churches closed for regular public worship
1997	24
1998	28
1999	20
2000	16
2001	16
2002	34
2003	33
2004	31
2005	9
2006	21
2007	29

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cromwell Green

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cotswold of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2046W, on the Cromwell Green entrance, whether the Commission has now considered the review of lessons learned from the visitor reception building project; and if he will make a statement on its main findings. [218868]

Nick Harvey: The independent post-project review of the Cromwell Green visitor reception building, undertaken by Roy Davis Associates LLP, has now been received by the Clerk of the House. It was reported to the Commission at its recent meeting, and will be reported to the House of Lords House Committee in October.

The review presents a thorough analysis of the project. The Cromwell Green entrance opened on 21 April 2008 and has been operating successfully since as an important enhancement of visitor reception at Westminster. But its construction was subject to exceptional delay and significant cost overruns. The main findings of the review are:

until autumn 2007 the governance of the project was poor, and it is questionable whether the Houses were advised in sufficient detail to make balanced decisions;

the initial project delivery date of September 2006 drove the project but was not achievable;

once on site, delays occurred due to the complexity and uniqueness of the design, the fact that it was incomplete and uncoordinated, which required it to be extensively reworked during construction, and the lack of resolution of critical issues;

the requirements of major parts of the project brief were ignored;

the management of the design and the construction was undermined by the split responsibilities of project managers and the lack of ownership of the project; and

both the cost management and advice and the procurement and production of contracts for consultants and the contractor were poor.

The repeatedly escalating costs and continued slippages in this project have raised serious questions about project management competences in the House service. A number of key steps have already been taken. As part of a reorganisation following the review by Sir Kevin Tebbit it was decided to create a reunified Parliamentary Estates Directorate and recruit senior managers with appropriate skills. The Directorate is now under the direct responsibility of a Director General of Facilities. As part of their recruitment, both new postholders have been required to demonstrate competence, and personal track records of delivery, in the areas of estates and works matters.

Further improvements relating to transparency and control of projects are under way, and these will take account of recommendations for future practice from the post-project review. The Commission will receive a progress report from the Clerk of the House in the autumn on the establishment of the revised management arrangements and the effectiveness of the new controls over projects. It supports the Clerk of the House in his determination to ensure that full lessons are learned from this major failure in project management.

A copy of the post-project review has been placed in the Library and on the parliamentary website.

Detergents: Animal Experiments

Steve Webb: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the House's policy is on the purchase of cleaning products that have been tested on animals. [220866]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons does not have a policy on cleaning products being tested on animals. The specification for the new parliamentary cleaning contract requires that all materials and chemicals used must minimise environmental impact and be fit for the purpose intended. The safest possible product is to be used.

Portcullis House

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many basins there are in Portcullis House; and how many of them do not have plugs. [220400]

Nick Harvey: Portcullis House has 112 basins in lavatories, bathrooms and tea points. A survey on 17 July found that four plugs were missing. Work is in hand to replace them. Included in this number are 20 wash basins in accessible lavatories which, by design, do not have plugs.

Redundancy pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what redundancy package is available for *(a)* Officers of the House and *(b)* other staff of the House; what the reasons are for the provisions of each; and if he will make a statement. [221264]

Nick Harvey: No redundancies are currently contemplated, nor have there been any redundancies in recent years. Were redundancies to be necessary, the packages available are the same as those available to the civil service under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, which are set out on the civil service pensions website.

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/scheme_information/cscs.aspx

The terms are the same for Officers of the House and other staff.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Christine Drury

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General where Christine Drury's desk is located; and whether she is paid from the public purse. [211912]

The Solicitor-General: Christine Drury does not work in the Attorney-General's Office or in any of the superintended departments.

Civil Service Agencies: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will list the appointments made to agencies for which the Attorney-General is responsible since 27 June 2007. [211791]

The Solicitor-General: Since 27 June 2007 the Attorney-General has appointed the director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Departmental Delivery Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Attorney-General's Office has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221488]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office are in the process of reviewing our post room services. This includes usage of Royal Mail services, DX membership, Government Car Despatch Agency's Government mail service (formerly IDS) and our messengers' hand delivery services in order to achieve greater efficiency and savings.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what the Attorney-General's Office's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220424]

The Solicitor-General: The Government's policy is to pay all undisputed invoices promptly. The Department is covered by this policy. The Department aims to secure good value for money from all of its suppliers and our commitment to prompt payment is one of the factors that allows us to negotiate competitive prices. We do not seek additional discounts for making payments swiftly and in compliance with Government policy.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what percentage of staff in the Attorney-General's Office have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218695]

The Solicitor-General: The number and percentage of staff who have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days is illustrated in the following table:

	Number of staff	*Percentage of staff*
2007-08	3	15.3
2006-07	3	14.7
2005-06	3	13.7

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218975]

The Solicitor-General: There have been less than five staff who fall into this category, therefore this information cannot be provided on grounds of confidentiality.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Labour Party: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to publish, or otherwise make available for independent scrutiny, the accounts submitted by the Labour party for 2007. [221452]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that as required by section 46 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000, the Electoral Commission makes all statements of accounts available for public inspection. Statements of accounts for 2007 submitted by parties with income or expenditure over £250,000, including the Labour party, are due to be published on the Commission's website on 30 July 2008.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what procedures are followed by the Electoral Commission in circumstances where a party is unable to submit signed-off accounts demonstrating its financial validity as a going concern; and if he will make a statement. [221422]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires registered parties to submit an annual statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission. Where the gross income or total expenditure of the registered party during the period of those accounts exceeds £250,000, that statement of accounts must be submitted within six months of the party's financial year end, and must be audited by a qualified auditor. The legislation provides for civil penalties where these requirements are not met and a failure to comply may also give rise to a criminal offence.

The Electoral Commission informs me that it reviews all statements of accounts, publishes them on its website and pursues the penalties provided for in cases where the requirements have been breached. The Electoral Commission further informs me that it publishes guidance for parties on preparing their statements of accounts. This guidance is available on the Commission's website at

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/electoral_commission_pdf_file/0014/13460/Draftguidance_21211-8865_E_N_S_W_.pdf

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has produced guidance on the declaration of donations and sponsorship by trade unions by declared electoral candidates outside of election periods. [221425]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has published 'Donations and loans: guidance for regulated donees in Great Britain'. Regulated donees include members of registered political parties who receive donations for their use and benefit in connection with their political activities, such as campaigning outside the relevant regulated period. This guidance covers the reporting of all donations from all permissible donors, including trade unions.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1309-10W, on political parties: finance, on what dates the Electoral Commission met the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss the White Paper on party finance and expenditure ahead of its publication. [221471]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the chairman of the Commission, Sam Younger, and Commission officials met with the Secretary of State for Justice on 12 November 2007 and 14 April 2008. A range of matters were discussed regarding party and election finance, some of which are addressed by the Government's White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom".

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the publication of the White Paper on party finance and expenditure, when the Electoral Commission plans to consult on guidance on the new triggering rules. [221472]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it will consult on any guidance relating to new provisions proposed in the Political Parties and Elections Bill after the Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Roger Berry: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (1) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2001; [221565]

(2) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2002; [221566]

(3) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2003; [221567]

(4) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2004; [221568]

(5) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2005; [221569]

(6) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2006; [221570]

(7) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in 2007; [221571]

(8) which donations to regulated donees entered on the Commission's register pursuant to Section 69 and Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were registered after the statutory deadline in January 2008. [221572]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has retained most original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2001 onwards and all original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2007 onwards. On the basis of available returns, a copy of the information sought by the hon. Member has been placed in the Library and has been made available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of the Government's new reconstruction unit are based in Helmand province. [220404]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Stabilisation Unit staff are currently located in Helmand. For security reasons, Stabilisation Unit does not publish exact details of the number and location of its staff in Afghanistan.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the foundation stone for the new mosque in Musa Qala will be laid; and if he will make a statement. [220405]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Work has already begun on the new mosque in Musa Qala. DFID is providing support through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

The Governor of Helmand province will lay the foundation stone when he next visits. The exact date for the visit is still to be confirmed.

Africa: Children

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the protection of vulnerable children in Africa. [219985]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government remain firmly committed to tackling child vulnerability in Africa, including those affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the last three years the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided over £120 million for support of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Africa. This includes supporting National Plans of Action for OVC and expanding support for the needs of the most vulnerable children in health, education, social protection and HIV prevention and treatment programmes.

Over the next three years, the UK Government will expand their social protection programmes and increase spending to over £200 million. DFID will work in at least eight African countries to develop social protection policies and programmes, with Governments and NGOs that provide effective predictable support for the most vulnerable households—ensuring access to social services and protection from abuse. DFID will also work with others to provide better diagnostics and treatment of children infected with HIV and living with AIDS. A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID's broader health sector initiatives all benefit vulnerable children, particularly in Africa. These include support (£30 million for 2006-8) to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), a long-term (20 year) £1.38 billion commitment to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), $485 million in support of drug development incentives by the pilot Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) for pneumococcal vaccines and support of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) where DFID has made an unprecedented long-term commitment, subject to performance, of up to £1 billion between 2008-15.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219596]

Mr. Malik: All entertainment and hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. Financial control is managed through delegation to Heads of Department who are responsible for their respective budgets. Further controls are exercised through sample spot checks of expenditure undertaken by DFID's Accounts Group.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's work force worked from home in whole or in part in the most recent period for which figures are available. [220786]

Gillian Merron: DFID does not keep central records of the number of home workers, or the proportion of working time that is carried out from home. Arrangements for home working are agreed informally between line managers and individuals. 1,798 of our 2,467 employees (73 per cent.) have been issued with laptop computers rather than a desk-top computer. This allows them to work from home on a regular or ad hoc basis.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the change in the number of employees in his Department has been since July 2006. [217072]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) submits quarterly returns on our Home Civil Service (HCS) staffing numbers, to the Office for National Statistics.

DFID also employs staff appointed in country (SAIC) recruited locally to work in our network of over 50 offices overseas on local terms and conditions of service.

Details of our HCS and SAIC staff numbers, showing the separate and overall comparisons between the end of June 2006 and end of June 2008, are shown in the following table:

	Headcount at end of June 2006	*Full-Time equivalent[1] posts at end of June 2006*	*Headcount at end of June 2008*	*Full-time equivalent[1] posts at end of June 2008*	*Net change in headcount*	*Percentage change in headcount*	*Net change in numbers of full-time equivalent[1] posts*	*Percentage change in numbers of full-time equivalent[1] posts*
Home Civil (HCS) staff numbers	1,817	1,768	1,653	1,606	-164	-9	-162	-9.2
Staff Appointed in country (SAIC) numbers	899	893	799	795	-100	-11.1	-98	-11

	Headcount at end of June 2006	Full-Time equivalent[1] posts at end of June 2006	Headcount at end of June 2008	Full-time equivalent[1] posts at end of June 2008	Net change in headcount	Percentage change in headcount	Net change in numbers of full-time equivalent[1] posts	Percentage change in numbers of full-time equivalent[1] posts
Overall total	2,716	2,661	2,452	2,401	-264	-9.7	-260	-9.8

[1] DFID reports HCS staffing numbers to Office for National Statistics using Full-Time equivalent (FTE) figures. Full-Time equivalent takes account of the specific work patterns of each individual e.g. an individual who works 0.5 of a full-time schedule is only counted as 0.5 for the purposes of FTE. For comparison purposes, headcount is where each individual is counted as 1 regardless of their actual hours worked.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217417]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) operates two separate bonus schemes.

The first is an established bonus scheme for members of the senior civil service (SCS). Bonuses are awarded at three different levels (high, medium or no bonus award). The proportion of SCS members who did not receive the high level (or maximum) bonus in each of the last two years was as follows:

	SCS staff not receiving a maximum bonus	
	Number	Percentage
2006-07	67 out of 87	77
2007-08	60 out of 82	73

The second performance bonus scheme is for home civil service staff (HCS) below the SCS. The HCS bonus scheme was introduced under the 2007 pay deal for HCS staff and will come into effect in the 2008-09 performance appraisal year.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210580]

Mr. Malik: Reporting which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken by civil servants in the Department for International Department in the last 12 months would incur disproportionate cost, since the majority of training activity is arranged by sub-departments and overseas offices.

Courses which have been provided centrally include Leadership and Management Development, Negotiating and Influencing, Working with Ministers, Induction and Health and Safety.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of long-term trends in food prices; and what assessment he has made of their effects on the developing world. [218505]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have been working closely with the major international organisations (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN agencies and International Food Policy Research Institute) in order to assess future price trends and cereal production. Increased cereal production and the removal of export bans have brought about a calming of markets, and prices have fallen back from the very high levels seen earlier this year. But the consensus remains that the underlying demand for food remains strong, and this is likely to keep prices high for some years yet, with the trend price for grains stabilising at around 10-25 per cent. higher than 2001 levels.

Many countries have experienced serious social and economic consequences of the recent surge in food prices, aggravated by similar movement in fuel prices. The macroeconomic impact on developing countries varies according to the degree of dependency on food and fuel imports. Some countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Mozambique) are experiencing significant food price rises; some (e.g. Kenya and Zanzibar) are experiencing clear food shortages; countries in West Africa (e.g. Nigeria and Niger) are heavily affected due to their reliance on imports from international markets; some (Malawi and Zambia) are relatively insulated from global price movements, while others (e.g. Vietnam) are benefiting. The poorest are hardest hit, with some families spending up to 90 per cent. of their income on food. The UK Government are pressing for a global partnership to address both the short term impact of surging food prices, and the longer term challenges of promoting food security for the 850 million people who continue to face hunger.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans there are to meet the global target of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention. [219986]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to the written parliamentary statement made on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 42-44WS.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)*

full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220184]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) employed 1,653 Home Civil Service (HCS) staff at the end of June 2008. Of these 58 have declared a disability. This represents 3.5 per cent. of the total. Average salaries are shown in the following table:

Category	*Number of DFID HCS staff in post*	*Average salary (£)*
(a) Full-time disabled staff	54	30,113
(b) Full-time non-disabled staff	1,459	38,488
(c) Part-time disabled staff	4	15,631
(d) Part-time non-disabled staff	136	22,665

Kosovo

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's budget is for expenditure in Kosovo on *(a)* staffing and other operational costs of the post, *(b)* technical assistance to (i) the Government of Kosovo and (ii) non-governmental organisations working in Kosovo, *(c)* budgetary support for (i) the Government of Kosovo, (ii) non-governmental bodies working in Kosovo and *(d)* other international bodies operating in Kosovo in 2008-09. [219657]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has an administration budget of £450,000 for its office in Kosovo in 2008-09. This excludes the cost of some staff who are based in London but provide support to DFID offices across the Western Balkans region, including Kosovo.

The budget for programme activities in Kosovo in 2008-09 is £8.8 million. This includes resources for the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) (£3.8 million) which is managed jointly by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

DFID provides assistance to the Government of Kosovo in the form of technical assistance. No decision has yet been taken on providing budget support in Kosovo. The CPP provides assistance for non-governmental organisations in the form of grants and for international organisations including NATO. We intend to provide £3.8 million for the NATO Trust Fund for Demobilisation with Dignity of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) through the CPP.

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcomes were of the donors' conference for Kosovo held on 11 July; and what his Department's policy objectives are for its engagement with the Republic of Kosovo. [219658]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The conclusions from the 11 July Kosovo Donors' Conference are available on the following website at:

http://www.seerecon.org/kdc/conclusions.pdf

The UK's objective in Kosovo is to support the development of a prosperous, stable, democratic and multi-ethnic state. Within this objective, DFID's priorities in Kosovo are to promote improved economic growth and employment, reduce the risk of conflict, and support the development of accountable Government institutions.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what areas the Government of the Republic of Kosovo have requested assistance from his Department in the last 12 months. [219659]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government of Kosovo have outlined their policy priorities for the next three years and their requirements for donor assistance in their Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). This document was presented at the 11 July Kosovo Donors' Conference. The UK has pledged £23 million to support Kosovo over the next three years. We will align our support with the priorities in Kosovo's MTEF and are actively encouraging all other donors to do likewise.

Land Mines

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what mine harvesting projects his Department is funding in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Cambodia and *(c)* Yemen; [219323]

(2) what mine harvesting projects his Department is funding in Afghanistan. [219345]

Gillian Merron: Since 2001, the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent over £10 million per year to clear and reduce the impact of land mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded remnants of war in developing countries around the world.

(a) In Afghanistan, DFID is providing £10.6 million over the next five years to the charity HALO Trust to clear land mines and other unexploded ordnance in Herat Province, in order to return land back to productive use for the poor and vulnerable.

(b) In Cambodia, DFID funds demining work through the charities HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group (MAG). HALO Trust's programme will amount to around £3 million over the three years 2007-10, and the MAG programme will be around £1.5 million for the same period. Both organisations work to reduce the impact of mines on the most vulnerable and affected communities, with HALO focusing on large-scale humanitarian clearance and MAG linking closely to other development programmes.

(c) DFID does not currently fund any demining projects in Yemen.

Nigeria: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the provision of aid to the Government of Nigeria to help deal with unrest in the Niger Delta region. [219514]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is important that any security improvements in the Niger Delta are made in the context of a wider peace process that includes improved development and better governance. The Department for International Development (DFID)

stands ready to assist the State Governments of the Niger Delta region to better manage their substantial resources for the good of their people. This would reduce unrest by ensuring that citizens of the Niger Delta saw some benefits from their region's oil wealth.

Progress can only be made with genuine State Government commitment to efficiently manage their resources and use them to provide good quality services for their people. Once this commitment has been demonstrated, DFID would seek to agree any further support to the Niger Delta with other international partners, including the US Government, the World Bank, the European Commission and the UN.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian implications of the breakdown of the ceasefire between the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and the Nigerian Government. [219516]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is already serious, with high levels of violence and insecurity, and very little provision of basic social services. Department for International Development (DFID) staff are unable to travel to the Niger Delta for security reasons, so we have been unable to make a direct assessment of the current humanitarian situation. DFID is in regular contact with the Office for Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Save the Children (SCF) and Oxfam, and none of them reported any change to the humanitarian situation in the Niger Delta.

The recent breakdown of the two-week Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) cease fire will have done nothing to improve the situation in the Niger Delta. The UK remains committed to helping the Nigerian Government work towards a peaceful and sustainable solution to the underlying causes of instability in the region.

Nigeria: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Foreign Secretary and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Defence on possible assistance to the Nigerian Government. [219515]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I most recently discussed possible assistance to the Nigerian Government with the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of State for the Armed Forces at the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID) sub-committee on Africa held on Tuesday 15 July. We agreed that we would stand ready to offer further assistance to the Nigerian Federal Government and the State Governments of the Niger Delta in the areas of peace-building, security, development and improved governance. The Prime Minister conveyed this message to President Yar'Adua of Nigeria when they met on Wednesday 16 July.

Somalia: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in Somalia on humanitarian agencies' ability to access refugee camps; and if he will make a statement. [218332]

Gillian Merron: The security situation in Somalia is deteriorating, with ongoing fighting in Mogadishu continuing to cause displacement of the population and the loss of lives. The UK Government continue to monitor the situation closely through our partners on the ground and, security permitting, visits by our staff.

Humanitarian agencies are still able to access refugee camps but under great risk. The UK Government deplore the recent escalation in the killing of aid workers. An immediate cessation of all hostilities is needed in order to allow relief agencies to meet critical humanitarian needs.

Somalia: Food Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to provide food aid to Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [219710]

Gillian Merron: The humanitarian situation in many parts of Somalia has significantly deteriorated not only due to ongoing fighting but to drought, uncontrolled hyperinflation and a broad economic crisis. The Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) estimates that 2.6 million Somalis (approximately 35 per cent. of the population) will require relief assistance in 2008.

Since January 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £17.9 million for humanitarian assistance to the worst affected areas. This includes £12 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) who are distributing more than 15,000 metric tonnes of food aid a month, and a further £1.4 million to UNICEF and World Vision for emergency nutrition projects in South Central Somalia.

DFID continues to advocate for the safe passage of all humanitarian goods and aid workers in Somalia.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations to his international counterparts on the deployment of naval ships to escort food aid shipments to Somalia. [219734]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are working with EU partners to consider future deployments of naval ships.

Since December 2007 the French, Danish and Dutch military forces have escorted over 70,000 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid to Somalia. Consignments included relief materials for UNICEF and UNHCR in addition to WFP food aid.

Swaziland: Elections

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support multi-party democracy in Swaziland in preparation for elections in October. [219433]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Our non-resident high commissioner and deputy high commissioner to Swaziland have raised the issue of multi-party elections in that country frequently, over the last year, with a range of figures including the King, politicians, civil servants, civil society groups and others. The Government will be giving £230,000 this year to fund the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa to train a pan-African parliamentary observer mission to all the Southern African Development Community countries holding elections in 2008-09, which includes the election in Swaziland.

Swaziland: HIV Infection

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of HIV prevalence in Swaziland. [219420]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's (DFID) assessment of HIV prevalence in Swaziland is based on data from UNAIDS, whose mandate is to monitor HIV prevalence. UNAIDS' latest statistics show that HIV prevalence rates in Swaziland are among the highest in the world, but are improving. The current estimate of infection rates for those aged between 15 to 49 years is 26 per cent., compared to 33 per cent. in 2005. Further information is available on the UNAIDS website:

www.unaids.org

Swaziland: Trade Unions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Swaziland on restrictions on trades unions in that country. [219404]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Our non-resident Mission to Swaziland, based in Pretoria, has a regular programme of quarterly visits to the Kingdom. Our non-resident deputy high commissioner, at her last visit in May, met with a wide range of Government, Opposition, non-governmental and other civil society figures. Her discussions focused on our support for multi-party elections and the implementation of a constitution which, if implemented, would enhance workers' rights and benefit trade unions.

UN Women's Agency

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the creation of a UN Women's Agency; and what steps his Department has taken to implement this policy. [219398]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development agrees that the UN needs a single, strong agency for women that combines the different parts of the UN system that are working to enhance the status of women. We are closely involved in discussions within the UN system on the way forward.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe. [219576]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have not recently discussed humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe directly with Commissioner Michel, but our officials and those of the European Commission co-ordinate closely as a matter of course, both in Brussels and Harare, on humanitarian aid and development issues in Zimbabwe

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the EU end of life vehicles directive on trends in the levels of abandonment of vehicles manufactured before July 2002. [219076]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The number of vehicles of all ages being abandoned is one of several indicators monitored by the Department since implementing the end-of-life vehicles directive. We believe that a combination of factors has contributed to the significant reduction in the numbers of abandoned vehicles recorded in recent years. Those factors include the introduction of the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 and the End-of-Life Vehicles (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2005, improvements in the accuracy of the vehicle register, various Government and local campaigns to tackle abandonment, and the continuing high value of scrap metal. It is difficult to isolate the individual impact of any one of these factors.

Agriculture: Land

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost of a hectare or equivalent measure of farmland according to the Farm Business Survey was in each year for which figures are available. [219071]

Jonathan Shaw: While the Farm Business Survey does collect a level of information on farm balance sheets, the better measure of the value of farmland over time is provided by the aggregate balance sheet published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom".

The aggregate balance sheet shows the value of fixed assets at a point in time (December each year) and the value of liabilities at a point in time. Fixed assets are dominated by land. As the volume of land is virtually unchanging, the trend in the value of land and buildings is dominated by the effect of land prices. Estimates of the value of land and buildings from the latest balance sheet are given in the table below and show the value of UK agricultural land and buildings has increased by 40 per cent. at current prices, between 2003 and 2006.

Value of UK agricultural land and buildings

As at December each year	*£ billion*
1993	50.7
1994	56.3
1995	67.9
1996	77.4
1997	84.0
1998	87.1
1999	93.1
2000	94.7
2001	97.7
2002	96.9
2003	102.2
2004	111.5
2005	121.6
2006[1]	142.7

[1] Provisional

Source:
Agriculture in the UK

Air Pollution

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to his Department's air quality monitoring programme in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [220205]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA and the devolved Administrations reviewed air quality monitoring needs in the light of the 2007 Air Quality Strategy and new EU Air Quality Directive requirements and improvements in the concentrations of some pollutants.

As a result some new sites/monitors have been brought into the network or installed, while others have been removed from the network or closed. The changes to the Automatic Urban and Rural and Hydrocarbons networks fall into three broad areas:

A reduction in the number of carbon monoxide (from 79 to 26) and sulphur dioxide (from 76 to 48) monitors, commensurate with the generally low levels of both pollutants currently found. However, there will be increased sulphur dioxide monitoring in some areas around particular industrial hotspots.

Movement of oxides of nitrogen monitors from agglomerations to zones, and from urban background to roadside, in line with the requirements of the new air quality Directive.

The creation of a ultrafine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) network, and changes to the fine particulate matter (PM_{10}) network, in line with the requirements of the new air quality Directive.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's air quality monitoring sites have been closed in each of the last three years; and how many air quality monitoring sites have been opened in that period, broken down by region. [220206]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of air quality monitoring sites which have been closed and opened in 2005, 2006 and 2007, broken down by zone and agglomeration are shown in the following table. Data are included from the following monitoring networks: automatic urban and rural network; automatic and non-automatic hydrocarbon networks; black smoke network; heavy metals network; particle numbers and concentrations network; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and toxic organic micro pollutants networks; and the acid deposition and rural sulphur dioxide network.

Agglomerations are continuous urban areas with populations greater than 250,000. Zones in England are based on the Government office regions and in the devolved Administrations are based on administrative areas.

Number of air quality monitoring sites which have closed and opened in each zone and agglomeration during 2005-07

	2007		*2006*		*2005*	
Zone/agglomeration	*Closed[1]*	*Opened[1]*	*Closed[1]*	*Opened[1]*	*Closed[1]*	*Opened[1]*
Greater London Urban Area	11	2	—	—	—	—
West Midlands Urban Area	3	2	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester Urban Area	3	—	—	1	—	—
West Yorkshire Urban Area	3	3	—	—	—	—
Tyneside	1	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheffield Urban Area	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nottingham Urban Area	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bristol Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brighton/Worthing/Littlehampton	2	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth Urban Area	1	—	—	—	—	—
Teesside Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Potteries	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bournemouth Urban Area	1	—	—	—	—	—
Reading/Wokingham Urban Area	1	—	—	—	—	—
Coventry/Bedworth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston upon Hull	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birkenhead Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southend Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blackpool Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preston Urban Area	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow Urban Area	2	—	—	1	—	—
Edinburgh Urban Area	1	—	—	1	—	—
Cardiff Urban Area	1	—	—	—	—	—

Number of air quality monitoring sites which have closed and opened in each zone and agglomeration during 2005-07

	2007		2006		2005	
Zone/agglomeration	*Closed*[1]	*Opened*[1]	*Closed*[1]	*Opened*[1]	*Closed*[1]	*Opened*[1]
Swansea Urban Area	2	3	—	—	—	—
Belfast Urban Area	4	1	1	1	—	—
Eastern	2	1	—	1	1	—
South West	—	1	—	—	1	—
South East	—	2	1	—	4	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West and Merseyside	—	—	—	—	1	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	1	3	—	—	4	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	1	1
North East	2	2	1	1	1	—
Central Scotland	—	—	—	2	2	—
North East Scotland	—	—	—	—	2	—
Highland	—	—	—	2	5	1
Scottish Borders	—	—	—	—	1	—
South Wales	3	2	—	—	3	—
North Wales	—	—	—	1	2	—
Northern Ireland	—	1	—	1	2	—
Total	45	24	3	13	30	2

[1] A monitoring site which is in more than one network is counted for each network, for example, the closure of Bradford Centre in West Yorkshire urban area in 2007 is counted separately for the automatic urban and rural network and the black smoke network. Site relocations within the same zone or agglomeration have not been included.

Biofuels

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to increase capacity for the production of biogas through industrial anaerobic digestion technologies. [220890]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are committed to making the most of the potential of anaerobic digestion. It supports our objectives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, generating renewable energy, and diverting organic material, especially food waste, from landfill. In addition, the treated material—the 'digestate'—can be returned to the land as a fertiliser.

The consultation on the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, which was published on 26 June 2008 (available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's website), sets out the steps we are proposing to help promote anaerobic digestion. Specific support includes the Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme, which supports the installation of biomass-fuelled heat and combined heat and power projects in the industrial, commercial and community sectors in England. We have also recently announced a new £10 million programme to support the construction of new anaerobic digestion demonstration plants, and we are doubling the incentive to generate energy through AD by changes to the renewables obligation. In addition, the Rural Development Programme for England provides support to develop energy projects or small scale on-farm renewable energy technologies (including anaerobic digestion).

We are working with key stakeholders to identify any barriers to the uptake of anaerobic digestion and ways to address these.

Birds: Somerset

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the population of breeding wading birds and wintering waterbirds in *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in the Somerset Levels and Moors was in (i) 1987 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [219932]

Joan Ruddock: It is not possible to give an indication of populations of birds split between private and publicly owned land, because of the complexity of land ownership.

There have been comprehensive surveys of the breeding waders of the Somerset Levels and Moors since 1977. These generally take place every five or six years. In 1987, a total of 278 breeding pairs were found to be present across 16 sites. The breakdown was as follows:

Curlew 27 pairs; Lapwing 144 pairs; Redshank 44 pairs; and Snipe 63 pairs.

The last comprehensive survey of waders on the 16 sites was in 2002, when a total of 284 breeding pairs were recorded. The breakdown was:

Curlew 36 pairs; Lapwing 127 pairs; Redshank 69 pairs; and Snipe 52 pairs.

Data on wintering water birds on the Somerset Levels and Moors are collected and reported through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), launched in 1993.

WeBS counts 1993 to 2006, Somerset Levels and Moors

Winter/species	*1992-93*	*2005-06*
Mute Swan	525	1,024
Berwicks Swan	209	22
Wigeon	10,253	18,142
Gadwall	80	704
Teal	11,330	8,719
Pintail	205	333
Shoveler	291	845

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the decision by the Welsh Assembly Government to carry out targeted culls on badgers as a measure to tackle the wildlife reservoir of bovine tuberculosis as part of his policy formulation in this area. [218908]

Jonathan Shaw: The ministerial decision in Wales allows Welsh Assembly officials to consider all the options for culling badgers as part of an 'intensive action area'. Final decisions on what this will involve are not expected before the end of the year. Bovine TB control is a devolved matter, and Wales have responsibility for defining their own strategy for bovine TB control.

If badger culls do take place in Wales, their effects will be considered as part of our overall TB strategy.

Bromine

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met representatives of the bromine industry. [220668]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) and I regularly meet representatives of the chemical industry but we have had no contacts with representatives of the bromine industry in particular or discussions relating to that sector.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what resources his Department is making available to research the effectiveness and safety of new environmentally-friendly alternative flame retardants which do not include the use of deca-BDE. [220678]

Mr. Woolas: In 2003 the Environment Agency commissioned a report on the Prioritisation of Flame Retardants for Environmental Risk Assessment. The aim of the study was to assess the use of and risks associated with flame retardants, in particular to identify substances that might require detailed consideration in terms of their possible impact on the environment. It also considered issues concerning substitution of flame retardants. The study noted that little was known about the effects of many of the substances, including those sometimes proposed for use as environmentally-friendly substitutes.

The new European Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (known as REACH) places on industry the responsibility to assess and understand the potential human health and environmental impacts of the substances they produce in accordance with the principle of "No Data, No Market". REACH also has the aim of replacing substances of very high concern, as defined by criteria in the regulation, with suitable alternatives. Industry will have to justify their continued use. These provisions will drive substitution of harmful substances and also provide the assurance that the substitutes are less harmful than the substances they replace. On current evidence decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) does not meet the criteria of a substance of very high concern.

Carbon

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discount rate was used in the figures set out in the analysis in the Climate Change Bill Financial Impact Assessment. [221446]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs further to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1775-6W, on carbon emissions, what the implications of the Stern Review are for the tools that are used in Government to perform cost-benefit analysis, with particular reference to the appropriate discount rate to use. [219547]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Stern Review analysed, from a global perspective, the question of whether or not to take global action to avoid dangerous climate change. The methodological approach adopted by the Stern Review in answering this question has implications for the appropriate discount rate to use in cost-benefit analysis under certain specific circumstances, and more generally for the appropriate approach to use to value greenhouse gas emissions in cost-benefit analysis.

Carbon Emissions: Farms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory means are at his disposal to press farmers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [221526]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently no regulations or statutory instruments which place a direct requirement on farmers to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, a number of measures have an indirect impact on agriculture GHG emissions, such as measures under the nitrates directive and conditions under cross-compliance. There are also a number of voluntary initiatives which can help to reduce GHGs from farming, including the Environmental Stewardship schemes and various grant schemes.

DEFRA has a programme of research dedicated to agriculture and climate change issues which includes research into reducing emissions from livestock, manure and fertiliser application, as well as measures to protect carbon stores in soils. We are working closely with relevant stakeholders, including through the Rural Climate Change Forum and the Farming Futures communications project, to help ensure that farmers have the information and advice they need to take practical action to reduce GHG emissions. As such, we are promoting anaerobic digestion to reduce methane emissions from manure, slurry and other organic material.

Cetaceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what photographic and video evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets has been obtained through Government-funded research programmes in the UK in the last 15 years; which Ministers and officials have seen the evidence; who holds the evidence; and if he will publish the evidence. [221664]

Jonathan Shaw: I understand that video and photographic material was collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) prior to 2003 as part of their research project into the effects of fishing trawlers on dolphins and porpoises around the UK. DEFRA does not hold, nor was it supplied with, this material.

Coastal Areas: Land

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the quantity of private land affected by the creation of the coastal corridor proposed in the draft Marine Bill; [219910]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of compensation payable to private landowners consequent on the creation of the coastal corridor proposed in the draft Marine Bill; [219911]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of the creation of the coastal corridor proposed in the draft Marine Bill. [219912]

Jonathan Shaw: Natural England will consult with landowners before making proposals on the most appropriate positioning of the coastal route. The amount of private land affected by the creation of the coastal corridor will depend on local decisions.

The draft Marine Bill makes no provision for compensation to be paid to private landowners for the creation of the coastal access corridor. Natural England's report to Government recommended that there should be a working presumption against paying compensation for the new right of access in view of the fact that legislation would be simply creating access rights over land rather than depriving landowners of property. The legislation has been drawn up so that implementation will take account of the interests of landowners and minimise any impact on businesses. Natural England will consult with landowners on any necessary conditions on access, for example for land management purposes.

Natural England has estimated a cost of £50 million over 10 years for implementing the coastal access corridor. This figure includes the costs of Natural England and local authority staff, the costs for establishing the coastal access corridor on the ground, and for ongoing maintenance during the implementation period.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the creation of a coastal corridor proposed in the draft Marine Bill. [219917]

Jonathan Shaw: 3,929 responses were received to the public consultation on the draft Marine Bill which closed on 26 June 2008. We also received about 11,000 postcards from members of the Ramblers' Association supporting the inclusion of coastal access provisions in the draft Bill. We are currently looking at the responses to the consultation and will publish a summary of the responses within 12 weeks of the consultation closing.

Coastal Areas: Rights of Way

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to improve access to coastal areas in the UK. [219913]

Jonathan Shaw: A proposal for Natural England to identify a coastal route and associated coastal margin around the English coast, to which there will be a right of access on foot, is contained in the draft Marine Bill. In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government are considering appropriate statutory provisions for Wales which might be included in the final Bill. In Scotland, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 provides a statutory right of access to most land and inland water, and access in Northern Ireland is covered by the Access to Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

Cumbria

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase the number of people working in his Department in Cumbria. [216276]

Jonathan Shaw: The majority of DEFRA staff working in Cumbria are located in Carlisle, Penrith and Workington.

Animal Health has an office at Carlisle that is staffed at a level to carry out duties effectively. Currently there are no immediate plans to increase staff levels.

Present staffing levels within the Rural Payments Agency are sufficient to meet present business needs and are expected to remain reasonably constant going forward, although processes and structures are constantly under review for efficiency purposes.

There are currently no plans to increase staff numbers at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency's office in Penrith.

Dairy Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the financial position of the dairy industry; and what the current farm gate price for milk is. [220021]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA published farm incomes in England by farm type in January 2008. These were based on figures from the Farm Business Survey. Farm Business Income per farm on dairy farms was expected to have increased to £50,700 in the year ended February 2008, from £33,600 in the previous year—an increase of about 50 per cent. This was largely due to a higher farm gate milk price in 2007-08, although higher input costs, particularly feed, dampened down the size of the expected increase. This compares with the average income across all types of farms, including dairy farms, which was expected to have increased by 20 per cent. from £37,600 to £45,000 in 2007-08. DEFRA will publish actual incomes for the year ended February 2008 in October this year, and forecast incomes for the year ending February 2009 in January 2009.

In May 2008 the farm gate price of milk in the UK was 24.45p per litre compared with 17.53p per litre in May 2007.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217407]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff dismissed and disciplined for their conduct by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies during the last two financial years, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

Dismissed: 36

This figure represents:

Nine staff dismissed from DEFRA

27 Staff dismissed from DEFRA agencies

Disciplined: 72

This figure represents:

Six staff disciplined within DEFRA

66 Staff disciplined within DEFRA agencies

The figure refers to staff disciplined for recorded minor, serious and gross misconduct. However, it does not reflect the total number of staff disciplined for minor misconduct, because these warnings are issued by line managers who are not required to record these cases centrally. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with conduct and disciplinary issues. The DEFRA procedures are laid down in the staff handbook which is accessed on the departmental intranet.

Departmental Press Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215193]

Jonathan Shaw: 20 full-time, permanent members of staff are employed in the DEFRA Press Office to deal with inquiries from the media.

Details of the number of staff employed at each grade and the relevant salary scales are included in the following table:

Grade	*Number of Staff*	*Salary scale (£)*
Information Officer	10	28,901 to 33,986
Senior Information Officer	6	33,728 to 41,232
G7	3	45,167 to 54,744
G5	1	56,100 to 78,540

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's budget and that of its predecessor was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218064]

Jonathan Shaw: The proportion of DEFRA's budget that was used for research and development in each of the last eight years was:

Financial year	*Proportion of budget used for research and development (Percentage)*
2001-02	7.33
2002-03	7.40
2003-04	6.64
2004-05	6.20
2005-06	6.64
2006-07	6.06
2007-08	5.02

The table shows the research and development proportion of total expenditure for the financial years since the department was formed in 2001. There are no figures provided for DEFRA's predecessor Departments as this information could only be provided by incurring disproportionate cost.

The acquisition and use of evidence is central to the development and delivery of robust policies and operations and underpins DEFRA's reputation and ability to influence.

In 2007-08, around 95 per cent. of DEFRA's research and development budget was spent by policy groups to directly support their strategic priorities. The remaining funds were used by the central evidence teams to fund cross-cutting and horizon scanning work. In addition to spend on research and development, approximately £200 million was spent in 2007-08 on other science, including surveillance, monitoring, field trials and knowledge transfer.

Dolphins and Porpoises

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what data sources he uses to establish *(a)* the population of (i) bottlenose and (ii) common dolphins in UK waters, *(b)* the existence of sub-populations and *(c)* dolphin population trends; and if he will publish such data; [221660]

(2) what data sources he uses to establish *(a)* the population of harbour porpoises in UK waters, *(b)* the existence of sub-populations and *(c)* porpoise population trends; and if he will publish these data. [221661]

Jonathan Shaw: Cetacean abundance has been assessed recently in European waters through two large international survey projects: Small Cetacean Abundance in the North sea in 2005 (SCANS-II) and Offshore Distribution and Abundance—2007 (CODA). The first project assessed abundance of both species on the continental shelf of the European Atlantic and North sea and the latter in the offshore environment.

The estimates from SCANS-II were compared with those from an earlier survey (SCANS) in 1994 and there was no significant difference found between population size for harbour porpoise. The final report has recently been submitted to the EU and will shortly be published.

The CODA project focuses on cetaceans in offshore waters of the European Atlantic and began in November 2006. Shipboard surveys to assess abundance were carried out in July 2007 and the data are currently being processed. Publication of the results will follow the project's completion in September 2008.

Common dolphins are widely distributed, with the number of animals in the continental shelf area varying

substantially from year to year. There is no known sub-structuring of the common dolphin population in UK waters.

For bottlenose dolphins there is some sub-structuring. Genetic studies have indicated that the *Tursiops. truncatus* occurring in the offshore waters of the North Atlantic belong to a large oceanic population. Conversely, and although coastal populations around the UK are not genetically isolated, there is some evidence for geographic structuring.

In 2007, Favourable Conservation Status assessments were undertaken for both species under the requirements of the Habitats Directive. The bottlenose dolphin was reported to be in a favourable condition, while the status of the common dolphin was unknown, due mainly to our lacking of knowledge in the offshore abundance. CODA was in part initiated to provide this information. The UK FCS assessments are available from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website.

The two SCANS surveys (1994 and 2005) estimated common dolphin abundance in the Celtic sea area. However, the 1994 estimate was not corrected for animals missed on the transect line or for responsive movement, and this is now known to generate significant positive bias. Therefore, it is unknown whether the differences in the abundances obtained were indicative of an actual change in abundance or were related to the different methodology used. Additionally, these two surveys only covered the continental shelf area. This species is known to move widely between inshore and offshore areas.

The sub-population structure of North East Atlantic harbour porpoises has still not been elucidated fully. However, two sub-populations are recognised in UK waters. The first in the North sea and through to western Scotland; and the second in the Celtic and Irish sea area.

The abundance estimates from SCANS-II were compared with those from an earlier survey (SCANS) in 1994 for the North sea. There was no significant difference found between population size for harbour porpoise over this decadal period. The final report for SCANS II has recently been submitted to the EU, following which the work will be published.

Domestic Waste

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of domestic waste produced in England and Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and how much was produced per household in each region in each year. [220851]

Joan Ruddock: The household waste figures are calculated from data submitted to WasteDataFlow by local authorities and are for the last three financial years for which data are published.

	Total household waste (million tonnes)		
Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	1.33	1.29	1.30
North West	3.77	3.82	3.72
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.55	2.51	2.57
East Midlands	2.27	2.19	2.25
West Midlands	2.68	2.66	2.72
East	2.87	2.85	2.90
London	3.30	3.33	3.39
South East	4.27	4.19	4.26
South West	2.62	2.63	2.67
England	25.66	25.45	25.78

The household waste per household figures are calculated using the same WasteDataFlow data and the Valuation Office Agency dwelling stock figures.

	Household waste (kilograms per household per year)		
Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	1,165	1,117	1,121
North West	1,244	1,246	1,206
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,153	1,119	1,136
East Midlands	1,230	1,163	1,179
West Midlands	1,181	1,155	1,174
East	1,210	1,177	1,187
London	1,040	1,032	1,043
South East	1,230	1,188	1,195
South West	1,174	1,154	1,159
England	1,180	1,152	1,156

Any issues relating to Wales are a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly Government and should be answered by them.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities have to fine households which put rubbish out at times other than those specified by the authority. [221633]

Joan Ruddock: Under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), local authorities can issue residents with a notice specifying requirements as to the collection of household waste receptacles. These requirements may include the specifics of how and when to present the receptacles for collection, or the articles which must be placed in the receptacles. It is an offence for somebody to fail to comply with these requirements.

Section 47ZA of the EPA allows local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for offences under section 46. These fixed penalty notices can be issued by the following people:

(a) an employee of the authority who is authorised in writing by the authority for the purposes of giving notices;

(b) any person who, in pursuance of arrangements made with the authority, has the function of giving such notices and is authorised in writing by the authority to perform that function; and

(c) any employee of such a person who is authorised in writing by the authority for the purposes of giving such notices.

DEFRA's guidance on fixed penalty notices explains that where local authorities authorise contractors to carry out enforcement activities, they should ensure

that background checks are carried out to determine their suitability and capability. It is important that contractors receive adequate training and have a full understanding of any locally set procedures or policies before they begin to issue fixed penalties. The published guidance can be found on the DEFRA website.

Domestic Wastes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities have to fine householders for putting rubbish or recycling into the wrong rubbish or recycling bin or box; and what the statutory basis is for such powers. [217958]

Joan Ruddock: Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) allows a waste collection authority, by issuing a section 46 notice (s.46 notice), to specify the conditions of the waste collection service it provides. The conditions a s.46 notice covers include the number and type of receptacles to be used, how the waste is to be presented, where and when the receptacle(s) should be placed for collection and any other conditions to facilitate its collection.

Section 46(6) of the EPA makes it an offence for a recipient of the service to breach the conditions set in the s.46 notice and those that breach could be prosecuted under this section. In such a case, the magistrates court would determine the fine.

Section 48 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA) amended the EPA, adding section 47ZA. Section 47ZA allows a waste collection authority to issue fixed penalty notices for breaches of s.46 of the EPA. The amount of the fixed penalty is set by the waste collection authority in relation to the authority's area, or if no amount is set £100. An authority can accept a lesser amount if it is paid before a date specified by the authority.

Environment Protection: Planning Permission

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many requests from planning authorities for responses on planning permission applications the Environment Agency has received in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date; [220217]

(2) how many Environment Agency staff are working to process requests from planning authorities for responses on planning permission applications; [220218]

(3) what the current backlog is for requests from planning authorities for responses on planning permission applications to the Environment Agency; and what the current average waiting time for responses is. [220219]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency receives requests from planning authorities for comments on planning application consultations, development plans and pre-application consultation requests from developers. The Environment Agency replied to 49,432 planning application consultations in 2007-08. In the first quarter of 2008-09 the Environment Agency replied to 11,279 planning applications.

Planning application consultations sent to the Environment Agency are initially dealt with by Planning Liaison teams, but they may also require additional input from Environment Agency technical experts in issues such as flood risk, pollution, water, waste and wetland biodiversity. There are currently 238 Area Planning posts in the Environment Agency.

There is no current 'backlog' of requests. The current live workload is 3,072 items of 'casework', which includes planning applications, inquiries and other consultations. The average response time for planning applications in the first quarter of 2008-09 was 15.8 days.

In the Environment Agency's most recent report (2006-07, December 2007) on replies to planning application responses within the statutory 21-day time limit (or other period as agreed in writing with the applicant), 89 per cent. of consultations (on 40,168 planning applications) were determined within the time period. The report for 2007-08 is currently being prepared and will be published shortly.

Environment Protection: Somerset

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money has been spent in the Somerset Levels and Moors on the *(a)* environmentally sensitive areas, *(b)* countryside stewardship, *(c)* environmental stewardship and *(d)* Natural England wildlife enhancement scheme. [219933]

Joan Ruddock: The question covers four schemes which cover different areas and are managed in different ways.

The following table gives a breakdown of the spend under each scheme to date.

Scheme	*Date parameters*	*Spend (£)*
Environmentally Sensitive Area—Management Agreements	1 January 1998 to 17 July 2008	25,361,582
Environmentally Sensitive Area—Conservation Plans	1 January 1998 to 17 July 2008	620,879
Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (SSSI only within the ESA)	1 April 2002 to 31 March 2008	605,532
Countryside Stewardship (within the county of Somerset)—Revenue	1 January 1998 to 17 July 2008	10,558,903
Countryside Stewardship (within the county of Somerset)—Capital	1 January 1998 to 17 July 2008	6,671,447
Environmental Stewardship (within JCA 142)—Entry Level Stewardship	1 January 2005 to 17 July 2008	446,471
Environmental Stewardship (within JCA 142)—Organic Entry Level Stewardship	1 January 2005 to 17 July 2008	421,166
Environmental Stewardship (within JCA 142)—Entry Level with Higher Level Stewardship	1 January 2005 to 17 July 2008	628,379
Environmental Stewardship (within JCA 142)—Organic Entry Level with Higher Level Stewardship	1 January 2005 to 17 July 2008	20,679

JCA 142 is the Joint Character Area for the Somerset Levels and Moors.

Fisheries: Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has received the final project report on By-catch Mitigation Research from the Sea Mammal Research Unit; and when the report will be made publicly available; [221641]

(2) how many cetaceans have been saved as a result of the UK's cetacean by-catch response strategy published in 2003; [221659]

(3) what Government-funded research is being undertaken on cetacean by-catch; what the focus of that research is; when it will conclude; and when the results of the research will be publicly available. [221662]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1777W, for details on the Government-funded research being undertaken by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) on cetacean by-catch mitigation. The final report of the project is due to be published in the autumn.

Information on implementing the UK's cetacean by-catch response strategy is available on DEFRA's website.

Further information will be made available when the annual report on the UK cetacean by-catch monitoring scheme is published.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on his plans for restructuring of internal drainage boards; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the restructuring on maintenance and dredging of watercourses in England. [220022]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked internal drainage boards (IDBs) to consider a move to sub-catchment management to achieve a better integrated approach towards the management of catchments and coastal systems.

The concept of sub-catchment management is based on managing water levels throughout a whole catchment to achieve a reduction in the risk of flooding to people, property, businesses, infrastructure, high quality agricultural land and to maintain and improve favourable conditions for environmentally sensitive areas.

Once re-organised on a sub-catchment basis, IDBs will be larger, better resourced, will benefit from economies of scale and will be better placed to strategically plan, prioritise and deliver appropriate maintenance of watercourses. They will also be better able to contribute a strategic view to the future development of high level plans, including catchment flood management plans and river basin management plans.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many engineers are employed by *(a)* the Environment Agency in England and *(b)* internal drainage boards in England; and how many people will be employed by internal drainage boards after the restructuring programme is completed. [220023]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency estimates that it employs around 200 chartered and incorporated engineers with experience in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering but recognises that this list is not comprehensive.

DEFRA does not record the information on internal drainage board engineers.

Flood Control: Somerset

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by the Environment Agency and its predecessor bodies on flood risk management in the Somerset Levels and Moors flood plain since 1987; and how much of that money was spent on *(a)* dedicated water management for nature conservation and *(b)* protection of special protection areas and sites of scientific interest. [219931]

Mr. Woolas: The overall cost of flood risk management for the Somerset Levels and Moors area from 1987 to the current date is £28.1 million. The costs include elements of schemes and strategies that cover a larger area than the Levels and Moors but could not be separated.

The costs associated with raised water level areas protecting sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) within the Somerset Levels and Moors since 1987 are £1.6 million, which includes construction and maintenance expenditure.

Schemes were also undertaken where the primary driver is the DEFRA Public Service Agreement Target 3, which states that 95 per cent. of all SSSIs must be in favourable or favourable recovering condition by 2010. These SSSIs also form part of the Somerset Levels and Moors Special Protection Area and the Environment Agency's work helps to protect the integrity of the internationally important sites under the Habitats Regulation 1994.

The Greylake Sluice and Oath Tidal Sluice schemes have both been replaced with new structures that allow greater flexibility in the control of water level management at a cost of £6.5 million combined. Similar work has also been carried out on a number of smaller structures at a combined cost of £3.5 million. Additional small schemes are also planned in the future. The costs formulated are only those of the Environment Agency.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards publishing an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made in the Pitt report. [220464]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 393.

Flooding: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 29W, on flooding: Gloucestershire, if he will direct the Environment Agency to undertake repair work on the Glynbridge Gardens side of the River Chelt. [220509]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Environment Agency is repairing the river banks on the

George Reading Wayside of the River Chelt because a flood defence wall is at risk of collapsing. There are no flood defences on the Glynbridge Gardens side of the river and responsibility for maintenance lies with the riparian owner. Therefore, I will not direct the Environment Agency to undertake such work.

However, I will request that the riparian owner undertakes this work.

Game

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency on registration and compliance with their terms of the registration of establishments processing wild game; and if he will make a statement. [220261]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There have been no discussions at ministerial level with the Food Standards Agency in respect of establishments handling the processing of wild game.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to establish a geo-portal for spatial data held by public bodies, including cadastral data, to help implement the provisions of the EU INSPIRE Directive. [221250]

Jonathan Shaw: The creation of a national geo-portal is being considered in plans to implement the EU INSPIRE directive. The portal would provide one place where users can access metadata (on data corresponding to the INSPIRE spatial data themes, one of which is cadastral parcels) and be directed to other services, for example, to view and download data.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates his Department has made of the potential carbon dioxide savings of replacing D-rated and below energy circulator pumps with A-rated energy circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties in the UK. [219189]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Market Transformation Programme estimates, based on sales data from 2006, that the potential carbon savings of replacing D-rated and below energy labelled circulator pumps with A-rated energy labelled circulator pumps would be about 0.1 megatonnes of carbon for domestic properties and about 0.3 megatonnes of carbon for non-domestic properties.

Marine and Fisheries Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* customer and *(b)* stakeholder satisfaction with the Marine and Fisheries Agency; and if he will make a statement. [221547]

Jonathan Shaw: There has been no formal assessment yet of customer or stakeholder satisfaction with the Marine and Fisheries Agency. The Agency is planning to undertake a customer satisfaction survey this year.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons trade unions in his Department were not consulted before the status of the proposed Marine Management Organisation was determined in January 2007. [220373]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been two formal consultations on the Marine Bill including proposals for the establishment of a Marine Management Organisation (MMO). These were undertaken in accordance with the Government's consultation criteria. The trade unions therefore had two opportunities to provide comments on part of the process. Officials have also met regularly with the trade unions to discuss the Marine Bill, implementation of the MMO and related issues.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Marine and Fisheries Agency meets the objectives he has set for the proposed Marine Management Organisation. [221546]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency already undertakes many of the functions that will fall to the new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and there is broad agreement that the MMO should be built on the MFA. Where practicable new functions will be transferred to the MFA in advance of the establishment of the MMO with the aim of ensuring a smooth transition to the new organisation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to according Crown status to the proposed Marine Management Organisation. [221549]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill consultation in 2006 set out options for the status of Marine Management Organisation (MMO), including Executive agency. Careful consideration was given to the most appropriate status for the MMO, and responses to that consultation were taken into account.

Non-departmental public body (NDPB) status was considered to be the most appropriate given the functions that the new body is designed to deliver, together with the fact that those services will be delivered by the MMO on behalf of the Government and not just on behalf of DEFRA.

National Union of Mineworkers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have held with representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers in the last six months; what the date was of each such meeting; and if he will make a statement. [219410]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no meetings between Ministers in DEFRA and the National Union of Mineworkers.

Pesticides

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume and proportion of the annual potato crop which has been treated with anti-blight spray in each of the last three years. [220085]

Mr. Woolas: Anti-blight sprays are applied to main crop potatoes. Data from recent pesticide usage surveys indicate that approximately 97 per cent. of the crop is treated each year. Estimates for the volume of harvested UK production treated for blight are:

2007: 5.3m tonnes;

2006: 5.4m tonnes;

2005: 5.6m tonnes.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the use of hormonal weed killers on crops which are likely to enter the food chain. [220744]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Certain hormonal weed killers have the potential to remain in plant material from treated land and pass into the manure of livestock which eat such material. Susceptible crops may be adversely affected by the residues in the plant material. Labels of certain products which contain particular hormonal week killers therefore include warnings not to use manure from livestock which have eaten grass from treated land, or fodder derived from such grass, on susceptible crops or on land intended for growing such crops, until all plant material has fully decomposed. As with all plant protection products, users should always read and follow the label instructions; this is a statutory requirement.

Some cases of damage to susceptible crops which appear to involve the weed killer aminopyralid have arisen recently. In such cases, the label precautions on the use of manure may not have been followed when manure has been supplied to allotment holders and gardeners. The manufacturer has indicated that they are withdrawing products which contain aminopyralid from sale and PSD is formally suspending their authorisations while they investigate the options for preventing a recurrence of this problem. A key issue in their consideration will be whether the conditions of use regarding manure are sufficient, or sufficiently well known.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the contamination of manure by hormonal weed killers. [220755]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The first inquiry relating to the potential effects of the hormonal herbicide aminopyralid in manure was received by the Pesticides Safety Directorate's helpline on 12 March 2008. Around 90 inquiries had been received up to 16 July 2008, primarily from amateur gardeners and allotment holders. It is not known how many reports of damage to crops are attributable to aminopyralid.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on British farming of the proposed EU prohibition on the use of certain agrochemicals. [219536]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report* columns 302-03W.

Pollution: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Sandridge bromate contamination on *(a)* the Mimram River and *(b)* chalk aquifers in Hertfordshire. [220109]

Mr. Woolas: The River Mimram lies outside the area of contamination. Sampling has shown that groundwater between the plume and the Mimram contains no bromate. Given these data and the generally stable nature of the plume the Environment Agency is confident that the Mimram is not, and will not be, subject to contamination by bromate.

Contamination of the chalk aquifer in Hertfordshire extends 20 km from Sandridge to the Lee Valley between Ware and Turnford, which includes Hoddesdon and Broxbourne. One borehole has been taken out of use for public supply. The contamination has restricted the use that can be made of seven other public supply boreholes and three private boreholes. The three private boreholes are all close to Sandridge. Concentrations of bromate and the size of the plume show no change with time.

Pollution: Incinerators

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how frequently the Environment Agency tests the levels of lead in incineration bottom ash; and on how many occasions in the last five years it has found levels of lead in such ash which exceeded the levels at which such waste can be sent to non-hazardous landfill. [220895]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency does not test the levels of lead in incinerator bottom ash (IBA). However, through a permit condition, incinerator operators are required to monitor IBA on a quarterly basis for a suite of metals including lead.

Non-hazardous landfill operators have to ensure they comply with the limits specified in their landfill permit and waste acceptance criteria before accepting a waste for disposal. Records of levels of lead in IBA that have exceeded the levels at which they can be sent to non-hazardous landfill are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his Department's budget for work associated with nuclear waste was in each of the last three years; [220896]

(2) how many of his Department's officials work on nuclear waste issues. [220897]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's Radioactive Waste and Preparedness team deals with a range of issues including radioactive waste management, radioactive discharges, related legislation and DEFRA's response to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents. The team is made up of about 25 staff.

The annual programme budget for the team, for each of the last three years has been in the order of £3.5 to £4.8 million.

Recycling: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been in levels of household recycling in Halifax since 1997. [220042]

Joan Ruddock: National data on household recycling rates are only available down to local authority level. Halifax is within Calderdale metropolitan borough council and the household recycling rates for Calderdale are shown in the following table.

	Recycling and composting rate (Percentage)
1997-98	5.7
1998-99	4.3
1999-2000	7.8
2000-01	9.1
2001-02	10.1
2002-03	12.2
2003-04	13.6
2004-05	17.1
2005-06	20.4
2006-07	21.3

These household recycling rates were reported to the Audit Commission by Calderdale under the best value performance regime and measure performance on dry recycling and composting. There have been some changes in the definitions of the waste indicators over time which may affect the comparability of data. Nevertheless, the figures show a clear increase in Calderdale's recycling rate since 1997.

Recycling: Low Income

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government *(a)* have taken and *(b)* plan to take to assist low income families with recycling. [221333]

Joan Ruddock: We do not consider that low income groups are less able to reduce and recycle their waste than those on higher incomes. However we encourage local authorities to consider any groups that may require extra support and how best to provide this.

Rural Areas: Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of new jobs created in rural areas in each region in England in each of the last five years. [217828]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what estimate he has made of the number of new jobs created in rural areas in each region in England in each of the last five years. [217828].

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached table provides estimates of the number of people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in rural areas by Government Office Region of residence, and the net change year on year.

Figures are for the three months ending June for each year from 2005 to 2007, the latest available. Figures prior to 2005 are not available due to the rural breakdown requested.

As with any survey, results from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 and over in employment in rural areas[1] and net change by Government office region of residence for April to June quarter in each year

Thousands, not seasonally adjusted

	Levels	*Net change*
North East		
2005	208	—
2006	212	4
2007	246	34
North West		
2005	378	—
2006	401	23
2007	414	13
Yorkshire and The Humber		
2005	509	—
2006	516	7
2007	519	3
East Midlands		
2005	656	—
2006	649	-7
2007	649	0
West Midlands		
2005	440	—
2006	424	-16
2007	417	-7
East		
2005	876	—
2006	845	-31
2007	884	39
London		
2005	10	—

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 and over in employment in rural areas[1] and net change by Government office region of residence for April to June quarter in each year

	Thousands, not seasonally adjusted	
	Levels	*Net change*
2006	10	0
2007	8	-2
South East		
2005	885	—
2006	905	20
2007	905	0
South West		
2005	828	—
2006	840	12
2007	834	-6
England		
2005	4,794	—
2006	4,804	10
2007	4,878	74

[1] Estimates of the rural breakdown are provided using the URIND variable, which was introduced in spring 2005 As with any survey, results from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Rural Areas: Population

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effect of the implementation of his Department's definition of sustainability on population growth in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [219137]

Jonathan Shaw: The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people to enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

For the UK Government and the devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing in all communities, rural and urban. These principles will be carried forward through four priorities for action:

Sustainable consumption and production;

Climate change and energy;

Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and

Sustainable communities.

And it is in working on all four of these that we will achieve our sustainable development objectives.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legal provisions exist for restricting fishing activity in order to protect marine biodiversity in UK *(a)* inshore and *(b)* offshore waters. [221635]

Jonathan Shaw: Within six nautical miles, sea fisheries committees in England and Wales have powers under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 to introduce byelaws to restrict fishing activities for fisheries management and marine environmental purposes. In addition, the Secretary of State, the Welsh Ministers and the Scottish Ministers have powers under the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 to restrict fishing activities for fisheries management and marine environmental purposes.

In the 6-12 nautical mile zone, the Secretary of State, the Welsh Ministers and the Scottish Ministers have powers under the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 to restrict fishing activities for fisheries management and marine environmental purposes. Where it is intended that such restrictions should apply to the vessels of another member state, they must be approved by a Commission Decision (or a Decision of the Council) following consultation with the Commission, affected member states and the regional advisory council.

Outside of 12 nautical miles, the UK would approach the Commission and other member states to seek adoption of appropriate measures through the common fisheries policy where a need is identified for controls to be placed on fisheries activities in order to protect an area, habitat or species of national importance.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fishing activity he intends to permit in UK offshore Special Areas of Conservation sites. [221639]

Jonathan Shaw: The regulation of fishing activity in offshore waters is the responsibility of the EU Fisheries Council and the European Commission. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has advised that, in respect of the offshore sites which it is so far proposed to designate as Special Areas of Conservation, the use of heavy towed gear should be prohibited in order to protect the features for which designation is proposed. Such controls already apply to the Darwin Mounds site, but it will be for the Commission to propose and ultimately for the Council to decide what measures, if any, should be applied in respect of the other sites proposed for designation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Dogger Bank has not been formally approved as a proposed offshore Special Area of Conservation; and when he expects the approval process to be resolved. [221640]

Jonathan Shaw: Survey of the Dogger Bank was not completed in time for this site to be included among those in respect of which the Joint Nature Conservation Committee launched a consultation process at the end of last year. It is hoped that we will be able to include this site in next year's tranche of offshore Special Areas of Conservation, to be notified to the European Commission by the end of August 2009.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what size of network of marine conservation zones his Department is budgeting for. [221642]

Jonathan Shaw: The coverage of marine conservation zones (MCZs) proposed for designation under the draft Marine Bill will depend on the outcome of stakeholder-based regional projects being established by the statutory conservation agencies. However, for the purposes of assessing costs and benefits in the impact assessment for the draft Bill, it was assumed that there would be 92 MCZs in English territorial waters and UK offshore waters, covering approximately 71,000 square kilometres, or 8.2 per cent. of UK waters to the limits of the continental shelf.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK territorial waters will need to be protected as Special Areas of Conservation to meet the UK's obligations under the EU Habitats Directive. [221643]

Jonathan Shaw: Given that the Habitats Directive requires us to protect sites containing particular types of habitat, it is not possible to make an estimate of the sea area likely to be affected by designation in the absence of completed surveys of the sea-bed in UK offshore waters. The survey process is ongoing.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's seas will need to be protected to fulfil the UK's obligations under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment, OSPAR. [221644]

Jonathan Shaw: All of the UK's seas in the North East Atlantic are within the scope of the OSPAR Convention. The convention requires contracting parties to prevent and eliminate pollution and to take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems.

Theoretically, all of the UK's seas are covered by the UK's OSPAR obligations, but in practice, OSPAR operates a risk-based approach to protect those areas, species and habitats that are vulnerable and likely to be affected.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's seas must be protected to achieve Good Environmental Status as required under the EU Maritime Strategy Directive. [221645]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which came into force on 15 July 2008, applies to all marine waters under the UK's jurisdiction.

The directive requires member states to carry out an initial assessment of the state of their seas and to determine in more detail what Good Environmental Status means for their marine waters by July 2012. Until this work has been completed we will not be in a position to assess what the programme of measures will need to comprise in order to achieve Good Environmental Status.

The directive also requires member states to co-operate with other member states in their marine region to ensure the requirements of the directive are co-ordinated at a regional level. The UK will be using its role within the OSPAR Convention to pursue this aspect of the directive.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Government have not introduced acoustic deterrent devices, as required by the EU by-catch regulation (EC) No. 812/2004. [221663]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1777W, which sets out the UK Government's position in regard to acoustic deterrent devices, as required by EU Regulation 812/2004.

Sustainable Development

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual cost of measuring life satisfaction as part of the sustainable development indicators. [220697]

Mr. Woolas: The intention is for questions on life satisfaction to be included in various surveys run by Government Departments for other purposes, thereby enabling life satisfaction to be analysed alongside other survey data. The annual cost will be small in comparison with the overall costs of the surveys concerned.

An update for 2008 will come from the Department of Health "Healthy Foundations Life-Stage Segmentation" survey, which is looking at the drivers for behaviour relating to smoking, obesity, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual health and mental health. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has contributed £4,400 to ensure the inclusion of the life satisfaction question in this survey.

Future updates will come from other surveys, for example the "Taking Part" survey run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215650]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department uses freeserve across the estate. We pay no subscriptions.

Trees: Diseases

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the incidence of *(a)* bleeding canker in horse chestnut trees, *(b)* sudden oak death, *(c)* oak processionary moth and *(d)* defoliation of horse chestnuts by the leaf-mining caterpillar cameraria ohridella in the last 12 months. [220461]

Joan Ruddock: Information and survey reports on all of these pests have been published on the Forestry Commission website.

A survey of horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) in Great Britain was undertaken between June and August 2007. This was to provide information, based on visual assessment of symptoms, on the likely incidence and severity of the disease known as Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae pathovar aesculi*. I will arrange for a copy of the survey report to be placed in the Library of the House.

In 2004, the Forestry Commission carried out a major survey of woodlands in Great Britain to determine whether there was any evidence of the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, referred to in the USA as 'Sudden Oak Death'. Further surveys have been carried out each year and since. I will arrange for a copy of the Report on the Forestry Commission Re-Survey of Woodlands 2007 to Assess the Level of Incidence of *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* in woodlands in England and Wales to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Oak Processionary Moth was first found in London in 2006. I will arrange for a copy of the Report on survey for Oak Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Thaumetopoeidae) (OPM) in London in 2007 to be placed in the Library of the House. Surveys this year suggest that the outbreak area has not expanded and, in many locations, the numbers of new nests has been significantly reduced.

Cameraria ohridella, the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, was first detected in Wimbledon in 2002. Since then, it has continued to spread outwards and is now found as far north as South Yorkshire and in East Anglia and parts of Wales.

Trees: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with European counterparts on the release of genetically-modified trees. [217672]

Joan Ruddock: I attended the High-Level Segment of the Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Bonn in May this year. Ministers from across the world attending the High-Level Segment discussed the issue of genetically modified trees. Their conclusions are reflected in the decision agreed by the conference and are to:

Reaffirm the need to take a precautionary approach when addressing the issue of genetically modified trees;

Authorize the release of genetically modified trees only after completion of studies in containment, including in greenhouse and confined field trials, in accordance with national legislation where existent, addressing long-term effects as well as thorough, comprehensive, science-based and transparent risk assessments to avoid possible negative environmental impacts on forest biological diversity;

Also consider the potential socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees as well as their potential impact on the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities;

Acknowledge the entitlement of Parties, in accordance with their domestic legislation, to suspend the release of genetically modified trees, in particular where risk assessment so advises or where adequate capacities to undertake such assessment is not available;

Further engage to develop risk-assessment criteria specifically for genetically modified trees;

Note the results of the Norway – Canada Workshops on Risk Assessment for Emerging Applications for Living Modified Organisms (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/INF/13);

Welcome the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management that is also mandated to address the issue of genetically modified trees;

Collaborate with relevant organizations on guidance for risk assessment of genetically modified trees and guidance addressing potential negative and positive environmental and socio-economic impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity associated with the use of genetically modified trees;

Provide the available information and the scientific evidence regarding the overall effects of genetically modified trees on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary for dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism.

Trees: Urban Areas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to widening the remit of the Forestry Commission to include *(a)* amenity and *(b)* urban trees in relation to pests and disease. [220458]

Joan Ruddock: The Forestry Commission's statutory remit under the Plant Health Act 1967 charges them with the responsibility for the protection of forest trees and timber against attack by pests. This statutory remit does not specifically extend to monitor amenity and urban trees in relation to pests and disease. In practice the Forestry Commission occasionally does this, either by individually financed surveys aimed at detecting specific pest problems, or by monitoring the issues raised in calls for advice through the Tree Health Diagnostic and Information Service operated by Forest Research. I have asked the Forestry Commission to consider whether there is a need to extend their remit to include a more targeted approach to amenity and urban trees.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has given to waste collection authorities on the number of different recycling and rubbish bins that should be given to local authorities. [221251]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities. Local authorities are free to chose how they fulfil their waste collection duties including the frequency of the collections, the priority, degree of effort and resources required.

The authority can specify the number, size, construction and maintenance of receptacles, what can be placed in each, where and when they are to be placed for collection and can require the waste to be treated prior to placing it in a receptacle (usually washing or rinsing containers).

All recycling systems require the use of more than one receptacle, so the guidance published by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in July 2007 offers some consideration of specific issues associated

with the containers for recycling and residual waste, in the context of alternating collections of recylates and residual waste.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme is taking to improve advice services provided to local authorities on local waste collections. [221254]

Joan Ruddock: The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)'s recycling and organics technical advisory team (ROTATE) provides advice to local authorities in England and Northern Ireland on reducing residual waste for disposal, increasing recycling and diversion from landfill and waste prevention.

The advisory service is free. So far, over 300 local authorities have benefited from WRAP's local authority advisory service on their collection programmes for kerbside, civic amenity and bring schemes. Areas where advice is provided include collections and recycling, waste prevention and monitoring and evaluation. The service has been improved this year by integrating support for local communications with advice on collection systems so that authorities will receive a more comprehensive service. The service has also been extended to include support for authorities preparing business cases for PFI funding to ensure that they can meet the required level of recycling.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether local authorities will have powers to stop collecting household waste from dwellings which refuse to pay or are late in paying the charges in areas where charges for the collection of household waste are being piloted. [221252]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill allows for up to five local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes. Such schemes do not permit local authorities to stop collecting household waste from dwellings where householders have not paid, or are late in paying.

Waste Management: Private Sector

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department takes to advise local authorities in their choice of private sector waste management partners; [221459]

(2) what powers his Department has to instruct and manage the private sector companies that are short-listed for local government waste management contracts; [221460]

(3) for which local authorities his Department has instructed the authority to exclude certain private sector companies from the short list for waste disposal contracts. [221461]

Joan Ruddock: The procurement of local authority contracts is a matter for the authority.

Waste Stakeholder Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members of the Waste Stakeholder Group are; when it has met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of its meetings. [221255]

Joan Ruddock: The meeting dates, board members, and minutes for the Waste Stakeholder Group are all published on the DEFRA website.

Waste Strategy Board

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members of the Waste Strategy Board are; when it has met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings. [221253]

Joan Ruddock: The meeting dates, board members and minutes for the Waste Strategy Board are all published on the DEFRA website.

WALES

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the purchase of alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219936]

(2) what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219586]

Mr. Paul Murphy: For the three receptions that I have hosted this year, limited alcoholic refreshments were provided. For the two receptions in London these were sourced on line. The one reception Cardiff was sourced through the National Assembly for Wales. Expenditure on receptions is recorded and monitored in Wales Office accounts.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220731]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In each of the last two years the Wales Office has used 100 per cent., recycled paper for photocopying and printing, and the paper used in our publications, in each of the last two years, has been at least 75 per cent., recycled.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220178]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has a few staff with disabilities. For reasons of privacy no details are given, in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219593]

Paul Goggins: The amount spent on alcohol cannot be separated from other hospitality expenditure except at disproportionate cost.

The Department has specific guidance on the provision of hospitality in accordance with the principles of the "Managing Public Money and the Treasury" handbook on regularity and propriety.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219942]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office purchases alcohol via contracted suppliers in line with Government procurement rules.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212050]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies spent £262,784.11 on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221237]

Paul Goggins: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years; [218711]

(2) how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218977]

Paul Goggins: The information requested could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Offensive Weapons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of knife-related crime in Northern Ireland in the first six months of (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [220158]

Paul Goggins: In answer to *(a)*, the data are not available in the format requested. The following table outlines the number of crimes which involved a knife that were cleared by means of a charge or summons. The data do not record whether the knife was used.

	Cleared by means of charge or summons
January to June 2007	140
January to June 2008	206

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

On *(b)*, court conviction datasets do not contain background information in relation to offences committed; it is therefore not possible to identify separately the number of convictions for all offences where a knife was involved. For instance, if a knife was used in murder, this information would not be recorded. Prosecution and conviction data are also collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included in the data.

I welcome the recent agreement between the PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service that people caught in possession of a knife in a public place with no reasonable excuse can expect to be prosecuted. The re-launch of the PSNI's knife campaign on 21 July will help to reinforce this message and help to raise awareness of the dangers of knives more generally.

I have recently announced a range of tough new sentencing powers to tackle knife crime. The commencement of provisions in the Criminal Justice Order on 16 July means the maximum penalty for carrying a knife in a public place, including school premises, is now a four year custodial sentence.

I intend to consult on a number of other proposals including a retail licensing scheme, a retail code of practice and a test purchase scheme to enforce the age limit on the sale of knives. All these initiatives will be underpinned by new research to obtain up-to-date local information on the attitude of young people in Northern Ireland to knives.

Official Visits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on George W Bush: official visits, whether the cost of £306,000 was drawn from the existing policing budget or whether additional funds were provided. [220604]

Paul Goggins: No additional funding has been made available to the Police Service in respect of the visit by George W. Bush, and costs are charged against existing police budgets.

Olympic Games 2012

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the last 12 months on securing benefits to Northern Ireland from the 2012 Olympic games. [220549]

Paul Goggins: Since the majority of issues associated with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are devolved matters in Northern Ireland, the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure takes the lead for the Northern Ireland Executive in ensuring that it maximises the potential benefits for Northern Ireland that will arise from the 2012 games. They work closely with my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State sits on the Cabinet sub committee that co-ordinates and oversees issues relating to the London 2012 games.

Police: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of policing in Northern Ireland was in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the average daily cost of policing in each of the last five years. [220391]

Paul Goggins: The latest figures available for the total cost of policing are the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008.

The following table details the cost of policing for the last five years and the average daily cost for each year.

The figures are calculated using information as published in the annual financial statements and exclude pension accounts, operating income, exceptional items and interest paid.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Expenditure (£000)	742,134	782,025	770,906	822,100	848,293
Days (Number)	366	365	365	365	366
Average (£000)	2,028	2,143	2,112	2,252	2,318

Prisoners Transfers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners sentenced in Northern Ireland have been transferred to prisons in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Scotland in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [220053]

Paul Goggins: There were three prisoners transferred to prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months, one in January 2008, one in March 2008 and one in July 2008.

Those prisoners transferred in January and March were transferred to England for assessment under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983. Hospital Orders were later issued when they were transferred to secure hospitals in England for treatment. As they have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983, they are no longer classed as Northern Ireland sentenced prisoners.

There were no prisoners transferred to Scotland.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted on charges relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in each of the last two years; what percentage of these cases resulted in a custodial sentence; and what the average length was of the prison term. [220559]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the number of prosecutions and convictions, the percentage of those convicted who received a custodial sentence and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for sexual intercourse with an underage person.

The data cover the calendar years 2005 and 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of prosecutions and convictions, percentage of those convicted who received a custodial sentence and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for sexual intercourse with an underage person for 2005 and 2006[1,2]

	2005	*2006*
Prosecutions	8	9
Convictions	7	8
Percentage of those convicted who received a custodial sentence	43	75
Average sentence length (in months)	17	23

[1] Northern Ireland court prosecution and conviction datasets do not contain victim information in relation to offences committed, which means that figures for rape are not included within the analyses.

[2] Data include only those offences which, by their definition, identify a child as the victim: 'unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years' and 'unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years'.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons detained in young offenders' centres went on to re-offend following release in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [218587]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is currently only available for 2005 and is shown in the following table.

	Number re-offending within one year	*Total in 2005 cohort*
Juvenile Justice Centre	26	38
Young Offenders Centre	14	17

These figures are drawn from the NIO Statistical and Research Bulletin 7/2008 'Northern Ireland re-offending: results from the 2005 cohort', which is the first analysis of re-offending behaviour in Northern Ireland. Previous analyses have been limited to the measure of reconviction and are thus incomparable to re-offending rates.

It is anticipated that an analysis of 2006 youth re-offending rates will be published in early 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research he has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between (i) alcohol prices and (ii) alcohol promotions in licensed premises and the excessive consumption of alcohol; and if he will make a statement. [219652]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1019W.

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of the properties on the English Heritage At Risk Register are in public ownership. [221651]

Margaret Hodge: Nationally, 149 (15 per cent.) Grade 1 and Grade 2 Star listed buildings on the English Heritage, Heritage at Risk Register are in public ownership.

In London, where Grade 2 listed buildings at risk are included on the Heritage At Risk Register in addition to Grade 1 and Grade 2 Star buildings, the percentage of publicly owned buildings is 21 per cent.

Cultural Leadership Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Cultural Leadership Programme spent on administration in each of the last three years. [221046]

Margaret Hodge: The Cultural Leadership Programme has provided the following figures for the amount spent on administration, defined as research and project management and not including staffing, in each of the last three years:

	£
2005-06	—
2006-07	70,000
2007-08	235,000

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221586]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold this information; neither does its agency The Royal Parks.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agency which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215179]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks Agency has confirmed it has not cancelled any conferences in the last 10 years.

DCMS does not keep a central record of the information requested and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221714]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not cancelled any information technology projects prior to completion in the last five years.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215195]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Press and media officers in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport operate at two salary levels. The average salaries (which include a specialist allowance of £4,000) as at the 31 March 2008 are shown in the table.

	Pay band	£ *Average press/media officer salary*
Grade A	42,770-52,985	49,343
Grade B	27,560-35,335	33,218

In addition to salary there are other employer costs such as employer's pension; employer's national insurance costs, overtime payments and overheads.

Note:

"Press and media officers" have been defined as the frontline staff dealing with the media. Support staff and staff whose main job is more of a management role, such as "Head of News" are excluded.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220729]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In each of the last two years the Department has used 100 per cent. paper from recycled sources for its photocopying. In printed publications the Department uses stock that has a minimum recycled content of 50 per cent. This stock also carries FSC certification, which guarantees that the virgin fibre comes from well managed sustainable sources.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215213]

Margaret Hodge: The information in the following table represents expenditure incurred by the Department's Library and Information Centre on subscriptions for hard copy and online magazines, newspapers, books and other publications, access to specific research databases, the Stationery Office and other parliamentary information sources as well as legal online and hard copy updating services.

Increases in the monthly expenditure for the end of financial year 2006-07 and the beginning and end of financial year 2007-08 are due to the renewal of a number of annual subscriptions.

	£
June 2006	12,076.12
July 2006	6,914.55
August 2006	13,833.71
September 2006	10,921
October 2006	3,714.15
November 2006	19,359.08
December 2006	12,971.34
January 2007	7,759.70
February 2007	29,825.98
March 2007	39,513.60
April 2007	58,792.60
May 2007	11,338.37
June 2007	7,333.86
July 2007	14,334.99
August 2007	4,604.08
September 2007	16,361.33
October 2007	34,415.62
November 2007	14,563.60
December 2007	12,609.01
January 2008	18,976.62
February 2008	10,373.05
March 2008	36,383.02
April 08	46,785.46
May 2008	3,004.00

Please note the 2008-09 figures have yet to be audited and are therefore subject to change.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of his Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218066]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The proportion of the administration and programme (Request for Resources 1) budget used for research by the Department is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Percentage of budget used for research*
1998-99	0.048
1999-2000	0.113
2000-01	0.094
2001-02	0.091
2002-03	0.041
2003-04	0.024
2004-05	0.024
2005-06	0.125
2006-07	0.196
2007-08	0.167

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221611]

Margaret Hodge: It is not possible to disaggregate the information from the relevant DCMS databases therefore the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were *(a)* on loan from other Government Departments, *(b)* on loan from other organisations, *(c)* on secondment from other Government Departments and *(d)* on secondment from other organisations in each of the last five years, broken down by pay band. [221493]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the number of staff by pay band/grade on loan from other Government Departments in each of the last five years *(a)* is shown in Table 1. There were no loans from other organisations *(b)*.

Table 1: Loans from other Government Departments

	31 March each year				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
SCS	6	3	4	5	5
A(U) (Gd6)	2	3	4	5	4
A (Gd7)	15	15	17	12	15
HEOD	4	2	3	3	1
B (HEO)	40	32	44	40	34
C(EO)	12	24	28	40	30
D (AO/AA)	15	14	23	16	7
Total	94	93	123	121	96

There were no staff on secondment from other Government Departments *(c)*. The number of staff on secondment from other organisations by pay band/grade during the last five years *(d)* is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Inward secondments

	1 April each year				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
SCS	—	—	2	1	—
A(U) (Gd6)	—	—	—	—	—
A (Gd7)	4	4	—	1	—
HEOD	—	—	—	—	—
B (HEO)	5	6	5	2	2
C(EO)	5	2	2	1	2
D (AO/AA)	—	1	2	2	1
Total	14	13	11	7	5

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213125]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport follows the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard which includes a verification of unspent criminal records. The Defence Vetting Agency arranges for a 20 per cent. check of the successful applicants on our behalf. This will increase to 100 per cent. from 1 October 2008.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to assist households unable to receive satellite and terrestrial television signals after the digital switchover has taken place. [218130]

Andy Burnham: Digital terrestrial television (DTT) coverage is planned to reach 98.5 per cent. of households—the same as pre-switchover analogue terrestrial coverage reception. Digital satellite services are available now to 98 per cent. of UK households.

Ofcom are continuing planning work with a view to minimising the number of viewers predicted to have poor or no coverage after switchover. The switchover in Selkirk that begins in November may help us to assess whether this is a significant issue. For those households unable to receive DTT or satellite services, specific advice is available from Digital UK on alternative platforms available to them.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218053]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is only available for the last five years and is shown in the table.

Calendar year	*Days lost*
2004	120
2005	—
2006	—
2007	176.5

Note:
In March 2008, 52 staff took two hours industrial action and in April 2008, 44 staff took two hours industrial action by walking out.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 613-4W, on the Olympic Games, what estimate he has made of the cost of Ministers and officials from his Department attending the Beijing Olympic Games. [219475]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, and travel by DCMS officials is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Library.

DCMS has endeavoured to ensure the best possible price for travel and accommodation to the Olympic Games. Officials attending the Observer Programme and those from the DCMS Press Office have arranged these through LOCOG to achieve this.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultations the Big Lottery Fund undertakes with Sport England before making grants for sport-related activities; and if he will make a statement. [220510]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Big Lottery Fund has advised that Big and Sport England liaise frequently on matters of mutual interest, including Big's sport related programmes.

The knowledge and expertise of Sport England, working in partnership with Big on its New Opportunities in PE and Sport programme, has been vital in ensuring the programme is a success. Big (and its predecessor body, the New Opportunities Fund) and Sport England have also worked jointly to fund programmes and projects when it is felt that they can support each other to meet each organisation's objectives, including the Active England and Awards For All programmes and the Active Places database of sports facilities.

Sports: Private Sector

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in raising the £100 million for elite sport from the private sector announced in the 2006 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [218345]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The Department has made progress in developing a range of proposals to raise private sector sponsorship to support the elite programme. We are in detailed discussions with a number of interested parties about the precise nature and scope of a national sponsorship scheme to help our athletes prepare for London 2012.

This week we have appointed Fast Track Sales as our official fund-raising partner.

I will make a further announcement next month.

UNESCO Convention on Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation he has undertaken on the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. [220611]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We are in regular discussion with the historic environment community and other Government Departments that have an interest in this and other issues but there has been no formal public consultation on this subject. The position of the Government in respect of ratification is kept under constant review.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Delivery Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what steps her office has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221489]

Ms Harman: Monitoring the cost of mail services for the office of the Leader of the House of Commons is handled by the Cabinet Office. Mail services are provided by the Cabinet Office's facilities management providers who decide the most economical method of sending mail externally, unless instructed by the customer to use a specific service, e.g. recorded or special delivery.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Leader of the House what the median relevant increase for the public sector groups which will in future be used in the uprating formula for the salaries of hon. Members was in each of the last 10 years. [217714]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not easily obtainable within the normal timescales for answering written parliamentary questions. I will write to the hon. Member with the information shortly.

Substantive answer from Helen Goodman to Paul Burstow:

I promised to write in response to your Parliamentary Question of 9 July asking "what the median relevant increase for the public sector groups which will in future be used in the uprating formula for the salaries of hon. Members was in each of the last 10 years."

In order to determine the median relevant increase for the last 10 years data needed to be gathered from a range of Government Departments and this led to the slight delay in responding.

The median increase for the public sector groups which will in future be used in the uprating formula for hon. Member's salaries in each of the last 10 years is as set out below:

	Percentage
2008	2.25
2007	2.5
2006	3.0
2005	2.8
2004	2.9
2003	3.6
2002	3.6
2001	3.275
2000	3.3
1999	3.5

I hope that this is helpful.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Commons Library.

Redundancy Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House what redundancy package is available for hon. Members' staff; what the reasons are for its provisions; and if she will make a statement. [221265]

Helen Goodman: Members' staff contracts specify that individuals who are made redundant qualify for payment in accordance with the statutory requirement, an amount which is based on age and length of service. Such payments are subject to a minimum of two years continuous employment.

In addition to the basic contractual entitlement, Members have the discretion to make a matching redundancy payment to staff from their Staffing Allowance or from the Winding Up Allowance made available to them on leaving the House.

For Members who leave at a general election, or who stand down at other times, any contractual redundancy payment is charged to central funds and not parliamentary allowances.

Members who choose to restructure their offices during a Parliament, and in the process make staff redundant, must fund redundancy payments from their parliamentary allowances.

These arrangements were approved by the Members Estimate Committee after discussion by the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what aircraft types are used for scheduled domestic passenger flights in the UK; and what the passenger capacity is of each. [219752]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* A table showing the aircraft types used for scheduled domestic passenger flights in the UK in 2007 and their passenger capacity (based on average seats per flight) has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The data have been provided to the Department by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); they are not published by the CAA.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what aircraft types are used for scheduled domestic passenger flights in the UK; and what distance was travelled on such flights by each aircraft of each type in each of the last three years. [219962]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 July 2008]*: Tables showing the aircraft types used for scheduled domestic passenger flights in the UK in 2005, 2006 and 2007 and the distance travelled by each have been placed in the Library of the House.

The data have been provided to the Department by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); they are not published by the CAA.

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effect of including aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on carbon dioxide emissions from UK aviation. [218790]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Parliament has just voted in favour of including aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in January 2012.

This means that CO_2 emissions from EU aviation covering all departing and arriving flights will be capped at 97 per cent. of average 2004-06 emissions in 2012 and tightening to 95 per cent. in 2013, and that any emissions above these levels will have to be matched through abatement by aviation or reductions made elsewhere.

Biofuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the British biofuels industry on the implications of the Gallagher review. [220060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A number of stakeholders from the British biofuels industry made detailed submissions to Professor Gallagher's team during the course of the review, and these were taken carefully into account. Industry representatives also participated in the stakeholder workshop at which the initial findings from the background studies were discussed, and at the 9 July seminar at which Professor Gallagher presented his findings.

The Department has had and will continue to have regular discussions with representatives from the British biofuel industry, both at official and ministerial level. The Gallagher review's findings and the Government's response to them will feature prominently in these discussions over the months ahead.

The Government have stated that they intend to consult formally on slowing down the rate of increase in the renewable transport fuel obligation, taking the level to 5 per cent. (by volume) by 2013-14, in line with Professor Gallagher's recommendation. This consultation is likely to commence later in the year, and the responses from the British biofuel industry will be taken carefully into account.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account the Gallagher Review of biofuels took of *(a)* the sources of biofuels used in the UK and EU, *(b)* the size and status of the biofuels industry in the UK and EU, *(c)* the size and impact of US, UK and EU subsidies for biofuel production in relation to imports of US biofuels to the UK and EU and *(d)* current and projected levels of UK and EU subsidies for biofuel production in the UK and EU. [221441]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Gallagher review focused on the potential impacts of likely global demand for biofuels in 2020, rather than on the dynamics of specific regional biofuel markets. As part of this, it took account of matters such as the different types of biofuel feedstocks likely by 2020 to be used in different regions (including the EU, USA and China), and the different land requirements and impacts of these feedstocks. Matters such as current and projected levels of subsidies for biofuels and the impact these might have on different markets were outside the scope of the review. The Gallagher review and the studies underpinning it are available via the Renewable Fuels Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place in her Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219588]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's guidance on hospitality does not encourage expenditure on or consumption of alcohol. Where it is demonstrated that alcohol is to be consumed in context of a particular event and in conjunction with food, express permission from a senior manager is required.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what purchasing process is used by her Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not encourage expenditure on or consumption of alcohol in relation to hospitality. Therefore there are no specific processes for the purchase of alcohol, other than those provided in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Telephone Services

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue her Department received from the 0870 driver inquiry line in the last financial year; and how much it cost her Department to administer the service in that period. [221681]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For the financial year 2007-08 the rebate (revenue) received from the DVLA 0870 driver inquiry line was £687,638.18. The full staff cost (to cover the 177 staff members involved) of administering this particular 0870 service during 2007-08 was £3,389,288.00.

Departmental Written Questions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average time her Department has taken to respond to parliamentary questions for written answer in each of the last eight quarters. [219525]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is contained in the following table:

	Average number of working days to respond
2006	
Quarter 3	
1 July-30 September	4.27
Quarter 4	
1 October-31 December	3.77
2007	
Quarter 1	
1 January-31 March	4.26
Quarter 2	
1 April-30 June	2.99
Quarter 3	
1 July-30 September	2.77
Quarter 4	
1 October-31 December	4.41
2008	
Quarter 1	
1 January-31 March	6.22
Quarter 2	
1 April-30 June	5.19

Driving Under the Influence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of drink-driving. [221334]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she had with BAA on landing charges at an expanded Heathrow in the six months before the publication of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow" consultation document. [218795]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State for Transport has held regular meetings with BAA, including during the six months before the publication of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document. These have covered a range of issues pertinent to BAA airports including Heathrow. Landing charges at an expanded Heathrow airport would be a matter for BAA and CAA, and were not discussed at these meetings.

Lorries

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of lorries regularly travelling on road in England which were registered *(a)* to British companies and *(b)* foreign companies in each of the last three years. [221197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not hold statistics on the number of lorries regularly travelling on roads in England.

However, the numbers of vehicles licensed within the heavy goods vehicle tax class and registered to keepers in England in each of the last three years were as follows:

Year end	Number of licensed heavy goods vehicles registered in England (Thousand)
2005	374
2006	382
2007	383

The Department does not hold statistics on the number of foreign registered lorries being used on England's roads but will publish estimates of the proportion of traffic accounted for by foreign registered vehicles on 24 July 2008.

Lorries: Driving Offences

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers' hours offences were detected in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and what proportion of these were committed by drivers of left-hand drive heavy goods vehicles. [220545]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not record whether an HGV is left or right-hand drive.

It would seem reasonable that the majority of Foreign Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) are left-hand drive, except for those from the Republic of Ireland.

Financial Year	Prohibited for drivers' hours, tachograph and records	Of which: Eire vehicles
2007-08		
UK	7,339	—
Foreign	7,329	2,310
Total	14,668	—
2006-07		
UK	4,901	—
Foreign	6,376	1,040
Total	11,277	—
2005-06		
UK	6,182	—
Foreign	4,403	1,578
Total	10,585	—

Lorries: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of a *(a)* particulate and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions limit on the fuel efficiency of lorries. [221196]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Where the particulate emissions limit is sufficiently strict as to oblige manufacturers to use a diesel particulate filter, as the future Euro VI standard proposed by the European Commission may be, the associated fuel consumption penalty would be likely to be between 2 and 3 per cent. if no offsetting improvements to engine or vehicle technology were made.

In principle, because carbon dioxide is a direct consequence of the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels, the imposition of a carbon dioxide emissions limit for lorries would, if it were lower than the current average emissions rate, reduce fuel consumption proportionately. The imposition of a carbon dioxide emission limit for lorries would be technically very difficult and deliver limited environmental benefits.

M3

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the maximum traffic capacity of the M3 motorway between *(a)* junctions 4-4A and *(b)* junctions 4A-5. [221656]

Mr. Tom Harris: As a rural dual three-lane motorway, the estimated maximum sustainable traffic capacity of the M3 motorway between *(a)* junctions 4-4A and *(b)* junctions 4A-5 is 67,000 vehicles per carriageway per day.

The recently published Highways Agency Regional Network Report for the south-east includes observed stress maps which compare traffic capacity with daily traffic flow. A copy of this report will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

For this section of the M3, the observed stress map shows that using 2006 information, the daily stress value is 100 to 110 per cent. A value of over 100 per cent. means that the road is busy during more than just the morning and evening peak hours.

M6: Accidents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps the Government have taken to reduce the number of serious car accidents on the M6; [219980]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to improve the safety of junctions on the M6. [219981]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency continually monitors and studies safety on the M6 and all other routes for which it is responsible.

Over the last five years, it has completed over 25 improvements to the M6 motorway at various locations along its approximately 230-mile length to enhance safety both on the motorway and at junctions.

These improvements include: junction widening, signalisation of junctions, the use of high-friction surfacing, better road markings and an innovative technique developed to manage traffic on slip-roads, known as Ramp Metering.

Further safety improvements continue to be identified and will be implemented as part of the steps to address the 2010 casualty reduction targets.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plan to take to reduce the number of serious car accidents at the Catthorpe junction on the M6. [219982]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency (HA) has already completed a number of interim measures to improve safety at this junction.

In March 2007, the hard shoulder of the M6 to M1 slip-road was converted to a running lane. Additional signs were installed on the M6 to give advance warning to motorists of queuing traffic and yellow box markings and 'merge in turn' signs were installed at the junction itself, to help regulate traffic movements.

Currently the HA is investigating significant further measures for longer term improvement, and a number of options are currently under public consultation. Subject to the necessary statutory processes being completed and the availability of funding, work could start in summer 2011.

Motorways

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost per mile of widening motorway carriageways by one lane was in each of the last 10 years. [220722]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table lists the average cost per mile at 2008 prices of widening existing motorways by one lane, provided by publicly funded major schemes, for each of the last 10 years.

	Number of projects	*Cost per lane mile in 2008 prices (£ million)*
1998-99	0	0.0
1999-2000	0	0.0
2000-01	0	0.0
2001-02	1	63.5
2002-03	0	0.0
2003-04	1	24.8
2004-05	1	4.0
2005-06	3	12.0
2006-07	3	10.3
2007-08	1	5.5

Railway Network

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget of her Department's Rail Group was in each of the last five years. [221230]

Mr. Tom Harris: Government expenditure on rail between 2002-03 and 2007-08 along with spending plans for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is set out the Department for Transport annual report. A copy of the relevant table is reproduced as follows:

	Outturn						*Estimated outturn*	*Plans*	
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*	*2009-10[1]*
Net Direct Support for Passenger Rail Services	738	930	[2]1,225	878	813	847	684	449	(250)
Grants to PTEs	214	245	294	277	199	313	310	323	329

	Outturn						Estimated outturn	Plans	
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[2]	2009-10[2]
Direct Grants to Network Rail	499	1792	1,448	2,058	1,984	[3]3,103	3,154	3,224	3,066
CTRL Grants	342	1,362	1,295	312	385	102	154	88	90
Freight Grants[4]	57	49	32	26	5	0	0	0	0
Other[5]	273	390	394	296	104	84	72	74	76
Total	2,194	3,768	4,688	3,847	3,490	4,449	4,374	4,158	3,311

[1] Total expenditure and the mix between support for passenger rail services and direct grants to Network Rail may be subject to revision as part of the regulatory review into Network Rail's income which is currently being conducted by the Office of Rail Regulation.
[2] Figure includes £700 million paid directly to train operating companies that was subsequently deemed to be in respect of capital investment undertaken by Network Rail.
[3] Figure includes a grant payment of £300 million to Network Rail to facilitate the purchase of Railtrack.
[4] From 2006-07 onwards responsibility for paying grants to Network Rail for the rail network in Scotland has been transferred to Scottish Ministers. Spending plans in this table from 2006-07 onwards are in respect of the English and Welsh elements of the railway.
[5] Responsibility for the payment of Freight Grants transferred from the SRA to Logistics Division in DfT on 26 June 2005. The figure in this table shows spending by the SRA prior to that transfer.
[6] Figures include payments in respect of rail industry pensions, external costs in connection with specifying and procuring rail franchises and in managing rail projects and payments to the British Transport Police, the Rail Passengers Council, the Rail Heritage Committee and British Rail (Residuary) Ltd.

Note:
Prior to 2004-05 expenditure relates to spending by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and the Department for Transport. During 2005-06 the functions and spending of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) were progressively transferred to the Department for Transport in accordance with the Railways Act 2005. This table represents the combined spending of the SRA and its predecessor bodies, the DfT Rail Directorate prior to the relevant parts of the Railways Act being commenced and the new DfT Rail Group. From 2006-07 onwards figures show planned spending by DfT.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the staffing costs of her Department's Rail Group were in each of the last five years. [221434]

Mr. Tom Harris: Prior to 2004-05 the vast majority of public sector staff costs in connection with the railway were expended by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA). During 2005-06 the functions of the SRA were progressively transferred to the Department for Transport's Rail Group. The following figures show staff costs of the Rail Group following the transfer of those functions.

	£ million
2007-08	21.4
2006-07	17.2
2005-06	11.7

Railway Network: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent members of staff *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies her Department is responsible for employ on tasks related to the railway; how many of those work on (i) project management, (ii) project oversight and (iii) financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing. [221515]

Mr. Tom Harris: The National Networks Group have 336 full-time equivalent members of staff; of this number, 70 are employed in project management and project oversight and 58 are employed on financial oversight. Plans for future staffing will be agreed in next year's round of business planning beginning October 2008.

Road Signs and Markings: Tourism

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans she has to review provisions for signage to tourist attractions on major highways; [218196]

(2) if she will consider introducing special highway signage to indicate UK World Heritage sites. [218198]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans to review national policy for signing to tourist attractions on major highways. The Department is, however, currently considering the scope of its planned general review of traffic signs policy.

There is a range of prescribed signs to tourist destinations including places of architectural or historical interest, and sporting and leisure facilities. It is also open to highway authorities to apply for authorisation to place non-prescribed tourist signs on the public highway. Any such applications are considered strictly on a case-by-case basis; and every effort is made to accommodate the needs of tourist industry stakeholders while ensuring that safety and traffic management needs are not compromised.

Roads: Noise

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she gives to local authorities on the use of low-noise road surfaces. [221494]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 926W.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency received for the maintenance of trunk roads in the last year for which figures are available. [221498]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency received an allocation of £896 million in 2008-09 for maintenance of the Strategic Road Network.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much local authorities received for the maintenance of principal roads in the last year for which figures are available. [221499]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides capital funding for highways maintenance to English local authorities (outside London) through the Local Transport Plan settlement. For the year 2007-08 £682.983 million was provided. In November 2007, I announced funding

of £703.209 million for 2008-09; £755.617 million for 2009-10; and £808.617 million for 2010-11. Local authorities can also use Revenue Support Grant provided by CLG. Neither funding is ring-fenced, and sums are not separately identified for different classes of road. The management of local roads is a matter for each local highway authority, based upon their local priorities. Funding for highways in London is a matter for the Mayor.

Transport: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train since (i) 1979 and (ii) 1997; and what estimate she has made of the proportion of average disposable income represented by such costs in each case in each year. [208983]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The following table shows the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by car, bus and train since 1979 and 1997 compared to 2007 in the UK.

	Percentage	
	(i) 1979 to 2007	*(ii) 1997 to 2007*
(a) Private car	-10	-8
(b) Bus	+49	+13
(c) Train	+44	+5

Source:
Retail Price Index (Annual) – Office for National Statistics

The changes are against a background of an increase in disposable income of 105 per cent. between 1979 and 2007 and 27 per cent. between 1997 and 2007. The decline in the real-term cost of travelling by car reflects the significant impact of the decline in real-terms cost of purchasing a vehicle.

While the cost of motoring has fallen in real terms, the overall UK expenditure on motoring has increased over this period as, the estimated number of cars per household has increased from 0.75 in 1979, to 1.02 in 1997 and 1.15 in 2006.

According to the available data from the Expenditure and Food Survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics, motoring costs were 10 per cent. of household disposable income in 1978, 14 per cent. in 1997-98 and 12 per cent. in 2006.

Fares and other travel costs were 3 per cent. of household disposable income in 1978, 2 per cent. in 1997-98 and 2 per cent. in 2006.

Transport: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions her Department has made in respect of the price of carbon for the purposes of the appraisal of *(a)* road and *(b)* rail schemes; what account she takes of the (i) EU trading price of carbon, (ii) value of carbon ascribed by Nicholas Stern and (iii) notional figure required to achieve a 60 per cent. cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 in such appraisals; and if she will make a statement. [218814]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The Department recommends all appraisals use the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' shadow price of carbon (SPC) when valuing greenhouse gas emissions. These estimates are used across Government appraisals and, in transport, across the different types of intervention.

DEFRA's resent release—"The Social Cost of Carbon and the Shadow Price of Carbon: What they are, and how to use them in Economic Appraisal in the UK"—documents the assumptions underpinning the current estimate and the approach used in its calculation. It is conceptually different to the market price for carbon, so the EU trading price of carbon does not enter into DEFRA's assessment.

Carbon impacts will vary depending on the greenhouse gas concentration trajectory the world is on. If emissions fail to fall at the rates targeted, the higher will be the trajectory for carbon concentrations and the more damage from climate change. The SPC calculation undertaken by DEFRA is based on Nicholas Stern's analysis of this aspect.

Transport: Nuclear Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with L'Autorité de sûreté nucléaire (ASN) on its refusal to give further authorisations for plutonium shipments from Sellafield to the Areva plant at La Hague following receipt of a consignment of UK plutonium from Sellafield on 21 May; and what steps have been taken in response to the issues highlighted by ASN. [220204]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As a result of discussion between this Department and L'Autorité de sûreté nucléaire (ASN) regarding the shipment of plutonium by Sellafield Ltd in May, and our subsequent investigations, we took regulatory action to prevent further shipments of plutonium from Sellafield in the same manner. ASN has not itself taken any regulatory action.

Sellafield Ltd has appealed the action. Until that appeal process is concluded Sellafield Ltd is prohibited from making any further shipments of this type of plutonium in the same manner.

Transport: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions Ministers and officials from her Department have met representatives of *(a)* Hacan ClearSkies, *(b)* Plane Stupid, *(c)* Greenpeace and *(d)* Friends of the Earth since January 2006. [218815]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* I met with a number of representatives from environmental groups, including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, on 11 July 2007. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met a number of representatives from this list on 10 September 2007, and met with Greenpeace on 21 February 2008 and 10 September 2007. The then Secretary of State (the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South) met with Greenpeace on 28 June 2006 and his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Edinburgh, South-West, met with environmental groups including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth on 2 June 2006.

In addition, I met with a range of environmental and special interest groups, including all of those listed above, on 21 November 2007 in connection with the Department's consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow.

Officials meet representatives from environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, regularly, for example in meetings of the External Advisory Group on the Air Transport White Paper, or on an ad hoc basis to discuss specific issues. Officials also regularly meet with representatives of Hacan ClearSkies at the bi-monthly Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee meetings of which Hacan is a member.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to ensure that the 25 milestones agreed by the Office of Rail Regulation with Network Rail to monitor the progress towards the December delivery of the West Coast upgrade, will be reported on more than twice before December. [221311]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation is responsible on a quarterly basis for reporting the progress made by Network Rail in their delivery of the West Coast Main Line upgrade.

In its Network Rail Monitor for 2007-08 published 5 June 2008, the ORR noted that two significant milestones were achieved on 5 and 29 May with the successful commissioning of new infrastructure on the Trent Valley four tracking project (Stages 1 and 3) and between Rugby and Nuneaton (Stage G).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of theft of British military supplies during transit from the port of debarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan have been reported since September 2007. [190452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been 23 reports of theft of British military supplies during transit from the port of disembarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan in the period between 1 September 2007 and 17 July 2008 inclusive.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* tanks and *(b)* armoured personnel carriers have been lost as a result of enemy action in Afghanistan during the last 12 months. [215431]

Des Browne: I am withholding detailed information regarding the numbers of protected mobility vehicles lost to enemy fire as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, operational security or effectiveness of the armed forces.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* scope and *(b)* length of the NATO contract for civilian aircraft in Afghanistan is; what aircraft types are involved; and how many military flying hours they are planned to free up each year. [218619]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The NATO contract for civilian aircraft in Regional Command (South) is for ten tonnes of lift per week until 31 January 2009. Mi-17 helicopters are being used to fulfil the contract. The contract was not let on the basis of releasing a set number of military flying hours; however, it is estimated that up to 95 military flying hours may be saved.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 175W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the name was of each of the deceased; what the date was of each incident; what the *(a)* location was and *(b)* circumstances were of each incident; what the cause of death was in each case; and what the status is of each investigation. [219609]

Des Browne: The details of the investigations referred to in the previous answer are shown in the following table. I am withholding the names of the deceased for privacy reasons and to protect the security of the families of locally employed personnel.

Date	*Location*	*Circumstances*	*Cause of death*	*Investigation status*
14 November 2005	Kabul	Local national allegedly shot by UK forces carrying out force protection procedures	Gunshot wound	Closed
19 May 2007	Gereshk	Locally employed translator killed by an improvised explosive device	Injuries from explosion	Closed
2 July 2007	Kandahar	Local nationals allegedly shot by UK forces carrying out force protection procedures	Gunshot wound	Open
7 November 2007	Kabul	Local national allegedly shot by UK forces carrying out force protection procedures	Gunshot wound	Closed
30 November 2007	Kajaki	Locally employed translator killed by an improvised explosive device	Injuries from explosion	Closed
24 December 2007	Baghran	Local nationals allegedly killed by UK weapon effects	Gunshot wounds	Open
3 April 2008	Now Zad	Local national allegedly killed by UK weapon effects	Mortar fire	Open

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [214459]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 23 June 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	15,970
Of which:	
Afghanistan[2]	8,000
Iraq[2]	4,300
At Sea	1,660
Kosovo	680
Qatar	410
Cyprus	270
Oman	270
Kuwait	170
Bahrain	100
Bosnia	10
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.

Armed Forces: Gyms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's policy is on charging service personnel for use of garrison gyms; [206754]

(2) whether service personnel will be charged for the use of super-garrison gyms. [206755]

Derek Twigg: In Army garrisons, personnel use the gym facilities free of charge. At Aldershot and Tidworth where a public finance initiative contractor and local authority run the local sports and leisure centres, personnel are charged for using these facilities for non-military (i.e. personal) training outside of core hours. In both cases a small administration fee is charged for health and safety induction processes as well as swipe cards.

Although super-garrisons are still at the concept stage, there are currently no plans to charge personnel for the use of gyms.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the waiting list targets for *(a)* Ministry of Defence hospital units, *(b)* regional rehabilitation units and *(c)* Departments of Community Mental Health are; and what progress has been made towards these targets in each year since 2003. [216250]

Derek Twigg: Since financial year (FY) 2006-07 targets for Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHUs) are for a percentage of patients to attend an outpatients appointment within four weeks of referral by their GP and, with a decision to admit, for a percentage of patients to receive treatment within six weeks; this equates to a 10-week care pathway from referral to treatment for those who need it. The average of targets placed on MDHUs and the actual performance against these targets since 2006-07 and 2007-08 are shown in the following table. Targets for 2008-09 are currently being negotiated with individual NHS hospital authorities that host MDHUs.

	Percentage of patients to be seen as an outpatient within four weeks		*Percentage of patients to receive treatment within 6 weeks of decision to admit*	
	Target	*Actual*	*Target*	*Actual*
2006-07	61	59	56	61
2007-08	67	53	59	59

These targets are more stringent than the current NHS target of 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment for 85 per cent. of patients. The contracts MOD holds with MDHU hosting hospitals enables accelerated access for Service patients to rapidly return them to combat effectiveness.

Prior to 2006, targets for outpatients appointments at all MDHUs were for 45 per cent. of patients to be seen within four weeks of GP referral and 90 per cent. within 13 weeks. Following a decision to admit for treatment, the target was for 80 per cent. of patients to be treated within 13 weeks; this equates to a total care pathway of between 17 and 26 weeks from referral to treatment for those who needed it.

	Percentage of patients to be seen as an outpatient within four weeks		*Percentage of patients to be seen as an outpatient within 13 weeks*		*Percentage of patients to receive treatment within 13 weeks of decision to admit*	
	Target	*Actual*	*Target*	*Actual*	*Target*	*Actual*
2003-04	45	46	90	87	80	77
2004-05	45	46	90	93	80	75
2005-06	45	46	90	93	80	74

Regional rehabilitation unit targets since 2006 are that, from point of referral, 100 per cent. of patients should attend an RRU within 10 working days; in the majority of cases this target is being met. Areas exceeding the target time are those experiencing high operational tempo (RRUs situated near to or within garrisons with a large numbers of troops returning from deployment); waiting times in these cases can be up to 15 days. Implementation of the recommendations of the recent Rehabilitation Review, which reported in May 2008, will re-balance resources to address this.

Prior to the creation of the RRUs in 2005 the policy was that following an assessment by a GP or physiotherapist that a patient commenced treatment within seven days.

Departments of Community Mental Health targets (DCMH) since 2004 are for 100 per cent of urgent cases to receive an appointment the next working day and for 100 per cent. of routine cases to be seen within 20 working days; these targets are being met, except in circumstances where the patient does not attend the arranged appointment.

In addition, the target for access to in-patient care is four hours if deemed an emergency by Community Mental Health Units.

I am unable to provide information on performance for RRUs and DCMHs for the years prior to those shown above as records are not readily available and it would incur disproportionate cost to produce data.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of the *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation provided by his Department in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas meets the decent home standard. [217006]

Derek Twigg: We have not carried out a specific comparison with the decent homes standard for either service family accommodation (SFA) or single living accommodation (SLA).

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has its own well defined criteria for assessing the condition of its properties. For the majority of SFA, this consists of a list of over 100 individual attributes that are assessed to arrive at an overall Standard for Condition (SfC) score for the property. SfC scores are banded into categories, S1fC the highest to S4fC the lowest. SfC assessment includes aspects such as the structure of the property, its energy efficiency, health and safety features, security arrangements and sanitary items as well as an assessment of the kitchen and bedrooms. On that basis, the majority of SFA is already at either S1fC or S2fC. This includes over 12,800 properties that have been upgraded to S1fC since 2001. By the end of this financial year, no Service family will have to live in S4fC accommodation.

We are confident that the current SfC system used by the Department fully takes into account the four basic tenets of the decent homes standard. Rather than simply conforming to a minimum acceptable level of accommodation, MOD aspires to provide accommodation to a higher standard; and this is reflected in the criteria that must be met to achieve S1fC. (All eight categories must score at Standard 1 for the overall Standard for Condition to be 1).

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's contract with Annington Homes. [218006]

Derek Twigg: I will arrange for a copy of the contract with Annington Homes Ltd to be placed in the Library of the House.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when all housing accommodation for families of military personnel will be brought up to the highest ranked standard. [220296]

Derek Twigg: The Department is committed to providing decent accommodation for service personnel and their families.

Addressing accommodation issues globally is one of our top priorities, but this will take time as there is no quick fix to dealing with a legacy of decades of under-funding. In addition to the significant investment in recent years, the Department will spend in excess of £8 billion on accommodation in the next decade, of which of over £3 billion will be on improvements and upgrades.

Since 2001, some 13,000 service family accommodation properties have been upgraded to the top of four standards for condition, with a further 600 of the worse condition properties to be upgraded this financial year and 800 in each year thereafter.

By the end of this financial year, no service families will have to live in the lowest standard of SFA. By 2012 all SFA will be at the top two standards for condition.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the provision of legal advice and representation in connection with civil actions against his Department relating to illnesses and injuries sustained cost in each year since 1997. [220082]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The information requested is not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the trained *(a)* requirement and *(b)* strength of the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Naval Reserve, (iii) Royal Marine Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force was in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest date for which figures are available. [216075]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for the requirement are not available from 1997. The figures for 1997 and 2008 are therefore not completely comparable.

	1997[1]		*May 2008*	
	Requirement	*Total strength*	*Requirement*	*Trained strength*
Royal Naval Reserve	[3]n/a	[4]3,560	1,784	1,640
Royal Marines Reserve	[3]—	[4]—	582	536
Territorial Army	n/a	[2]51,690	30,274	19,940
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	n/a	1,360	2,000	778

[1] Figures taken from DAS A Publication TSP07 "UK Reserve and Cadets Strength at 1 April 2007". This includes trained and non-trained personnel.
[2] For comparison with other Services, this number does not include non-regular permanent staff.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requirements are placed on vehicles in the British armed forces by EU environmental regulations. [220001]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The EU environmental regulation that places specific requirements on the vehicles of the UK armed forces is Regulation (EC) No 715/2007. This regulation establishes common technical requirements for the type approval of motor vehicles and replacement parts with regard to their emissions. In addition, it lays down rules for in-service conformity, durability of pollution control devices, on-board diagnostic (OBD) systems, measurement of fuel consumption and accessibility of

vehicle repair and maintenance information. It applies to vehicles whose mass does not exceed 2,610 kg.

It is our policy to comply with all relevant UK, EU and overseas legislation and, where granted specific exemptions from legislation, standards and arrangements are introduced that are, so far as reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by legislation.

Armed Forces: Young People

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who joined the armed forces at age 16 and 17 years in each of the last five years sought to leave the armed forces *(a)* while under 18 years old and *(b)* when 18 years old or more; and how many people who joined the armed forces as adults subsequently sought to leave the UK armed forces in each of the last five years. [220313]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of people who joined the armed forces at age 16 and 17 years or as adults in each of the last five years is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, voluntary outflow application data are currently unavailable. Historical information on voluntary outflow applications and exits is published in Tri-Service Publication 5, 'UK Regular Forces outflow from trained strength to civil life' (TSP 5). Copies of the most recent and historical publications can be found at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Information on the intake and outflow of the UK regular forces by age published in Tri-Service Publication 19, 'UK Regular Forces Intake and Outflow by age' (TSP 19). Copies of the most recent and historical publications can be found at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what location training for Mastiff armoured vehicles is conducted. [220002]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Training on Mastiff armoured vehicles is conducted in a number of locations depending on the type of training undertaken. Technical and maintenance training is conducted at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in Bordon, Hampshire. Driver training is conducted at the Defence School of Transport, Leconfield in Yorkshire. Mastiff vehicles are used in Pre-Deployment Training, which can take place on a number of military training areas both in the United Kingdom and Germany. Mastiff vehicles are also used for in-theatre training in Kuwait/Iraq and Afghanistan.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which EU member states are contributing to the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and what each is contributing. [220003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 18 EU member states are contributing troops and/or equipment in the area of operations (AOO) of the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic. Current contributions are given as follows:

Country	*Approximate troops*	*Significant equipment*
Austria	170	—
Belgium	95	—
Bulgaria	2	—
Czech Republic	2	—
Finland	60	—
France	1,685	Nine helicopters (Pumas and Gazelles), two Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs)
Greece	4	One C-130 aircraft
Ireland	415	Mowag Piranha III light armoured personnel carriers
Italy	100	—
Luxembourg	2	—
Netherlands	70	—
Poland	305	Two Mi-17 helicopters
Portugal	2	One C-130 aircraft
Romania	2	—
Slovenia	15	—
Spain	90	Two CASA C-295 aircraft
Sweden	140	—
United Kingdom	2	—

22 EU member states are represented at the multinational Operation Headquarters established at Mont Valerian, Paris to plan and conduct this operation. Current contributions are given as follows:

Country	*Approximate troops*
Austria	4
Belgium	6
Bulgaria	1
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	1
Finland	2
France	80
Germany	4
Greece	3
Hungary	3
Ireland	20
Italy	4
Lithuania	2
Netherlands	3
Poland	6
Portugal	6
Romania	4
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	4
Sweden	6
United Kingdom	2

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219951]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure on alcohol at public expense is governed by the general principles of financial propriety set out in Government Accounting and the MOD's own regulations for the provision of official entertainment promulgated in Joint Services Publication 462, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 10 highest payments made by his Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216705]

Derek Twigg: The 10 highest compensation payments made against property damage claims in the last 12 months are as follows:

	£
Damage to charter aircraft	352,872
Damage to charter aircraft	338,895
Damage to locomotive	145,832
Injury to horses caused by low flying military aircraft	39,987
Injury to livestock plus damage to crops and fencing caused by low lying military aircraft	38,936
Damage to hangar roof caused by low flying military aircraft	20,966
Game birds lost due to low flying military aircraft	19,551
Dairy cows destroyed as a result of low flying military aircraft	17,535
Free range hens killed due to low flying military aircraft	13,095
Injury to horse caused by low flying military aircraft	12,443

All the claims were settled without recourse to litigation.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217865]

Derek Twigg: Statistics on the numbers of computer devices left on overnight in the Department are not held.

MOD is co-operating with other Government Departments to take forward Government's Green IT Strategy, which includes aims to reduce energy consumption of computer equipment. We encourage the switching off of computer devices when not in use and have issued instructions to that effect.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings for the funding of regional prime contracts were *(a)* targeted and *(b)* achieved in each year since 2005. [219996]

Derek Twigg: No efficiency savings in the funding have been imposed on regional prime contracts since the contracts were awarded and funding allocated.

Part of the strategy in implementing the regional prime contracts was to achieve additional output, through betterment to the estate, at the same level of funding. These value for money efficiencies contribute to the Department's Estate Modernisation Efficiencies and are reported in the annual departmental accounts.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 95W, on departmental ICT, when he expects to provide a substantive answer. [220124]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 446-48W.

Duchess of Kent's Psychiatric Unit: Operating Costs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance cost of the Duchess of Kent's psychiatric unit was in each of the last five years of its operation. [216249]

Derek Twigg: The Duchess of Kent's psychiatric unit closed in 2003. Maintenance and works costs for the last five years of its operation are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Maintenance and works costs (£ million)*
1998-99	0.9
1999-2000	0.4
2000-01	0.7
2001-02	0.9
2002-03	0.5

EC Defence Policy

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government support the French proposals for a *(a)* European aeronaval group, *(b)* joint fleet of military transporters, *(c)* joint fleet of European helicopters, *(d)* European satellite observation system and *(e)* permanent EU defence military planning headquarters. [220084]

Des Browne: The Government have not seen any specific plans in respect of the initiatives listed. But at the UK/France summit in March this year, the two Governments agreed to co-operate to develop European military capabilities, available to both the EU and NATO, in a number of fields. The UK Government do not support any proposals for a permanent EU defence military planning headquarters.

Government Decontamination Service: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what income his Department received from the Government Decontamination Service 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217542]

Derek Twigg: None.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the objective is of the Iraq culture brief in the Civilians Deployed on Operations pre-Deployment Preparation Course Phase 2 at Chetwynd Barracks; [219994]

(2) what process is used to select the instructors for the Iraq culture brief for the Civilians Deployed on Operations pre-Deployment Preparation Course Phase 2 at Chetwynd Barracks; [219993]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Iraq culture presentation given to the Civilians Deployed on Operations pre-Deployment Preparation Course Phase 2 on 10 July 2008 at Chetwynd Barracks. [219992]

Des Browne: The objectives of the Iraq culture brief given to civilians that are to deploy in support of operations in Iraq, is to provide a basic understanding of the main cultural and social conventions of the country. This enables civilians to interact with the local Iraqi population more confidently and successfully if they are called to do so once deployed in theatre.

The Iraq culture brief is delivered by Iraqi nationals, provided under contractual arrangements. Those giving the cultural brief must hold the appropriate security clearances.

A copy of the presentation given at Chetwynd Barracks on 10 July 2008 is currently being obtained and I will place it in the Library of the House when it becomes available.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether departmental civilian staff deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are issued with *(a)* mosquito nets and *(b)* insect repellent before leaving the UK. [219998]

Derek Twigg: There is a significant risk of malaria in most non-mountainous regions of Afghanistan. Where civilian staff are accommodated in tents, they are provided in theatre with a mosquito net treated with insecticide. Where staff are accommodated in buildings equipped with fly screens on windows and double doors to the exterior, such nets are not required. Insect repellent is also made available in theatre. Where the medical risk assessment deems it necessary, MOD civilian staff are also provided with anti-malarial prophylaxis prior to deployment.

Malaria risks in Iraq are rather lower and seasonal, especially in Basra, where the bulk of the UK military force is based. Notwithstanding, mosquito nets treated with insecticide are again provided for all personnel who are not provided with suitably protected accommodation. Insect repellent is also made available in theatre. Anti-malarial prophylaxis is assessed to be unnecessary for deployments to Iraq.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft have been recorded in the last 12 months. [164431]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox, dated 21 May:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 21 November 2007, (Official Report, Column 990W) and 20 May 2008 (Official Report, Column 181W) about fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft.

The Nimrod Integrated Project Team within Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) is carrying out a detailed manual analysis of fuel leak data in order to answer your questions. Unfortunately, this is proving to be a time consuming process because the work has been disrupted by the corruption of the relevant database at RAF Kinloss. I am sorry that this has led to the delay in answering your questions, but I expect this analysis to be complete within the next four weeks.

In November 2006, after the loss of Nimrod XV230, DE&S introduced new mandatory fuel leak reporting procedures (known as 'Leaflet 70 reports') on all leaks associated with fuel tanks within the fuselage, the fuel system and any residual fuel found in specific areas of the aircraft (such as the bomb bay). So far our analysis indicates that since the introduction of these procedures, 111 fuel leaks (of varying degrees of severity) have been recorded under Leaflet 70. Of course, once the outcome of the ongoing detailed analysis of fuel leak data by DE&S is known, I will write to you again.

I should point out that following a recent request by the Oxfordshire Coroner relating to fuel leaks reported under Leaflet 70 we have provided the same information to him. In light of this, I was keen to ensure that you received this information as quickly as possible.

I am copying this letter to Ian Liddell-Grainger and Sir Nicholas Winterton, who have expressed an interest in this subject.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox, dated 13 July:

I wrote to you on 21 May 2008 in answer to two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled about fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft. I explained that the Nimrod Integrated Project Team within Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) was carrying out a detailed manual analysis of fuel leak data in order to answer your questions.

This work has now been completed and I can now provide you with a full response. In your first question on 21 November 2007, (Official Report, Column 990W) you asked how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft had been recorded in the last 12 months. This was taken to be the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007. A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks. In that period, there were a total of 252 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. In your second question on 20 May 2008 (Official Report, Column 181W) you asked how many fuel leaks had been reported since January 2007. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007 there were 277 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. Based on current data, between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008 (the last full month for which validated data is available), there have been a total of 33 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. That figure is however provisional, as some records have yet to be received from aircraft deployed on operations, and it is therefore likely to increase as the records are completed.

The figures quoted above do not include fuel leaks which are caused by our scheduled maintenance activity, as we disturb the fuel system. In these cases the leak is both caused and rectified while on the ground.

Although all aircraft are designed to be leak tolerant, all fuel leaks are thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, the measures implemented following the loss of Nimrod XV230 mean that the chance of any fuel leak Igniting is extremely low. In particular we have, as you know, removed potential sources of ignition by switching off the aircraft's very hot air system while airborne; it is used for short periods on the ground but does not reach temperatures sufficient to ignite fuel. Despite this, no leakage, however small, from pipes, couplings or fuselage tanks is accepted and the aircraft will not fly until such leaks have been rectified. The only occasion on which an aircraft will fly with a fuel leak is with certain categories of leaks from the integral fuel tanks in the wings. In such instances leaking fuel from the wing tanks disperses safely into the aircraft's slipstream, and, as there is no potential source of ignition, there is no hazard to the aircraft.

Of the 310 fuel leaks reported between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 over 50 per cent were leaks from integral fuel tanks in the wings, in which fuel would simply pass into the aircraft's slipstream during flight. In each of these reported incidents, whether from the integral fuel tanks in the wings or elsewhere, the fuel leaks did not compromise the safety of the aircraft and were rectified by normal maintenance procedures.

In my letter of 21 May, I stated that in November 2006, after the loss of Nimrod XV230, DE&S introduced new mandatory fuel leak reporting procedures (known as 'Leaflet 70 reports') on all leaks associated with fuel tanks within the fuselage, the fuel system and on any residual fuel found in specific areas of the aircraft (such as the bomb bay). I also explained that since the introduction of these procedures, 111 fuel leaks (of varying degrees of severity) had been recorded under Leaflet 70. This procedure will continue to bring fuel leaks in the fuselage to the immediate attention of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team. The current maintenance policy for the Nimrod fuel system remains appropriate.

With respect to the airworthiness of the aircraft today, we have ceased air-to-air refuelling and ceased the use of very hot air systems in flight. These measures, together with the enhanced aircraft maintenance and inspection procedures introduced since the Nimrod XV230 crash ensure the aircraft, as it is today, is safe to fly. Indeed, my Department having carefully considered all the issues has declared that all reasonably practicable measures have been taken to reduce the risk of fire and explosion to As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The work to reach this position has been contributed to by key stakeholders represented on the Nimrod Platform Equipment Safety Committee (comprising representatives of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team, Air Command, the Release to Service Authority, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and QinetiQ) which supports this declaration.

In addition, to ensure we can continue to operate the aircraft efficiently until its planned retirement from service, we have in place a programme of more permanent measures which includes replacing, where judged necessary, fuel seals and engine bay hot air ducts on the aircraft, this work is being progressed as quickly as practicable.

I am copying this letter to Ian Liddell-Grainger and Sir Nicholas Winterton, who have previously expressed an interest in this subject.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fuel leakages on a Nimrod aircraft have been reported since January 2007. [199452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox, dated 21 May:

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I should point out that following a recent request by the Oxfordshire Coroner relating to fuel leaks reported under Leaflet 70 we have provided the same information to him. In light of this, I was keen to ensure that you received this information as quickly as possible.

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Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox, dated 13 July:

I wrote to you on 21 May 2008 in answer to two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled about fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft. I explained that the Nimrod Integrated Project Team within Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) was carrying out a detailed manual analysis of fuel leak data in order to answer your questions.

This work has now been completed and I can now provide you with a full response. In your first question on 21 November 2007, (Official Report, Column 990W) you asked how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft had been recorded in the last 12 months. This was taken to be the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007. A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks. In that period, there were a total of 252 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. In your second question on 20 May 2008 (Official Report, Column 181W) you asked how many fuel leaks had been reported since January 2007. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007 there were 277 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. Based on current data, between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008 (the last full month for which validated data is available), there have been a total of 33 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. That figure is however provisional, as some records have yet to be received from aircraft deployed on operations, and it is therefore likely to increase as the records are completed.

The figures quoted above do not include fuel leaks which are caused by our scheduled maintenance activity, as we disturb the fuel system. In these cases the leak is both caused and rectified while on the ground.

Although all aircraft are designed to be leak tolerant, all fuel leaks are thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, the measures implemented following the loss of Nimrod XV230 mean that the chance of any fuel leak Igniting is extremely low. In particular we have, as you know, removed potential sources of ignition by switching off the aircraft's very hot air system while airborne; it is used for short periods on the ground but does not reach temperatures sufficient to ignite fuel. Despite this, no leakage, however small, from pipes, couplings or fuselage tanks is accepted and the aircraft will not fly until such leaks have been rectified. The only occasion on which an aircraft will fly with a fuel leak is with certain categories of leaks from the integral fuel tanks in the wings. In such instances leaking fuel from the wing tanks disperses safely into the aircraft's slipstream, and, as there is no potential source of ignition, there is no hazard to the aircraft.

Of the 310 fuel leaks reported between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 over 50 per cent were leaks from integral fuel tanks in the wings, in which fuel would simply pass into the aircraft's slipstream during flight. In each of these reported incidents, whether from the integral fuel tanks in the wings or elsewhere, the fuel leaks did not compromise the safety of the aircraft and were rectified by normal maintenance procedures.

In my letter of 21 May, I stated that in November 2006, after the loss of Nimrod XV230, DE&S introduced new mandatory fuel leak reporting procedures (known as 'Leaflet 70 reports') on all leaks associated with fuel tanks within the fuselage, the fuel system and on any residual fuel found in specific areas of the aircraft (such as the bomb bay). I also explained that since the introduction of these procedures, 111 fuel leaks (of varying degrees of severity) had been recorded under Leaflet 70. This procedure will continue to bring fuel leaks in the fuselage to the immediate attention of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team. The current maintenance policy for the Nimrod fuel system remains appropriate.

With respect to the airworthiness of the aircraft today, we have ceased air-to-air refuelling and ceased the use of very hot air systems in flight. These measures, together with the enhanced aircraft maintenance and inspection procedures introduced since the Nimrod XV230 crash ensure the aircraft, as it is today, is safe to fly. Indeed, my Department having carefully considered all the issues has declared that all reasonably practicable measures have been taken to reduce the risk of fire and explosion to As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The work to reach this position has been contributed to by key stakeholders represented on the Nimrod Platform Equipment Safety Committee (comprising representatives of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team, Air Command, the Release to Service Authority, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and QinetiQ) which supports this declaration.

In addition, to ensure we can continue to operate the aircraft efficiently until its planned retirement from service, we have in place a programme of more permanent measures which includes replacing, where judged necessary, fuel seals and engine bay hot air ducts on the aircraft, this work is being progressed as quickly as practicable.

I am copying this letter to Ian Liddell-Grainger and Sir Nicholas Winterton, who have previously expressed an interest in this subject.

Nuclear Weapons: Safety Measures

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place with regard to the *(a)* design and *(b)* handling of nuclear weapons to ensure that there is no popcorning or accidental explosion; what procedures are in place to ensure public safety in the event of popcorning; and if he will make a statement. [218746]

Des Browne: The theoretical phenomenon known as "popcorning" is a process whereby a series of accidental detonations of a number of warheads' conventional explosives could lead to some nuclear yield. This is extremely unlikely and could occur only if the warheads were located in close proximity to each other without mitigation. Warheads are designed such that there cannot be a nuclear detonation without authorisation.

Warhead handling, transit and storage facilities, and processes are designed to reduce the risk of popcorning to 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable' levels by, for example, separating stored warheads and having physical shielding between them. Similarly, moves of warheads are planned and executed to minimise the proximity of warheads to each other.

Safety in the nuclear weapons programme is of paramount importance. There are well-rehearsed generic response plans in place to protect workers and the general public in the unlikely event of an accident; all measures are taken to ensure acceptable levels of safety throughout the life cycle of the Trident warhead.

RAF St. Athan

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the proposed Defence Training Academy at St. Athan of the cancellation of major house building projects in the area by Persimmon and other construction and house building companies. [219617]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Training Review Package 1 Project has a requirement for service families accommodation in the St. Athan region from 2013. An Assessment Study has been commissioned by MOD to identify the best value for money options to procure housing for servicemen based at the Defence Technical Academy. This is likely to increase demand for housing in the area in the future. The MOD is therefore working alongside the Vale of Glamorgan, as the planning authority responsible for ensuring demand capacity can be accommodated, to examine how our housing requirements might be met.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the likely effect of the construction of Olympic facilities for 2012 on availability of construction workers to work on the construction of St. Athan Defence Training Academy. [219618]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials have already assessed the impacts of construction industry demand capacity on the proposed construction of the Defence Technical Academy at St. Athan. Populating an Office of Government Commerce simulation model, the data and advice received have indicated that construction of the Olympic facilities for 2012 is not expected to cause any significant implications for the local construction environment in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purpose is of his Department's consultation on the proposed Defence and Training Academy at St. Athan; and how long the consultation will last. [219619]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W.

The consultation process will end when planning consent is granted for the development. This will complete the planning process, and is expected to be in October 2009.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which troops will be trained at the Defence Training Academy at St. Athan; and how they will be selected. [219736]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The scope of training within package 1 of the Defence Training Review to be delivered at the proposed Defence Technical Academy at St. Athan are specialist phase 2 and phase 3 engineering courses of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. They include those courses delivered today within the Defence Colleges of Aeronautical Engineering, Electro-mechanical Engineering and Communications and

Information Systems. Phase 2 training involves initial trade training for the armed forces; phase 3 training involves continuous professional development. In addition, some training of overseas troops in the same disciplines may take place under current Defence relations arrangements.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists are serving on operations overseas, broken down by location. [216176]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 May 2008, reservists are serving on operations overseas as follows:

Location	*Op Name*	*Number of reservists serving*
Iraq Joint Operational Area	TELIC	217
Afghanistan Joint Operational Area	HERRICK	603
Balkans	OCULUS	20
Cyprus	TOSCA	36
Global Counter-Terrorism	—	12

In addition there were a further 572 reservists in full-time service within the UK and in other permanent joint operational bases; this includes those undergoing pre-deployment training, and those on post-deployment leave. There were also on average 50 Sponsored Reserves mobilised at any one time during this month (May 2008), most of whom will have served at one time or another in an operational area. A further 1,844 personnel were serving on Full Time Reserve Service contracts, and some of these will be in an operational area, but further details of their individual locations are not held centrally.

Selly Oak Hospital

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bed-days were accounted for by service in-patients in each ward at Selly Oak Hospital in each month since the opening of the military-managed ward. [206318]

Derek Twigg: We do not collect statistics in the format requested.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US nuclear warheads are based in the United Kingdom; when he last discussed with the US authorities their withdrawal of warheads from the UK; and if he will make a statement. [218747]

Des Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1154W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock). It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Vanguard Class Submarines

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* date of commissioning of each Vanguard class submarine was. [218233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The commissioning dates for the four Vanguard class submarines are listed in the following table.

Submarine	*Date commissioned*
HMS Vanguard	21 August 1993
HMS Victorious	7 January 1995
HMS Vigilant	2 November 1996
HMS Vengeance	27 November 1999

The total procurement cost for the four submarines was £3,587 million, which equates to approximately £897 million per submarine.

Wind Power

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pre-application enquiries to his Department or Defence Estates for onshore wind turbines received an objection from his Department between 1 January and 30 June 2008; and what percentage this represented of the overall number of pre-application enquiries received. [217944]

Derek Twigg: All wind farm applications that we assess are subject to individual consideration. We consider a range of factors such as safety or the impact on Air Defence or Air Traffic radars. Concerns will only be lodged with pre-applications if the operational impact is assessed as being unmanageable. Even where concerns are raised, mitigation options will be suggested to the developer where possible.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2008, the Department expressed concerns about 82 onshore wind turbine pre-planning application enquiries. This represented 14 per cent. of the overall number received in that period.

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning applications for onshore wind turbines his Department did not initially object to but objected to during a public enquiry in the period 1 January to 30 June 2008. [217945]

Derek Twigg: Between 1 January and 30 June 2008, after initially confirming it had no objections during the pre-planning consultation stage, the Ministry of Defence did not object to any planning applications for onshore wind turbines during a public inquiry.

HEALTH

Drugs: Equality of Access

11. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to achieve equality between areas in access to drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [220343]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Constitution gives patients an explicit right to drugs and treatments that have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for use in the NHS. This will help to ensure equality of access to NICE recommended treatments throughout the NHS in England.

17. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to achieve equality between areas in access to drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [220350]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Constitution gives patients an explicit right to drugs and treatments that have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for use in the NHS. This will help to ensure equality of access to NICE recommended treatments throughout the NHS in England.

Primary Care Trust Allocations

13. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce the revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2009-10 and 2010-11. [220345]

Mr. Bradshaw: We will issue PCT allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 alongside the NHS operating framework for the NHS in October.

Rural GPs

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the ability of rural GPs to dispense to patients living a mile or more away from a GP surgery; and if he will make a statement. [220347]

Dawn Primarolo: We have not received any representations concerning the ability of rural GPs to dispense to patients living a mile or more away from a GP surgery.

There are some proposals in the White Paper which suggest ways in which dispensing services may be provided but any final decisions on future criteria will be taken in the light of the responses and feedback received to the consultation.

GPs: Barnsley

15. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are in Barnsley; and if he will make a statement. [220348]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 128 GPs in the Barnsley primary care trust area. I am pleased to report that under the proposals in the NHS next stage review Barnsley PCT will be developing three additional GP surgeries and a GP-led health centre.

NHS Dentistry

16. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry. [220349]

Ann Keen: Latest data show that 27.3 million people saw an NHS dentist at least once in the 24 months ending December 2007.

We are committed to increasing access to NHS dentistry, and have made this a requirement for PCTs in the NHS operating framework. We have increased dental funding by 11 per cent. this year to a total of £2.081 billion.

Doctors: Ethics

19. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on whether NHS doctors should be permitted to refrain from providing medical care to patients on the basis of the personal religious or other beliefs of the doctor other than under statute. [220353]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service doctors are under a professional obligation to provide medical care to their patients.

This says:

"If carrying out a particular procedure or giving advice about it conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs, and this conflict might affect the treatment or advice you provide, you must explain this to the patient and tell them they have the right to see another doctor. You must be satisfied that the patient has sufficient information to enable them to exercise that right. If it is not practical for a patient to arrange to see another doctor, you must ensure that arrangements are made for another suitably qualified colleague to take over your role."

Patient Choice

20. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to extend patients' ability to choose their GP practice. [220354]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most people already have the freedom to choose their own general practitioner (GP) but in too many places there is no real choice. Proposals outlined in our new Primary and Community Care strategy, 'NHS Next Stage Review, Our Vision for Primary and Community Care', earlier this month will ensure people enjoy a real choice of GP, just as they already do of hospital.

Healthy Lifestyles

21. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles. [220355]

Dawn Primarolo: Firstly we are providing comprehensive information to help individuals and families make healthy choices in their lives. Secondly we are increasing support to those who want to make positive changes in their lifestyles—giving greatest support to those who need most help. Finally we are building partnerships with all stakeholders.

Stroke Care Services

22. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in England are able to provide hyper-acute stroke care services, including constant access to effective brain scanning followed by professional interpretation; and if he will take steps to increase this number. [220356]

Ann Keen: The latest audit round to take place, in 2006, showed that 196 hospitals in England have a stroke unit. This is 97 per cent. of all hospitals in England. All these hospitals have a consultant physician responsible for stroke.

In 2006, nearly all hospitals had facilities to scan the brain. Over 90 per cent. of stroke units providing acute care had access to brain imaging within 24 hours of admission.

The National Stroke Strategy and the supporting Imaging Guide outline the characteristics of gold standard stroke services and provide useful information on how to implement the changes needed to achieve them.

Patient Dignity

23. **John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure patient dignity in the NHS. [220357]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our Dignity in Care campaign aims to create zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of older people in all care settings. Over 2,500 people have signed up as dignity champions, committed to improving dignity in their local care services.

In October 2007, we launched the Nutrition Action Plan to address issues that emerged from the campaign about older people's nutrition. A Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board has been set up to ensure delivery of the Action Plan commitments.

On 30 June, we launched for consultation a groundbreaking constitution for the NHS. The constitution enshrines the principles and values of the NHS for the future. It makes clear that patients have a right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Also on 30 June, we published: "High quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report", which confirms that dignity and respect should be a core value of the NHS.

On 16 July, we launched the End of Life Care Strategy, backed with £286 million, to provide high quality care for all adults approaching the end of their life. It will help more people to die in the setting they choose, mainly at home surrounded by loved ones. A key part of the strategy is encouraging services that respect dignity at the end of life.

We are committed to reducing hospital mixed-sex accommodation to an absolute minimum and to ensuring that where the need to treat a person takes precedence over complete gender separation, everything possible is done to maximise privacy and dignity.

Dispensing Medicine: Market Entry

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for his Department's forthcoming consultation on control of market entry for dispensing medicine. [220344]

Dawn Primarolo: As I announced in my written ministerial statement on 17 July 2008, the consultation on a number of proposals in our pharmacy White Paper will start next month.

NHS Next Stage Review

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private health companies made submissions to the NHS next stage review. [220352]

Mr. Bradshaw: Among the 200 submissions received nationally as part of the NHS next stage review were submissions from BUPA, Spire Healthcare, The Priory Group, UnitedHealth Europe, Assura Group and Abbott UK.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from hon. and right hon. Members wishing to liberalise the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967; what response he has given; and if he will make a statement. [219644]

Dawn Primarolo: During 2008, we have received 245 letters from hon. Members on issues relating to abortion and about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, some of which have mentioned abortion. Records are not kept on how many of these support or oppose liberalising the law on abortion.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has *(a)* issued and *(b)* plans to issue during the next 12 months on the definition of a serious handicap as grounds for an abortion; and if he will make a statement. [219663]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to review its guideline 'Termination of Pregnancy for Fetal Abnormality' (January 1996).

The revised guideline should be completed by autumn 2009.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed under ground *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G of the Abortion Act 1967 in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [219706]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Legal abortions by grounds, residents of England and Wales, 2006 and 2007

Grounds	*2006*	*2007*
A (alone, or with B, C, D) or F or G	149	112
B (alone, or with C or D)	1,059	622
C (alone)	187,740	193,592
D (alone, or with C)	2,753	2,234
E (alone, or with A, B, C or D)	2,036	1,939
Total	193,737	198,499

Abortion: Drugs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what legislation regulates the selling of abortion drugs on the internet; and if he will make a statement; [219661]

(2) if he will bring forward legislation to restrict the selling of abortion drugs on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [219708]

Dawn Primarolo: In the United Kingdom, there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertisement of medicinal products which are set out in the Medicines Act 1968. These legal controls apply equally to medicines for human use sold or supplied via internet or e-mail transactions. Prescription-only medicines may only be sold or supplied in accordance with a doctor's prescription at registered pharmacy premises, or by an internet pharmacy which has been approved by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and bears the relevant logo, or under the supervision of a pharmacist.

Websites supplying medicines that are based overseas, or fulfil orders from overseas, are outside the jurisdiction of the UK medicines regulatory authority.

Generally, medicines that are brought into the UK by an individual for his or her own personal use or that of a member of his/her family are not subject to the controls of medicines legislation.

There are no plans at this time to change medicines legislation.

Abortion: Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed on people aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 15 and *(g)* 16 years old at (i) less than nine weeks, (ii) nine to 12 weeks, (iii) 13 to 16 weeks, (iv) 17 to 20 weeks, (v) 21 to 24 weeks and (vi) 24 weeks and over gestation on each of the seven grounds in the Abortion Act 1967 in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007. [219707]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Abortions by age under 17, gestation and grounds, residents of England and Wales, 2007

	Gestation weeks					
Age at termination	*under nine*	*Nine to 12*	*13 to 16*	*17 to 20*	*21 and over*	*Total*
Under 14 years						
Ground C and other[1]	68	65	18	[2]—	[2]—	163
14 years						
Ground C and other[1]	474	373	101	[2]—	[2]—	1,008
15 years						
Ground C and other[1]	1,525	1,178	309	129	64	3,205
16 years						
Ground C[1,3]	3,305	2,333	573	215	101	—
Other[1,3]	15	31	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	—
Total	3,320	2,364	573	215	101	6,573
Total	5,387	3,980	1,001	391	190	10,949

Abortions by age under 17, gestation and grounds, residents of England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation weeks					
Age at termination	*under nine*	*nine to 12*	*13 to 16*	*17 to 20*	*21 and over*	*Total*
Under 14 years						
Ground C and other[1]	50	54	13	[2]—	[2]—	135
14 years						
Ground C and other[1]	358	381	107	[2]—	[2]—	907
15 years						
Ground C and other[1]	1,144	1,347	277	117	63	2,948
16 years						
Ground C[1,3]	2,222	2,667	594	223	87	—
Other[1,3]	36	30	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	—
Total	2,258	2,697	594	223	87	5,859
Total	3,810	4,479	991	387	182	9,849

[1] where Ground C is grouped with other grounds totals for other grounds are less than 10.
[2] Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and nine).
[3] For gestations 13 weeks and over other grounds are included in the Ground C total.
Note:
Totals for individual years under age 14 are suppressed for confidentiality reasons. This suppression is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on the availability of abortions to girls under the age of 16 years without parental knowledge or consent; and if he will make a statement; [219712]

(2) how many recent representations he has received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the introduction of legislation requiring that the parent or guardian of a girl under 16 years of age is informed before an abortion is performed on her; and if he will make a statement. [219713]

Dawn Primarolo: Young people aged under 16 are legally able to consent to medical advice and treatment, including abortion, if a doctor or other health care worker judges them competent to do so. As such, they are entitled to the same duty of care and confidentiality as older patients.

For those young women seeking an abortion, guidance from the Department of Health emphasises that health professionals should discuss the benefits of the young women involving her parents. Where she cannot be persuaded to do so, every effort should be made to find another adult to provide support, for example another family member or specialist youth worker.

The duty of confidentiality is not absolute. There will be instances when information needs to be shared with social services and/or the police without consent—where the young person is engaged in an abusive or coercive relationship, or there is another over-riding public interest to do so such as the prevention or detection of serious crime.

The High Court ruled in 2006 that the guidance is fully in line with the law.

The Department has received around 230 letters on abortion during 2008. We are unable to break this down in the format requested.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions were carried out on women aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* 13 years in England in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; [220140]

(2) how many births there were to mothers aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* 13 years had in England in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [220141]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many births there were to mothers aged (a) 19, (b) 18, (c) 17, (d) 16, (e) 15, (f) 14 and (g) 13 years in England in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region and how many abortions were carried out on females aged (a) 19, (b) 18, (c) 17, (d) 16, (e) 15, (f) 14 and (g) 13 years in England in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. (220140, 220141)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions resulting in one or more live or stillbirths (a maternity) or an abortion.

To preserve confidentiality of individuals, figures for girls aged 13 and 14 have not been provided separately. Number of conceptions leading to a maternity or an abortion for girls aged under 15, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 for England and Government Office Regions for 2004 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Number of conceptions leading to a maternity or an abortion to women aged under 20 by single years of age, Government office region and England, 2004 to 2006

	Conceptions leading to a maternity						*Conceptions leading to an abortion*					
	Age of mother at conception						*Age of mother at conception*					
Area	*Under 15*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*Under 15*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
2004												
England	730	2,313	6,886	11,435	15,842	19,331	1,246	2,892	5,893	8,198	9,805	10,484
North East	51	179	501	774	1,072	1,256	77	174	334	425	471	512
North West	103	387	1,207	1,908	2,593	3,113	162	424	885	1,192	1,370	1,391
Yorkshire and the Humber	103	306	920	1,545	2,028	2,412	136	326	602	760	909	941
East Midlands	82	218	654	1,035	1,405	1,644	107	203	453	616	736	764
West Midlands	97	297	876	1,454	2,013	2,511	152	353	643	923	1,128	1,239
East	50	202	568	979	1,376	1,734	124	224	514	731	898	917
London	113	271	744	1,423	2,120	2,693	214	530	1,154	1,786	2,168	2,439
South East	75	273	837	1,424	1,931	2,376	159	411	834	1,075	1,363	1,452
South West	56	180	579	893	1,304	1,592	115	247	474	690	762	829
2005												
England	753	2,426	6,661	11,322	16,336	19,560	1,285	3,009	5,870	8,478	9,951	10,550
North East	49	172	474	808	1,077	1,240	86	174	295	400	463	510
North West	114	419	1,132	1,974	2,706	3,099	186	448	896	1,247	1,354	1,396
Yorkshire and the Humber	84	326	913	1,512	2,142	2,465	164	333	600	847	944	1,020

Number of conceptions leading to a maternity or an abortion to women aged under 20 by single years of age, Government office region and England, 2004 to 2006

	Conceptions leading to a maternity						Conceptions leading to an abortion					
	Age of mother at conception						Age of mother at conception					
Area	*Under 15*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*Under 15*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
East Midlands	81	235	609	1,043	1,484	1,719	104	226	422	653	732	775
West Midlands	96	326	847	1,407	2,035	2,466	173	343	671	1,008	1,197	1,165
East	64	189	539	1,002	1,408	1,698	98	285	516	748	843	926
London	109	274	752	1,254	2,093	2,819	189	496	1,162	1,627	2,220	2,427
South East	91	308	850	1,399	2,061	2,541	178	420	833	1,244	1,403	1,504
South West	65	177	545	923	1,330	1,513	107	284	475	704	795	827
2006[1]												
England	666	2,234	6,221	10,814	16,129	19,553	1,253	3,143	6,029	8,643	10,550	11,207
North East	41	174	481	734	1,080	1,229	77	180	292	412	453	492
North West	94	384	1,039	1,773	2,587	3,105	194	476	876	1,218	1,466	1,682
Yorkshire and the Humber	99	296	846	1,403	2,093	2,411	161	392	639	844	1,106	1,086
East Midlands	62	215	588	1,034	1,415	1,729	102	210	489	654	783	783
West Midlands	82	302	805	1,423	2,056	2,581	154	406	761	1,051	1,232	1,282
East	52	183	575	962	1,501	1,790	88	288	579	791	983	923
London	101	229	650	1,223	2,012	2,635	184	547	1,038	1,708	2,133	2,491
South East	81	266	768	1,416	2,032	2,461	167	400	828	1,265	1,552	1,630
South West	54	185	499	846	1,353	1,612	126	244	527	700	842	838

[1] Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue a consultation on the need for legislation regarding alcohol labelling, as referred to in paragraph 2.36 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [221151]

Dawn Primarolo: Today, the Department has published a public consultation seeking views on when and if the Government should take action to require health and unit information, including information on alcohol and pregnancy, to be included on all alcohol bottles and cans, should the voluntary agreement with the alcohol industry not be delivered by the end of 2008.

The consultation also asks for views on the need for a new alcohol retailing code and whether such a code should be mandatory. The findings of the KPMG review of the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's existing social responsibility standards are published today.

The consultation paper asks what more can be done by the NHS and others to ensure that help is available for those suffering from ill health due to alcohol misuse. Data on alcohol-related hospital admissions, giving better recognition to the breadth of health harm caused by alcohol misuse and their impact on the NHS, are published alongside the consultation.

A summary of the first phase of the independent review of the effects of alcohol price and promotion is published alongside the consultation, along with a Department's paper updating the estimate of the cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS. The consultation paper and the summary of the first phase of the independent review have been placed in the Library.

Ministers will consider the consultation responses in the autumn and will consider further action in light of the second phase findings of the independent review of the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related hospital admissions were recorded in North East Essex Primary Care Trust in each of the last 10 years. [212336]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following table.

North East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) came into being on 1 October 2006, therefore, figures have also been provided for the predecessor organisations, Tendring PCT and Colchester PCT.

Total admissions to hospital in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol at the start of his or her stay, for North East Essex PCT and its predecessor organisations, Tendring PCT and Colchester PCT in earlier years

		Total
2006-07	North East Essex PCT	796

	Tendring PCT	*Colchester PCT*	*Total*
2005-06	373	411	784
2004-05	273	310	583
2003-04	244	225	469
2002-03	230	171	401
2001-02	203	164	367
2000-01	120	171	291
1999-2000	147	151	298
1998-99	111	137	248
1997-98	160	167	327

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes (FAE)
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Secondary Diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care:
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 Alcoholic liver disease
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol
4. Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6. Uncrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to encourage young people to drink less alcohol. [220083]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government published the "Youth Alcohol Action Plan" on 2 June 2008. This document sets out a series of steps to address the problems associated with young people's alcohol consumption. These include:

Working with the police and the courts to reduce unsupervised drinking by young people in public places, including implementing new legislation to make it an offence for under-18s to persistently possess alcohol in public places;

Providing better information for parents on how alcohol consumption can affect young people to help them set boundaries with their children. The chief medical officer will work with experts, parents and young people to develop a set of guidelines on young people and alcohol;

Ensuring that industry plays its part, in marketing and promoting alcohol in a more responsible way to improve the standards that currently govern these issues, making them mandatory if that proves to be necessary; and

Supporting young people to make sensible decisions through a comprehensive communications campaign about the risks of alcohol, aimed particularly at the 11 to 15 year old age group.

We have consulted widely on our proposals with parents, young people and other stakeholders. Later in the year we will hold a public consultation on guidelines for both parents and young people on safe and sensible drinking.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of children living with a parent with diagnosed alcohol problems in Leeds in each year since 1987. [220782]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to raise the awareness of young women about breast cancer. [219988]

Ann Keen: The Department encourages all women to be breast aware. Women should know what is normal for them, be aware of any changes which may occur and discuss any changes with their doctor.

We will be taking forward work to improving awareness of the signs and symptoms of all cancers, a key objective of the Cancer Reform Strategy, through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. As part of this work we will be developing and renewing standard key messages for cancers and we will be working to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage early presentation.

In additional, we are currently working to implement a phased extension to the age range of the NHS Breast Screening Programme to include women aged between 47 and 73 years.

Cancer: Females

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision his Department has to support young women with cancer. [219989]

Ann Keen: Improving support for all cancer patients living with and beyond cancer, irrespective of their age or gender, is a key aim of the Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007.

The strategy sets out a number of initiatives to improve patient support services for those living with and beyond cancer including:

ensuring patients receive high quality personalised information throughout their cancer journey on issues such as cancer treatment, local and national support services, and financial benefits;

working with cancer professionals in the NHS to improve their communication skills when dealing with patients;

the establishment of a new national cancer survivorship initiative; and

monitoring progress on improving patient experience through annual surveys.

Care Homes: Grants

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 550W, how many units of accommodation have been provided from the extra care housing grant in *(a)* apartment complexes and *(b)* villages; [215508]

(2) how many units have been provided from the extra care housing grant for *(a)* people over 60 years old, *(b)* people with learning disabilities and *(c)* people with other disabilities. [215509]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Of the units of accommodation being funded by the Department's extra care housing grant, around 850 units are expected to be located in a village type setting and around 3,350 units are expected to be located in apartment type complexes.

Personal data relating to residents of extra care housing schemes that have received funding through the extra care housing grant are not collected centrally.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the consultation on proposed changes to the standards for care homes for older people. [218681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The review of the national minimum standards for care homes has been integrated with the wider reform of health and adult social care regulation.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will take over from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission, and the Mental Health Act Commission on 1 April 2009. From April 2010 the CQC will move to a common system of registration for all providers of regulated health and adult social care.

The Department recently consulted on what the essential requirements of safety and quality of care should be that providers have to meet in order to maintain their registration. The responses are currently being analysed and the Government's response will be published in due course.

Children: Diseases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the incidence of *(a)* diphtheria, *(b)* tetanus, *(c)* pertussis, *(d)* haemophilus influenzae type b, *(e)* polio, *(f)* meningitis C, *(g)* measles, *(h)* mumps, *(i)* rubella and *(j)* acellular pertussis amongst children in London in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to date. [221440]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is in the following table.

Laboratory confirmed cases in children (<15 years) in London

	2007	*2008*
Diphtheria	No cases	1 fatal case May 2008
Tetanus	No cases	No cases to date
Pertussis	36 cases[1]	26 cases to end June 2008[1]
Haemophilus influenzae	9	1 case to end June 2008
Polio	No cases	No cases to date
Meningitis C	1	No cases to mid May 2008
Measles	357	335 cases up to end June 2008
Mumps	21	11 cases up to end June 2008
Rubella	1	No cases up to end June 2008

[1] Pertussis cases laboratory confirmed by culture, PCR or serology.

Note:
The data in this table for 2007and 2008 are still subject to final confirmation.

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Children: Vaccination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library minutes of the most recent meeting of the National Child Health Immunisation Board. [221543]

Dawn Primarolo: The minutes of the National Child Health Immunisation Board of 12 May will be placed in the Library after they have been agreed at the next meeting in September.

Children: Wheelchairs

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he intends to take to improve the wheelchair service for children and young people as part of the forthcoming Child Health Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [220222]

Ann Keen: We plan to publish the Child Health Strategy in September, and will set out our further plans then.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving the provision of wheelchair services for children and young people since the publication of Aiming High for Disabled Children in May 2007. [220223]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme (TCEWS) was set up on 2006 to design a radical new model for delivery of both community equipment and wheelchairs in England. The remit of the programme was to place service users and carers at the heart of any new service model and build on the strengths of the third and private sector. The overall aim was to develop a new high quality system for delivering equipment which would give those supported by the state the sort of choice and control they have not previously enjoyed. Responsibility for assessment if need remains with local health and social care commissioners.

The programme has developed a business case for a new model of delivery of wheelchair services which is currently being considered.

Cholesterol: Screening

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to encourage people to have regular cholesterol and blood pressure tests. [220012]

Ann Keen: The Quality and Outcomes Framework of the GP Contract includes quality indicators that provide incentives for practices to measure and control cholesterol in people with vascular disease and diabetes; and to measure and control blood pressure in people with a vascular condition, including hypertension and diabetes. In addition, one quality indicator encourages practices to check routinely the blood pressure of patients aged 45 and over.

Putting Prevention First, published at the beginning of April this year, outlines the Department's plans to introduce vascular checks, which will include blood pressure and cholesterol tests for all adults aged between 40 and 74.

In the Next Stage Review, we outlined our plans for a new 'Reduce Your Risk' campaign intended to raise awareness of vascular checks and help people to stay healthy and to know when they need to get help. It will explain the importance of each of the modifiable risk factors for vascular disease, including blood pressure and diet. It will also explain the need for a risk assessment and how to access it.

Cord Blood

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which stakeholders he has consulted in the course of his Department's review of UK practice in the collection and use of umbilical cord blood; and if he will make a statement. [219909]

Dawn Primarolo: Organisations and individuals consulted during the review of cord blood collection and use have included:

transplant clinicians;
maternity unit nurses;
researchers;
private cord blood banks (Virgin, Future Health);
NHS Cord Blood Bank;
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists;
Royal College of Midwives;
The Anthony Nolan Trust;
Scottish Government;
Government Departments and agencies;
Research Councils; and
Human Tissue Authority.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations he has received on extending the *(a)* collection and *(b)* use of umbilical cord blood in the UK for clinical and research purposes. [221496]

Dawn Primarolo: I have met one organisation to hear a proposal on extending the collection and use of umbilical cord blood in the United Kingdom for clinical and research purposes. The same proposal has generated 13 pieces of correspondence. In total, two parliamentary questions have been laid on extending the current services.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of cord blood have been imported for use in the NHS since 2005; what proportion of these units were sourced and identified by the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [221497]

Dawn Primarolo: 26 cord blood units have been imported for use in the national health service since 2005. All were sourced by the NHS.

Deca-BDE: Health Hazards

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on human health of the use in industry of the flame retardant deca-BDE; and if he will make a statement. [220677]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) is a flame retardant used primarily in plastics and textiles applications. Over an extended period it has been subject to risk assessment action under the EU Existing Substances Regulation (EC no. 793/93); the UK (the Environment Agency) was the Rapporteur for the environmental elements of the risk assessment and France was the Rapporteur for the human health aspects.

The conclusion of the risk assessment is that while decaBDE is very persistent in the environment, it is not on present evidence bioaccumulative, and it is not toxic. As a result it does not meet the criteria for formal risk reduction activity under the existing substances regulation.

Dementia

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's strategy for medical research into dementia is; and if he will make a statement. [221043]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department invests significant sums in dementia research. As implementation of the Government's health research strategy 'Best Research for Best Health' continues that investment is increasingly directed through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR has established the Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (the network provides a world-class health service infrastructure to support clinical trials and other well designed studies funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations); and is supporting translational and applied research in dementia through the work of its biomedical research centres and through awards made under its programme grant scheme.

The Department published a consultation on a national dementia strategy on 19 June. It includes a recommendation and plans for building on the UK research base in dementia.

Dental Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists are working on primary care lists in England; how many people were on waiting lists for NHS dental treatment at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219232]

Ann Keen: The number of dentists on open national health service contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report". This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. Information is available by strategic health authority and by primary care trust (PCT).

Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library and are on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists,

nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information on the number of people on waiting lists for NHS dental treatment is not collected centrally. It is for PCTs to make local arrangements to support patients in accessing NHS dental services.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many treatments in each treatment band were carried out by NHS dentists in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [219906]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested for the period requested. Under the new contractual arrangements, dentists no longer report individual items of service delivered but receive an annual agreed sum, paid in twelve equal instalments in return for delivering an agreed level of dental service. The service delivered is measured in weighted courses of treatment (CoTs) made up of units of dental activity.

Some sample information is available at national level on dental treatments delivered within courses of treatment. On 4 October 2007 the Information Centre for health and social care published a report: "Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England 2007: Preliminary Results" which considered activity within a sample of CoTs from the first four months of 2007-08 and made comparisons with equivalent information for 2003-04. On 21 August 2008, the NHS Information Centre is due to publish a further report covering the whole of 2007-08: "Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England and Wales: 2007-08 report".

Under the old dental contractual arrangements, in place up to and including 31 March 2006, information on the number of claims by treatment type was collected centrally for those dentists working in general dental services. Information for 2005 and 2006 by SHA is available in Annex D of "NHS Dental and Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006".

This report has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Information below SHA level or for the years prior to 2005 and 2006 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts for NHS dentists there were in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [219907]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the form requested for the period requested.

The new system of local contracting has been in place only since April 2006. Under the old dental system, in place up to and including 31 March 2006, dentists worked either in general dental services (GDS) or in personal dental service pilots (PDS). PDS pilots, unlike GDS, operated under a system of local contracts but information on the individual contracts agreed under those arrangements is not held centrally.

The available information for the period since April 2006 is set out in the following tables. This is the latest information available.

Contracts agreed in April 2006[1]

Level	*Number*
England	8,377
South West Peninsula SHA	830
Central Cornwall PCT	49
North and East Cornwall PCT	22
West Cornwall PCT	22

Source:
[1] Department of Health.
Note:
Information available only by the then primary care trust and strategic health authority.

Contracts which ran for the whole of 2006-07

Level	*Number*
England	7,990
South West SHA	830

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division.
Note:
Information available only at England level and by current strategic health authority.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effects of the new dentists' contract on numbers of *(a)* patient registrations and *(b)* dentists. [221206]

Ann Keen: The Department assessed the impact of the first eighteen months of the dental reforms in its written evidence to the Health Select Committee. This evidence was submitted in December 2007 and published by the committee on 4 February 2008 at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhealth/289/289ii.pdf

The written evidence set out how the reforms have helped lay a solid foundation for locally commissioned dental services. It covered among other areas access, quality and workforce and how the Department is working, with the national health service and stakeholders, to improve services further.

In addition, in order to identify and spread good practice, the Department announced in March that there will be an evaluation of how local commissioning is working in terms of the patient experience. This will look at both access and quality of services, and the incentives it offers to increase access and encourage prevention and health promotion, as well as treatment. It will also set out a vision for NHS dentistry in five years time. The evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is for each *(a)* non-departmental public body and *(b)* agency for which his Department is responsible for 2008-09. [220100]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Arms length body	*Type of arms length body*	*Total (£000)*
Healthcare Commission	Non-Departmental Public Body	59,469
Mental Health Act Commission	Special Health Authority	5,594

Arms length body	Type of arms length body	Total (£000)
NHS Blood and Transplant	Special Health Authority	94,590
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	Non-Departmental Public Body	1,956
Human Tissue Authority	Non-Departmental Public Body	1,116
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	Non-Departmental Public Body	2,060
General Social Care Council	Non-Departmental Public Body	10,687
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	Non-Departmental Public Body	1,468
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	Trading Agency	11,057
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	Special Health Authority	32,415
National Patient Safety Agency	Special Health Authority	28,234
Health Protection Agency	Non-Departmental Public Body	168,152
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	Non-Departmental Public Body	18,600
National Treatment Agency	Special Health Authority	11,457
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	Non-Departmental Public Body	804
NHS Litigation Authority	Special Health Authority	347,718
NHS Appointments Commission	Non-Departmental Public Body	3,965
Information Centre for health and social care	Special Health Authority	36,595
NHS Business Services Authority	Special Health Authority	128,457
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Authority	Agency	27,395
NHS Institute	Special Health Authority	67,981
Commission for Social Care and Inspection	Non-Departmental Public Body	48,550
NHS Professionals	Special Health Authority	5,136
Total		1,113,456

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place to manage the transition from paediatric to adult services for young people with diabetes; and what guidance his Department has given to primary care trusts to ensure the transition takes place at the appropriate time and is negotiated with and planned around the needs of each individual young person; [219500]

(2) whether his Department is undertaking an assessment of the implementation of "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter". [219538]

Ann Keen: It is for local national health service organisations to make their own arrangements to manage the transition from paediatric to adult services for young people with diabetes. The 2007 report "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) gives support and guidance on managing the transition period, as well as other aspects of diabetes care for children and young people. Implementation of this guidance will be continually reviewed and will also be assessed through the Child Health and Maternity Services mapping exercise, which aims to create an inventory of all dedicated child health services provided in England.

In the 2007 Child Health Mapping returns, of 242 general paediatric services, 207 (86 per cent.) provided services for children and young people with diabetes, 148 of which had protocols in place for transition to adult diabetes services, and 134 provided a diabetes transition key-worker on all, or most, occasions.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average ratio of children to paediatric diabetes specialist nurses is in England. [219502]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to deploy specialist nurses according to their local needs.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in England have carried out a local needs assessment as part of the development of services for children and young people with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [219505]

Ann Keen: This information in not collected centrally. Responsibility for developing services for children and young people with diabetes rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

In April 2007, the Department published "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", the report of the children and young people with diabetes working group, which looked at ways to improve diabetes services for children and young people. This report includes guidance to commissioners on the planning, design and provision of diabetes services for children and young people, copies of the Report have already been deposited in the Library.

The "Diabetes Commissioning Toolkit", published in November 2006, describes the importance of carrying out a health needs assessment for local diabetes populations.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have protocols to support the delivery of a consistent level of care for people with diabetes when in hospital. [219610]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Responsibility for developing protocols to support the delivery of in-patient care for people with diabetes rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that people with diabetes receive good standards of care while in hospital. In March 2008 the National Diabetes Support Team, in partnership with the Department and Diabetes UK, published the report "Improving Emergency and In-patient Care for People with Diabetes". The report is intended to provide quality information and standards for commissioners and providers, and tools for service improvement in in-patient care.

Dietary Supplements

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that botanical food supplements containing ingredients for which claims are approved under the provisions of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation continue to be able to be marketed under food law. [220536]

Dawn Primarolo: Botanical food supplements bearing claims can continue to be marketed providing they comply with the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation and all other aspects of food law. In particular they must comply with the Food Supplements Directive, and all novel food ingredients must undergo a pre-market safety evaluation.

Disabled: Respite Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 3.11 in the Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided by his Department over each of the next two years. [220304]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In response to the high value placed upon breaks by carers, the Department is investing £150 million via primary care trusts over the next two years. Of this, £50 million will be provided in 2009-10 and £100 million will be provided in 2010-11. This money will support all carers and will not be targeted specifically at carers of disabled children.

Between 2008-2011, we will be making a further investment of £720 million to councils to enable them to support carers with breaks and other services. This is in addition to funding of over a billion pounds paid to councils since 1999 through the carers grant.

Doctors: Housing

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of trainee doctors who will be paying for hospital-provided accommodation in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [220228]

Ann Keen: Whether a junior doctor pays for accommodation depends on the contract of employment of the individual doctor. As with all other national health service staff, terms and conditions provide that there should be no charge for accommodation where junior doctors are contractually required to be resident. This is a matter for local NHS employers in terms of the contract of employment of each individual employee, and the Department does not hold this information centrally.

Emergency Services: Telecommunications

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the bandwidth for emergency service communications to be finalised; and what the reasons are for the time taken in determining, costing and allocating spectrum for emergency and public safety communications; [219732]

(2) when the public safety extension band (PSEB) manager will *(a)* decide on the allocation of, *(b)* submit the full costs schedule for and *(c)* provide the licence for the 2x13Mhz spectrum from the PSEB for the Government's chosen provider of emergency and public safety communications airwave solutions. [219733]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a new approach to licensing radio spectrum. New processes are being established. This is a complex matter involving this Department, Ofcom and others. An offer has been made in principle. The detailed contract and licensing documentation will be completed as soon as possible.

Exercise

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has on the *(a)* cost-effectiveness and *(b)* clinical effectiveness of exercise referral services as referred to on page 36 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432. [219363]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2006, the National Institution for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) examined four commonly used methods to increase physical activity in England, including exercise referral. It considered the reviews of the evidence and an economic appraisal.

NICE determined that, other than as part of research studies where their effectiveness can be evaluated, there was insufficient evidence to recommend the use of exercise referral schemes to promote physical activity. However, the Department encourages the provision of high quality exercise referral schemes where they address management of condition specific or individual health conditions.

Food Standards Agency: Public Appointments

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account was taken of the undertaking given on 14 January 1998, *Official Report*, columns 357-8, in relation to the proportion of members of the board of the Food Standards Agency with relevant interests in the appointment of the current board members; and if he will make a statement; [220279]

(2) how many and what proportion of the members of the board of the Food Standards Agency have a *(a)* current and *(b)* recent commercial interest in bodies regulated by the agency. [220280]

Dawn Primarolo: The commitment given was that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) would be "tough and independent". This is fulfilled by the Food Standards Act 1999 which set up the FSA and by the code of conduct governing the conduct of its board members. The Act requires, and the capability of the agency's board depends upon, the independence and a wide range of skills and experience of members, who together act in the public interest without regard for their own financial or other interests which could prejudice the exercise of their duties. The balance of skills and experience of the whole board is reviewed at the time of each new appointment to ensure that appropriate independence of the board is maintained.

Details of board members' interests and their broad biographical backgrounds are published by the agency on its website and updated quarterly at

http://www.food.gov.uk/aboutus/ourboard/boardmem/.

However information about previous interests is not recorded when no longer held. The current register of interests of board members is published as a Standing Order paper with the papers for all the agency's open board meetings and these are also published on the website. Where relevant to the topic, those interests are

also declared in advance of discussion at all board meetings. The process of appointment of members also ensures that potential conflicts of interest are thoroughly explored.

Food: Prices

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of rising food prices on levels of general health. [220038]

Dawn Primarolo: We are not aware that rising food prices have had a significant impact on food consumption patterns and hence healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. However, as part of our ongoing work to deliver the objectives of the Government's Healthy Weight Healthy Lives strategy, we will be working with key stakeholders across Government, industry, and the voluntary sector to share information on food purchase patterns.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients attending genito-urinary medicine clinics in *(a)* St. Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours in each of the last three months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [221405]

Dawn Primarolo: The percentage of patients contacting genito-urinary clinics who were offered an appointment within 48 hours in St. Albans, Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts and England between March and May 2008 are shown in the following table.

	March 2008	*April 2008*	*Percentage May 2008*
West Hertfordshire PCT			
The Waverly Wing, St. Albans	91.9	91.3	92.5
Watford Sexual Health Centre, Watford	97.6	96.5	95.5
East and North Hertfordshire PCT			
Woodlands Clinic, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	100.0	99.8	99.3
Hertford County Hospital, Hertford	97.0	100.0	100.0
Hertfordshire	96.7	96.1	95.9
England	98.9	98.5	98.9

Source:
Department of Health Form, Gumamm

Health and Social Care Act 2003

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the operation of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003; what amendments have been made to this Act since receiving Royal Assent; and what amendments are planned during the next 12 months. [214043]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The key elements of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 were as follows. The Act made provision for the creation of national health service foundation trusts (FTs), accountable to local communities rather than the Secretary of State; placed a duty on NHS bodies to monitor and improve the quality of healthcare that they provide; gave the Secretary of State power to publish standards in relation to healthcare; created a Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (usually referred to as the Healthcare Commission (HCC)) and a Commission for Social Care Inspection; and made new provisions in relation to primary dental services.

There are now 103 NHS FTs in place. NHS FTs have demonstrated their ability to establish strong finances and deliver high quality services; the Healthcare Commission's Annual Healthcheck for 2006-07 showed that FTs are delivering better care and improved finances compared to non-FTs.

The Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, or HCC, reports directly to Parliament on the state of healthcare in England, and on the quality of NHS and independent healthcare, and its value for money. The assessment of individual providers of NHS healthcare takes into account the standards for healthcare published by the Secretary of State. By bringing together the expertise of previous health inspection bodies, the HCC is helping to reduce the fragmentation of inspection, easing the burdens on front-line staff.

Similarly, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is an independent body, which provides a comprehensive picture of the quality of social care services and the performance of local authorities in meeting social care needs in their areas. It gives a star rating to councils annually and, from 2008, a quality rating to care services. The CSCI regulates, inspects and reviews all adult social care services in the public, private and voluntary sectors in England. It does so on the basis of regulations and standards issued by the Secretary of State. It makes an annual report to Parliament on the state of social care that gives a comprehensive overview of the social care sector in England.

The following amendments were made to this Act following the granting of Royal Assent on 20 November 2003:

Section (s) 7 (prior to its repeal)—s.7(5) amended by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.54;

s.25 (prior to its repeal)—s.25(3A) inserted by Health Act 2006, s.74(6);

s.28 (prior to its repeal)—s.28(3A) inserted by Health Act 2006, s.74(7);

s.33—s.33(2) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.236;

s.45—s.45(3) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.241;

s.50—s.50(4) substituted and s.50(4A) inserted by Health Act 2006, s.15(2);

s.51—s.51(4)(a) amended by Health Act 2006, s.15(3);

s.52—s.52(3)(5) substituted and s.52(5A) inserted by Health Act 2006, s.15(4), (5);

s.54—s.54(2) amended by Health Act 2006, s.15(6);

s.60—s.60(5)(1A) inserted by Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, s.66, Sch.2, para.58;

s.69A—Inserted by Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, s.66, Sch.2, para.59;

s.76—s.76(2)(d) amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.83(a) - s.76(2)(f), (g) partially repealed by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, s.184, Sch.14, para.83(b), Sch.18, Part 5;

s.79—s.79(2) substituted by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.85(2)—s.79(2) amended and s.79(2)(a)-(b) inserted by Children Act 2004, s.24(1)—s.79(7) repealed by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, s.184, Sch.14, para.85(3), Sch.18, Part 5;

s.81—s.81(2) amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.87—s.81(2) amended by Children Act 2004, s.24(2);

s.96—Substituted by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.88 (for Transitional and Supplementary Provisions See Children Act 2004, s.30(1));

s.113—s.113(1)(c) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.242—s.113(4)(a) amended and s.113(4)(aa) inserted by Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005, s.39(1), Sch.6, para.75;

s.114—s.114(5)(a) amended by Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, s.182, Sch.12, para.18—s.114(1)(c) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.243—s.114(5)(b) substituted by Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005, s.39(1), Sch.6, para.76(b) [s.114(5)(a) partially repealed Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005, s.39, Sch.6, para.76(a), Sch.7];

s.120—s.120(1A), (3A), (5) inserted, s.120(2), (4) amended and s.120(3) substituted by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.91;

s.122—s.122(1) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.244;

s.124—s.124(6) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.245;

s.148—s.148 amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, Sch.14, para.93—s.148 amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.246 [Partially repealed by Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, s.146, s.241, Sch.9, para.1(2)(v), Sch.18, Part 9] [For Transitional and Supplementary Provisions see Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, s.146(4)];

s.150—s.150(7)(a) substituted; s.150(7)(c) and (d) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.247—s.150(7)(d)(ii) substituted by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.55;

s.153—s.153(9) substituted by Health Act 2006, s.73;

s.155—s.155(7) amended by Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, s.62(3), Sch.13, para.152;

s.157—s.157(3)(a) amended by Constitutional Reform Act 2005, s.59(5), Sch.11, para.1(2);

s.160—s.160(4) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.248;

s.162—s.162(6) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.249;

s.165—s.165(3)(b)(ii) and (5) amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.250;

s.168—Amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.251;

s.194—Amended by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.2, Sch.1, para.252;

s.195—s.195(2) amended by The National Health Service (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1407, art.2, Sch.1, Part 2, para.14) re: E/W only. s.195(1) repealed by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006, s.6, Sch.4;

Schedule (Sch). 6—paras.3(1)(a)-(c), (11) amended by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.58(2)(a), (b), (4)(a), (b) para.3(2)-(3), (9)-(10), (14)-(15) repealed by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.58(3), Sch.9; and

Sch 7—para.3(1) amended by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.59(2) para.5(2) repealed by Education and Inspections Act 2006, s.157, s.184, Sch.14, para.94, Sch.18, Part 5 para.3(2), (6)-(8) repealed by Health Act 2006, s.80, Sch.8, para.59(3), Sch.9.

The Health and Social Care Bill will, subject to parliamentary consent, merge the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, the CSCI and the Mental Health Act Commission into the Care Quality Commission. The Bill will also replace the 'duty of quality' by a duty on primary care trusts to seek continuous improvement.

Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding will be provided to support the Reduce Your Risk campaign in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11, as referred to on page 35 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; through what media he plans the Reduce Your Risk campaign to be communicated; and if he will make a statement. [219366]

Ann Keen: We have made provision in the overall Department's financial plans of £150 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11 to cover all of the new policy commitments in the NHS Next Stage Review. We are confident all the commitments are affordable within this overall total, though precise funding for individual initiatives is still subject to further detailed planning work on implementation including whether they are taken forward nationally or by the national health service locally. Decisions on the media through which this campaign is to be communicated will depend on research and analysis by marketing experts.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 10 of the NHS Next Stage Review Final Report, how much additional funding his Department plans to allocate to support the introduction of integrated fit for work services *(a)* in 2008-09 and *(b)* in 2009-10; and how many additional staff he estimates will be required for these services to be fully implemented; [219377]

(2) what central funding his Department plans to provide in support of Fit for Work services, as referred to on page 38 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, whether he plans to pilot fit for work services; whether fit for work services will be designed on a *(a)* national and *(b)* local basis; and if he will make a statement. [221018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A cross-Government group is now looking at different models for piloting a new 'fit for work' service for people in the early stages of sickness absence, to test out whether this can help people back to appropriate work faster.

Detailed economic modelling is being undertaken to determine the optimum number of pilots and models of service delivery for piloting, including the costs, workforce requirements and where services should be delivered. Costs and staff mix of any further implementation will depend on the outcome and evaluation of the pilots, expected to begin next year.

Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he takes of *(a)* trends in the age profile of the population and *(b)* the requirements of the ageing population in establishing priorities for medical research (i) in and (ii) funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [221038]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's health research strategy Best Research for Best Health explicitly recognises the impact demographic and other changes have on the need for research that provides new evidence and knowledge.

The Department funds the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics. Work on the heath and social care costs of the changing age profile of the population has for some years been a central part of the Unit's remit.

The Department, with other Government Departments, also funds the English Longitudinal Survey of Ageing (ELSA). ELSA collects comprehensive and detailed data on the changing needs and experiences of the country's ageing population, including assessments of mental and physical functioning. These data can play a key part in helping to identify and prioritise future medical research.

The Department is working actively with other research commissioners in the UK Ageing Research Funders' Forum to map existing research relevant to ageing. By identifying the gaps in current research activity, this process will help to establish priorities for new research in medical and other fields.

Health Services: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the annual management costs of each primary care trust in North Yorkshire were in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [219688]

(2) what the projected management costs of the York and North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust are for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [219690]

Ann Keen: Information on the annual management costs of each primary care trust (PCT) in North Yorkshire for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

£000

	Managers costs		
Organisation name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Selby and York PCT	4,725	3,940	—
Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT	2,323	2,300	—
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT	3,249	3,694	—
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	2,285	2,653	—
North Yorkshire and York PCT	—	—	11,709

Notes:
1. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are held.
2. The North Yorkshire and York PCT was formed in October 2006 following a merger of the Selby and York, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Craven, Harrogate and Rural District, and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCTs.

Source:
Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Data on the projected management costs of the North Yorkshire and York PCT are not held centrally.

Health: Children

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to increase levels of children's health and well-being. [220031]

Ann Keen: Improving outcomes for children is a priority across the range of responsibilities of the Government. The Children's Plan, "Building Brighter Futures" (2007) (copies of which are available in the Library), reiterated our long-term commitment to improving the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people from conception to adulthood and set out how the work is focused towards achieving a long-term vision.

With colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families, we have established a dedicated Public Service Agreement to focus improvements and investment in child health and wellbeing, and are working on the development of a child health strategy planned for publication in September.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish the Child Health Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [220224]

Ann Keen: The strategy will be published in September. This will enable us to take account of the National Health Service Next Stage Review, and to build in further consultation with key stakeholders, young people and parents.

Health: Travelling People

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the health of Gypsy and Traveller communities. [220063]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004 the university of Sheffield published its research into the health status of Gypsies and Travellers. The research had been commissioned by the Department. In response to the research, the Department—in consultation with Gypsy and Traveller communities and NHS organisations—has embarked on work to improve the health status of community members. As part of the Department's Pacesetters

programme, designed to address health inequalities that arise from discrimination and disadvantage, the 18 participating trusts are trialling ways to improve access to the NHS for Gypsies and Travellers. In addition, DH intends to take forward work to develop a primary care commissioning framework for Gypsies and Travellers as part of wider work for transient populations. Results of both pieces of work will be disseminated widely throughout the NHS over the next 12 to 24 months.

Herbal Medicine

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the costs per product of conducting tests to demonstrate compliance with the key provisions of European Medicines Evaluation Agency guidance in relation to applications for registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [220534]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of specialist *(a)* retailers, *(b)* manufacturers and *(c)* distributors of herbal remedies who have ceased trading or intend to cease trading as a result of the impact of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. [220535]

Dawn Primarolo: The guidelines on the quality of herbal medicinal products prepared by the European Medicines Agency largely reflect good practice identified by the herbal industry. In its regulatory impact assessment of the traditional herbal registration (THR) scheme the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) estimated that typically the costs of registering a product under the scheme could be several tens of thousand pounds but that the figure would vary widely according to specific circumstances, not least depending on whether companies already had systematic quality control systems in place. This assessment has not changed. The MHRA would expect some rationalisation in the manufacturing of herbal medicines reflecting the fact that to carry out this activity to systematic standards within a regulated environment requires specialist expertise. However, there is no basis on which to make specific estimates and feedback to the MHRA from individual companies suggests that many are still developing their plans. So far 14 companies have submitted applications to register one or more product in the United Kingdom under the THR scheme and we therefore anticipate that there will be a competitive market.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what herbal products are available on the market under the provisions of section 12 (2) of the Medicines Act 1968; and for which of those products an application has been received by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for registration under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [220891]

(2) when *(a)* Ministers from his Department and *(b)* officials from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency last met representatives of the European Commission to discuss the impact of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive on specialist manufacturers, retailers and consumers of herbal remedies; and what the outcomes were of those meetings. [220892]

Dawn Primarolo: Companies are not required to notify the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of products marketed under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968. The information requested is not therefore available.

Ministers and officials of the MHRA have not met representatives of the European Commission to hold specific discussions on the impact of the Directive on traditional herbal medicinal products. However, the MHRA has had a number of opportunities, for example through sharing a platform at conferences, to update Commission officials on the agency's early experience of the expending number of companies submitting applications under the traditional herbal registration scheme. The MHRA also submitted evidence in 2007 to the Commission's review of Directive 2004/24/EC.

HIV Infection: Prisons

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prison inmates were tested for HIV or AIDS in each year since 2003. [221199]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected. The last major study of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales found that of 3,942 prisoners surveyed in 1997 and 1998, 0.4 per cent. were infected with HIV, 8 per cent. with hepatitis B and 7 per cent. with hepatitis C.

Source:

Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C antibodies in prisoners in England and Wales: a national survey.

Weild A.R., Gill O.N., Bennett D., Livingstone S.J.M., Parry J.V., Curran L. (2000). Communicable Disease and Public Health 2000;3:121-6.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it cost to treat prisoners with HIV and AIDS in each year since 2003. [221200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available, as the costs of healthcare services in each prison are not disaggregated.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prison inmates contracted *(a)* HIV and *(b)* AIDS in each year since 2003. [221201]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available.

Hospices: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department is providing for hospice care within the NHS in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [219888]

(2) what funding his Department is providing for hospice care in the voluntary sector in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [219889]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions on funding for end of life care services, including the provision of hospice care in the national health service or voluntary sector, are a matter for local primary care trusts who are responsible for commissioning services to meet the needs of their local population.

The End of Life Care Strategy published on 16 July 2008, sets out a clear direction for delivering and ensuring access to high quality, responsive services across all settings for all adult patients at the end of life irrespective of who or where they are. To support the implementation of the strategy we will be investing an additional £286 million in end of life services in the two years up to 2011. This will include a £40 million capital fund for hospices to improve their facilities in 2010-11.

Hyperactivity

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust. [217025]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected on the number of people diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance entitled 'Methylphenidate, atomoxetine and dexamfetamine for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents' on the use of drugs to treat ADHD. NICE has estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

Maternity Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity units there were in the NHS in each of the last five years. [218075]

Ann Keen: We do not routinely collect this information centrally. The Healthcare Commission asked for this information as a one-off exercise and at March 2007, there were 382 maternity units in England.

Medical Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the proposed retail model for transforming community equipment services; and if he will make a statement. [219916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The retail model developed for community equipment met with overall approval from the sector. The outline business case was sufficiently robust to support developing the outline model to operational status. This has been undertaken through a shadow running process in the north-west with local authority and health partners in Cheshire, Manchester and Oldham.

Through shadow running, users and their carers have been able to take an equipment prescription for simple aids to daily living to an accredited retailer and receive in exchange the prescribed equipment. The users own the equipment. They were also able to top up this prescription to a product that better suited their lifestyle and pay the difference to the retailer.

The shadow running process demonstrated improvements in the user experience and efficiency of the service. Cheshire and Oldham have decided to implement the model locally. This confirms that, in their areas, the new prescription processes have been demonstrated to be effective and are capable of being scaled up to support full implementation of the retail model.

Members: Correspondence

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Eccles' correspondence of 4 February and 23 April 2008 on the hepatitis B vaccine. [219867]

Dawn Primarolo: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 21 July 2008.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 363-4W, on mental health services, what was the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital expenditure on Tier 5 services for people with personality disorders in each year since 2005. [215691]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

However, a Personality Disorder Service, based on the Therapeutic Community Model, was nationally commissioned from three residential centres; Henderson Hospital in London, Main House in Birmingham and Webb House in Crewe, for a time limited period, between 1999 and 2006, while an evaluation was carried out. It was then returned to national health service commissioning in April 2006.

The budget for these three units when they were nationally commissioned was £6.2 million in each of the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of treating stress-related conditions; [220693]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with stress-related conditions in each of the last 10 years. [220694]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Leeds Prison

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are being made to provide therapeutic services for prisoners with mental health problems in Leeds prison; and if he will make a statement. [220715]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Psychological therapies are commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs). When commissioning these services for prisoners, PCTs will assess the needs of their population and as with all other health provision, consideration will be given as to how services will be delivered to address these needs. This will be determined locally as part of a PCT's commissioning responsibility.

Mental Health Services: Young Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average time between initial assessment by a psychiatrist at *(a)* Ashfield and *(b)* Huntercombe young offender institution and transfer to a medium secure hospital for young people funded by a primary care trust. [219240]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

The "Procedure for the Transfer of Prisoners to and from Hospital under Sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983" was published in December 2007 with contributions from the Department, HM Prison Service and National Commissioning Group. The National Commissioning Group are responsible for commissioning a range of specialist services including the national in-patient Secure Forensic Mental Health Service for Young People, which oversees in-patient treatment and referrals to seven specialist units for under-18s in England.

The "Procedure for the Transfer of Prisoners to and from Hospital under Sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983" aims to help colleagues to work together more effectively to secure and sustain significant improvements in any unacceptable delays transferring patients from custodial care to hospital care and includes a specific section on young people. The procedure states that a child with an acute need for a mental health secure bed should be moved within seven days.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were awaiting access to a medium secure hospital bed for young people at the latest date for which figures are available; [219224]

(2) how many medium secure hospital beds are available for young people with learning disabilities. [219225]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mentally Ill: Carers

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of carers caring for family members with mental health needs. [218026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such estimate has been made. However, the 2001 census was the first time information on the numbers of carers was available on the basis of a detailed count. The 2001 census indicates that there are some 6 million people providing unpaid care in the United Kingdom. Some of these cared for people will have mental health issues. However, this figure does not necessarily reflect the number of individuals being cared for, as there is not a one to one ratio of carers to care-recipients.

The contribution carers make is recognised in law and the policies of central and local government.

Methadone

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been prescribed methadone to help combat drug addiction in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* the north-east, *(d)* the Tees Valley district and *(e)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [219857]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine is not collected centrally. However, the number of prescription items prescribed for methadone[1] is shown in the following table. Information is only held for the last 60 months and is based on the national health service organisation that most closely represents the areas requested.

NHS organisation	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England (community)	1,031,215	1,251,786	1,522,924	1,828,577
England (hospitals)	740,741	767,843	727,310	654,089
NHS London[2]	93,834	97,764	108,662	115,326
North-east total	102,154	134,419	160,066	176,869
NHS North East	—	—	122,840	176,869
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear strategic health authority	28,037	38,118	11,984	—
County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority	74,117	96,301	25,262	—
Stockton on Tees Teaching primary care trust	16,481	21,484	21,702	21,627
Middlesbrough primary care trust[3]	27,110	31,148	30,080	31,032
Redcar and Cleveland primary care trust[4]	1,610	2,522	4,877	5,439

[1] Methadone is licensed for use in opioid dependence, as an analgesic and as a cough suppressant. The figures provided are for prescriptions written under British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.10 – drugs used in substance dependence.
[2] North West London Strategic Health Authority (SHA), North Central London SHA, North East London SHA, South East London SHA and South West London SHA merged in 2006 to become NHS London.
[3] Part of Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT) joined with others to form Redcar and Cleveland PCT in 2006. Middlesbrough PCT remained but as a smaller PCT.
[4] Langbaurgh PCT merged with part of Middlesbrough PCT and became Redcar and Cleveland PCT in 2006.
Source:
Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that users of methadone who receive the drug on prescription are made aware of the risks associated with allowing children in their care access to the drug. [220095]

Dawn Primarolo: In September 2007 the Department, in collaboration with the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse (NTA) published guidelines for the clinical management of drug treatment services, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management".

The guidelines note that patients prescribed methadone

> "must be made fully aware of the risks of their medication and of the importance of protecting children from accidental ingestion. Prescribing arrangements should also aim to reduce risks to children".

The guideline goes on to note that during assessment clinicians should inform patients of the

> "risks to children of ingesting prescribed medication and the importance of safe storage must be emphasised at the first appointment and repeatedly thereafter. Assessment of compliance with these safety measures should form part of the decision-making concerning dispensing and supervision arrangements"

of methadone prescribing.

In January 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published the "Technology Appraisal" "Methadone and buprenorphine for managing opioid dependence", which recommended the use of both methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence.

This Appraisal notes the risks that the use of methadone (or buprenorphine) has for non-drug users, especially children who may be at risk of accidental ingestion, and that

> "the responsible clinician, in consultation with the person, should estimate the risks and benefits of prescribing methadone or buprenorphine, taking account of the person's lifestyle and family situation (for example, whether they are considered chaotic and might put children and other opioid-naive individuals living with them at risk)".

Local clinical governance protocols for drug treatment would normally require recording of any serious incidents concerning the 'misuse' of prescribed methadone so that appropriate action can be taken to ensure that any risk or harm is minimised and is not repeated.

Earlier this year the NTA launched a consultation on clinical governance in drug treatment, with the aim of publishing guidance later this year. This will help commissioners and service providers shape the local implementation of clinical governance systems in this important area.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to establish a fellowship programme for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, as referred to on page 49 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221029]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and other stakeholders to develop detailed proposals for the establishment of a fellowship programme over the coming months.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of violent attacks against NHS staff. [220130]

Ann Keen: The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created in April 2003, with policy and operational responsibility for security management within the national health service. A comprehensive strategy has been implemented detailing the preventative proactive and reactive action that is to be taken both nationally and locally to tackle this problem.

A network of local security management specialists (LSMS) supported nationally by the NHS SMS guidance, has been introduced. LSMS are tasked with ensuring that security work within their individual health bodies is effective. In particular they are guided to ensure that every incident of violence against NHS staff is reported, acted upon and evaluated so that measures can be adopted to prevent repeated incidents.

In 2006 the NHS SMS signed agreements with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), outlining how the NHS, CPS and police will work together to drive down assaults and ensure tougher punishment for offenders. It commits the police, CPS and NHS to pursue every reported incident of violence and abuse.

Mandatory conflict resolution training has also been introduced for all frontline NHS staff, with over 450,000 staff trained by March 2008.

A national physical assault reporting system (PARS) has been developed to monitor and respond to incidents of assault against NHS staff. Using a clear definition as to what constitutes a physical assault, figures for the number of reported assaults against NHS staff 2006-07, released on 5 November 2007, indicate there were 4,676 fewer than 2004-05. The number of criminal sanctions against those perpetrating violence against NHS staff, also released in November 2007, rose to 869, a 17-fold increase from 2002-03 when figures were first collected.

New measures to tackle nuisance and disturbance behaviour on NHS premises have also been introduced in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. As well as reducing the impact of this behaviour on the delivery of health care, this legislation gives health bodies the power to remove an individual displaying this behaviour before an incident may escalate into violence.

A project to identify the best available alarm device technology to protect vulnerable lone workers is currently under way. The project will centrally fund the allocation of up to 30,000 devices and introduce a purchasing framework whereby health bodies can purchase any further requirements at the best price possible.

Training for all frontline staff in preventative skills remains a commitment as does the development of the network of LSMS in health bodies to ensure that all effective action is taken to prevent and deter violence against all NHS staff.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses in England have reported being the subject of a violent incident perpetrated by *(a)* a patient and *(b)* a family member or friend of a patient in each of the last five years. [220131]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For information on the numbers of reported physical assaults against national health service staff, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2390-1W.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in what ways he plans to monitor progress against the aim to end the postcode lottery in new drugs and treatments, as referred to in paragraph 4.18 of his Department's consultation on the NHS constitution; [220987]

(2) when he plans to issue directions under the National Health Service Act 2006 concerning the process primary care trusts (PCTs) need to adopt in making decisions on the funding of drugs and treatments which have not been recommended by the

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, as referred to on page 16 of his Department's document Handbook to the draft NHS Constitution; and whether he plans to strengthen sanctions for those PCTs which do not adhere to the directions; [221146]

(3) what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to give statutory effect to patients' right to drugs and treatments that have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; what plans he has to strengthen the sanctions for primary care trusts which breach this right; and if he will make a statement. [221249]

Dawn Primarolo: The draft NHS Constitution was published on 30 June 2008 and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The Government will consider implementation, monitoring arrangements and legislation following the consultation.

NHS: Pensions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis social enterprises will be given access to the NHS Pension Scheme. [220006]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend The Secretary of State would grant closed directions under section 7(2) of the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1967 in respect of staff transferred under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) to qualifying social enterprises. A qualifying social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community. The following legal forms will be acceptable; a registered charity, a community interest company or an industrial and provident society. The terms of the direction would mean that staff would be able to remain members of the NHS Pension scheme. The direction would be specific to the staff named on the direction, the organisation applying for the direction and to them remaining working wholly on the contract in respect of which they were transferred or other national health service contracts. If staff are subsequently transferred to another social enterprise or organisation qualifying for a direction, then a further direction would be granted in respect of those transferring staff. Directions will not cover a member of staff recruited individually in the open market from the NHS or elsewhere.

Obesity: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with obesity in Halifax over the last 10 years. [220010]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Obesity: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new resources he will provide to those areas worst affected by *(a)* obesity-related and *(b)* alcohol-related ill health, as referred to on page 37 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; whether these resources will be provided on a one-off or recurrent basis; whether the resources will be provided to primary care trusts on a conditional basis; and if he will make a statement. [219361]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of the £372 million allocated to the delivery of Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England, £65.9 million has been put into primary care trust (PCT) allocations for 2008-09. PCT allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be set later this year.

The Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps document published in June 2008 recognised the significance of obesity as one of the most important long-term challenges facing the nation's health and that obesity and its risks are not experienced equally across society. Within the document, the Government announced that they would test a "full service" model of local programme and services, to both prevent and tackle child and adult overweight and obesity in areas with the highest rates of child and adult obesity. Levels of investment will depend on the outcome of this piloting as well as subsequent implementation decisions by the NHS within overall PCT allocations.

Lord Darzi's review, High Quality Care For All recognises the role that the "full service" model can play as an exemplar in supporting preventative healthcare.

The Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps document also referred to the higher levels of alcohol-related mortality and hospital admissions within disadvantaged communities. The document committed to establishing a new National Support Team for Alcohol, which will provide in-depth analysis and direct support to Primary Care Trusts to "turn around" local performance in the areas with the highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions. The first five to 10 areas covered in 2008-2009 will be able to bid for additional funding over each of the next three years to support local improvements. The total investment over the next three years is subject to finalising PCT allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11, which will be set later this year.

Obesity: Surgery

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients had gastric bypass surgery in hospitals in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age. [215762]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

I regret that part of the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 203W, providing figures of gastric bypass surgery in each hospital trust was incorrect. The correct information has been placed in the Library.

Gastric bypass surgery may be performed for a number of reasons, such as on patients with gastric malignancies, obesity, trauma to the stomach or benign gastric conditions.

Occupational Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways companies will be required to report on their employees' *(a)* health and *(b)* well-being as referred to on page 37 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [219360]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cross-Government Health Work and Well-Being Unit is working with Business in the Community (BiTC) in support of their Business Action on Health campaign through the provision of a tool called the 'business healthcheck'. The aim is to secure voluntary commitment from 75 per cent. of FTSE 100 companies, and 20 per cent. of BiTC members, to report on health and well-being as a boardroom issue by 2011. The manner of reporting will vary in different organisations but the key point will be raising the profile of staff health and well-being at boardroom level.

Orthopaedics

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's strategy for research into orthopaedic needs and treatment is; and if he will make a statement. [221039]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's health research strategy is set out in the document 'Best Research for Best Health' copies of which has already been placed in the Library. The strategy is being implemented by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). NIHR programmes support high quality research of relevance and in all areas of priority to patients and the national health service. Details, including the scope of the programmes, are available on the NIHR website at www.nihr.ac.uk.

Palliative Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce payment by results for *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* the voluntary sector providers of end of life care services. [221429]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no timetable for including end of life care in payment by results (PbR).

Several local health economies are currently investigating PbR-type funding approaches for specialist palliative care and community services, as PbR 'development sites.'

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria govern the selection of illnesses for which free prescriptions will be provided; and if he will make a statement. [220501]

Dawn Primarolo: The list of medical conditions giving prescription charge exemption was agreed in discussion with the medical profession and introduced in 1968. The Government will be inviting comments on possible options for cost neutral changes to prescription charges and exemptions later this year.

Primary Care Trusts: Equality

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts have completed a local equality impact assessment; and whether such assessments are collated centrally; [220016]

(2) what requirements there are for primary care trusts to conduct local equality impact assessments; and what requirements there are for such assessments to cover cancer. [220017]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All primary care trusts (PCTs) have a duty to undertake and publish equality impact assessments (EqIAs). These are not centrally collected by the Department. However, the Healthcare Commission has conducted audits of national health service trusts to look at whether trusts have published the required information. Each PCT is required under the equality legislation to equality impact assess their functions, policies, strategies and procedures. The Healthcare Commission when inspecting PCTs will assess the quality of the EqIA which will go towards their annual rating.

The 'Cancer Reform Strategy' was published in December 2007 (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) and has an equality impact assessment which highlights the strategic equality issues regarding cancer which are there to inform PCTs of the issues they should take in due regard when commissioning their own cancer services.

Protection

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on adult protection procedures in England in the last five years. [220853]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available centrally. The Department is responsible for setting policy on adult protection procedures. Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of local councils. Councils are free to determine expenditure on adult protection procedures according to local needs and priorities. They must, of course, discharge their statutory responsibilities.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether an equality impact assessment *(a)* has been conducted and *(b)* is planned before the conclusion of the No Secrets review of the adult protection arrangements; [220854]

(2) how service users are being involved in the No Secrets review of care for vulnerable adults; [220855]

(3) what work is being done as part of the No Secrets review of care for vulnerable adults to *(a)* learn lessons from local authority inquiries that have raised issues about adult protection procedures and *(b)* collect examples of good practice in adult protection. [220856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is preparing to publish a national consultation on the "No Secrets" guidance. This consultation identifies a large number of issues and questions about how to improve adult protection and the wider safeguarding of people who are at risk of or who have already experienced abuse. We are working to develop a consultation strategy which involves people

who are service users and people who are not—as well as stakeholders who are already active in this field. We are also working with the large advisory board for "No Secrets" and discussing how member organisations can take an active part in contributing the views of people they are working with.

The consultation will invite people to contribute their views, their experiences and their thoughts about how to improve adult protection and safeguarding. We have already met large numbers of adult protection co-ordinators and safeguarding leads and sought their views as part of our early consultation events. We will continue to do this. We are also identifying safeguarding leads in the national health service in order to look at the issue more closely in a health context. In addition, we have commissioned a review of the lessons learned from serious case reviews.

An equality impact assessment is planned before the conclusion of the review.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed at *(a)* Waverley Sexual Health Clinic, St. Albans and *(b)* in all genito-urinary medicine clinics in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [221436]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genito-urinary medicine clinics (GUM) is currently only available at strategic health authority (SHA) level. The East of England SHA includes Hertfordshire.

The total number of new and other STIs diagnosed in the East of England SHA in the last five years is given in the table.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total new STI diagnoses[1]	28,419	29,878	29,858	30,190	32,758
Total other STL diagnoses[2]	16,492	18,018	19,865	20,966	21,405

[1] New STIs include chlamydial infection (uncomplicated and complicated), gonorrhoea (uncomplicated and complicated), infectious syphilis, genital herpes simplex (first attack), genital warts (first attack), new HIV diagnosis, non-specific genital infection (uncomplicated and complicated), chancroid/lymphogranuloma venerum (LGV)/donovanosis, Molluscum contagiosum, trichomoniasis, scabies and Pediculus pubis.

[2] Other STIs include early latent, congenital and other acquired syphilis, recurrent genital, herpes simplex, recurrent and re-registered genital warts, subsequent HIV presentations (including AIDS), ophthalmia neonatorum (chamydial or gonococcal) and epidemiological treatment of suspected STIs (syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, non-specific genital infection).

Notes:

1. There are 22 GUM clinics in the East of England SHA.
2. There are two GUM clinics in East and North Hertfordshire PCT and two GUM clinics in West Hertfordshire.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
4. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has provided in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in current prices in social marketing initiatives designed to support people to stop smoking in each year since 2005-06; what social marketing initiatives his Department has funded in each of those years; in which ways each has focused on communities with the greatest smoking prevalence, as referred to in paragraph 2.24 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3rd December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [221148]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leicester, South (Sir Peter Soulsby) on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 361-363W.

The Department's marketing communication programmes are designed to target smokers from high smoking prevalence groups.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fines have been issued for smoking in a public place in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West region and *(d)* England. [221682]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available in the requested form.

The latest data on compliance with Smokefree legislation are published regularly by the Department at a regional and national level on the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Smoking: Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received on extending the exemption from the ban on smoking in public places granted to mental health in-patient units; and if he will make a statement; [219772]

(2) what assessment he has made of the variations in policy on the operation of the ban on smoking in public places in mental health in-patient units; [219773]

(3) what assessment he has made of the advice given on giving up smoking to patients with a mental health problem by *(a)* GPs and *(b)* clinicians in secondary care; [219774]

(4) what assessment he has made of whether there are beneficial effects from smoking on coping with symptoms of mental distress. [219775]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A small number of representations have been made in recent weeks from a small minority of establishments who have had difficulties meeting the deadline; additional help has been available to them over the course of the last year and support and advice is still being provided to make sure that they operate within the requirements of the law; the vast majority of mental health units have not encountered difficulties and indeed are benefiting from an end to the smoking den culture in mental health establishments.

The Government commissioned the Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre (TCCC) to provide support to mental health service providers in the lead-up to the implementation of the smokefree legislation in residential mental health units on 1 July 2008. Over the past year the TCCC wrote to all foundation trusts, national health service trusts and independent providers asking about their smokefree policies and inviting individual trusts to request additional support, such as visits. The TCCC has also worked with regional stop smoking leads to organise local workshops to address implementation issues. This initial contact was followed up by sending mental health providers smokefree resources, accompanied by a further offer of support to trusts on an individual basis. To date 24 mental health service providers have been visited.

Due to the one year gap between wider implementation of smokefree legislation and implementation in mental health units it is too early for comparisons to be made.

Currently, the Department has made no assessment of advice given on giving up smoking to patients with a mental health problem by either general practitioners or clinicians in secondary care and nor has an assessment been made of the beneficial effects of smoking on coping with symptoms of mental distress. However, the Government are committed to review the impact of the smokefree law in its entirety within three years of implementation.

Strokes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* heart attacks and *(b)* strokes were recorded in Westmoorland and Lonsdale in each month of (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [221516]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected in the format requested. However, information for the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay National Health Service Trust for 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

Number of admissions for primary diagnoses of heart attacks and strokes for the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust for 2006-07.

Primary diagnosis	*Number of admissions*
Stroke	609
Heart Attack	714

Notes:
1. Data are only available for the year 2006-07 and cannot be broken down by month.
2. The information can only be collected at trust level. The University of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust is the trust which closely corresponds to the Westmorland and Lonsdale area.
3. Data cannot be provided for the number of heart attacks and strokes recorded but are provided as the number of admissions to hospital with a primary diagnosis of a *(a)* stroke and *(b)* heart attack.
4. Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
5. Data Quality—HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
6. Assessing growth through time—HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be accounted for when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be accounted for when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
7. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)—The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
8. Ungrossed Data—Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Sunbeds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department is making towards gathering information about *(a)* the number and distribution of sunbeds and *(b)* the scale of sunbed use by minors, as referred to in paragraph 2.43 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220932]

Ann Keen: We have carried out some preliminary scoping work and are examining the findings. We are also considering whether to commission further data collection and will make a decision about this in due course.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive since 3 December 2007 on the regulation of the sunbed industry; and if he will make a statement. [220933]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials from the Department of Health and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have been in discussion concerning the revised, draft HSE guidance for tanning salon operators "Reducing health risks from the use of ultraviolet (UV) tanning equipment". We have also discussed with the HSE the need for possible further data to inform considerations on options for regulating the sunbed industry.

Transsexuality

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of gender reassignment operations which will be carried out by NHS trusts in 2008-09. [214755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made no estimate of the number of gender reassignment procedures which will be carried out in 2008-09. The provision of these procedures is the responsibility of primary care trusts,

who will take into account a patient's individual clinical needs and the resources available to provide healthcare for their wider population.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many gender reassignment operations were carried out by NHS trusts in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [214756]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available. In 2006-07 there were 155 finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where an operative procedure for sexual transformation was performed by the national health service. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Figures for FCEs do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Urology

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS genito-urinary medicine clinics in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [221203]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

The funding to support sexual health services is not allocated separately to primary care trusts (PCTs) but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received seeking publication of the new model for the delivery of wheelchair services as a matter of urgency; and what steps he has taken in response. [219403]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has replied to five parliamentary questions concerning the publication of the new model for the delivery of wheelchair services. In addition, the Department has received approximately 100 pieces of correspondence concerning the broader issues relating to the provision of wheelchairs services, these include a number seeking details on the publication of the new model.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 July 2008

DEFENCE

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184322]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of the recent theft of a laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen electronic media since 2003. This investigation involves the collation and examination of reports from across the Department including final disposal action, where available. While every effort is being made to gather the information as quickly and accurately as possible, not all the details are presently available. In addition, it should be noted that details of such incidents were not collated centrally before 2003 and therefore will not be available.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information has been collated and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Sarah Teather:

The Minister of State for the Armed Forces undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 18 February 2008, (Official Report, column 95W) about lost, missing or stolen mobile telephones, personal digital assistants and laptop computers. I am responding on his behalf.

Currently, all incidents are categorised as either lost or stolen. There was no centralised reporting of lost or stolen personal digital assistants (PDAs) prior to 2003 so it is not possible to provide the information for the earlier years. Prior to 2003 the reporting of lost and stolen laptops was not centrally collated and it has been found that the figures for the period 1995 to 2002 included in the replies to previous questions on 22 June 2005, (Official Report, column 1069W) and 19 January 2007, (Official Report, columns 1363-4W) may be incomplete. As the details of incidents for the 1995/2002 period are no longer available it is not possible to provide updated figures. MOD units are not required to report centrally incidents of loss or theft of mobile phones, but some reports have been provided where the incidents have security significance or have been associated with the theft of other property.

The following figures are derived from the data collated as a result of the investigation into details of computer and other electronic media lost/stolen since 2003 and provided to Sir Edmund Burton as part of his review. These figures continue to be adjusted as a result of additional thefts and losses along with subsequent clarification of historic incidents. The following table shows the number of mobile telephones, PDAs and laptops centrally reported as lost or stolen from the Department since 2003:

	Mobile telephones		*PDAs*		*Laptops*	
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*
2003	0	0	0	1	27	136
2004	1	1	1	2	22	272
2005	0	0	1	1	18	130
2006	0	3	1	1	27	155
2007	1	0	1	2	22	101
2008 (up to 25June 2008)	1	1	0	1	30	34

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft have been recorded in the last 12 months. [164431]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox, dated 13 July 2008:

I wrote to you on 21 May 2008 in answer to two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled about fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft. I explained that the Nimrod Integrated Project Team within Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) was carrying out a detailed manual analysis of fuel leak data in order to answer your questions.

This work has now been completed and I can now provide you with a full response. In your first question on 21 November 2007, (Official Report, Column 990W) you asked how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft had been recorded in the last 12 months. This was taken to be the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007. A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks. In that period, there were a total of 252 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. In your second question on 20 May 2008 (Official Report, Column 181W) you asked how many fuel leaks had been reported since January 2007. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007 there were 277 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. Based on current data, between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008 (the last full month for which validated data is available), there have been a total of 33 fuel leaks reported on the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. That figure is however provisional, as some records have yet to be received from aircraft deployed on operations, and it is therefore likely to increase as the records are completed.

The figures quoted above do not include fuel leaks which are caused by our scheduled maintenance activity, as we disturb the fuel system. In these cases the leak is both caused and rectified while on the ground.

Although all aircraft are designed to be leak tolerant, all fuel leaks are thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, the measures implemented following the loss of Nimrod XV230 mean that the chance of any fuel leak igniting is extremely low. In particular we have, as you know, removed potential sources of ignition by switching off the aircraft's very hot air system while airborne; it is used for short periods on the ground but does not reach temperatures sufficient to ignite fuel. Despite this, no leakage, however small, from pipes, couplings or fuselage tanks is accepted and the aircraft will not fly until such leaks have been rectified. The only occasion on which an aircraft will fly with a fuel leak is with certain categories of leaks from the integral fuel tanks in the wings. In such instances leaking fuel from the wing tanks disperses safely into the aircraft's slipstream, and, as there is no potential source of ignition, there is no hazard to the aircraft.

Of the 310 fuel leaks reported between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 over 50 per cent were leaks from integral fuel tanks in the wings, in which fuel would simply pass into the aircraft's slipstream during flight. In each of these reported incidents, whether from the integral fuel tanks in the wings or elsewhere, the fuel leaks did not compromise the safety of the aircraft and were rectified by normal maintenance procedures.

In my letter of 21 May, I stated that in November 2006, after the loss of Nimrod XV230, DE&S introduced new mandatory fuel leak reporting procedures (known as 'Leaflet 70 reports') on all leaks associated with fuel tanks within the fuselage, the fuel system and on any residual fuel found in specific areas of the aircraft (such as the bomb bay). I also explained that since the introduction of these procedures, 111 fuel leaks (of varying degrees of severity) had been recorded under Leaflet 70. This procedure will continue to bring fuel leaks in the fuselage to the immediate attention of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team. The current maintenance policy for the Nimrod fuel system remains appropriate.

With respect to the airworthiness of the aircraft today, we have ceased air-to-air refuelling and ceased the use of very hot air systems in flight. These measures, together with the enhanced aircraft maintenance and inspection procedures introduced since the Nimrod XV230 crash ensure the aircraft, as it is today, is safe to fly. Indeed, my Department having carefully considered all the issues has declared that all reasonably practicable measures have been taken to reduce the risk of fire and explosion to As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The work to reach this position has been contributed to by key stakeholders represented on the Nimrod Platform Equipment Safety Committee (comprising representatives of the DE&S Nimrod Integrated Project Team, Air Command, the Release to Service Authority, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and QinetiQ) which supports this declaration.

In addition, to ensure we can continue to operate the aircraft efficiently until its planned retirement from service, we have in place a programme of more permanent measures which includes replacing, where judged necessary, fuel seals and engine bay hot air ducts on the aircraft, this work is being progressed as quickly as practicable.

I am copying this letter to Ian Liddell-Grainger and Sir Nicholas Winterton, who have previously expressed an interest in this subject.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fuel leakages on a Nimrod aircraft have been reported since January 2007. [199452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

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I am copying this letter to Ian Liddell-Grainger and Sir Nicholas Winterton, who have previously expressed an interest in this subject.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1774W, on departmental official residences, who owns the freehold to 1 Carlton Gardens; and what the current duration is of the leasehold; [219174]

(2) what the timetable is for the negotiations with the Crown Estate for the future of the lease on 1 Carlton Gardens. [219176]

Meg Munn: The freehold for 1 Carlton Gardens is held by 'The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in right of Her Crown, care of the Crown Estate Commissioners'. The lease has expired and is the subject of ongoing negotiations.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional remuneration is to be paid to British police officers posted to Kabul. [219621]

Dr. Howells: Officers from the Ministry of Defence Police working in the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, the US command structure responsible for security sector reform in Kabul (CSTC-A) receive a total of £4,750 in taxable allowances in addition to their salary per calendar month. Other British police officers working within the CSTC-A or the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan receive an allowance of €95 per day whilst in mission and €65 per day whilst on decompression break. One retired British police officer is employed through a private contract.

Differences between remuneration packages reflect the different terms and conditions under which officers work.

Arctic

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have made claims to rights over the *(a)* Arctic and *(b)* Antarctic in the last five years; which claims the UK recognises; and what the process is for resolving disputed claims. [220805]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We are not aware of any new claims having been made in either the Arctic or Antarctic in the last five years.

While not amounting to a new "claim", in November 2006 the Government of Norway submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf information on the limits of that country's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Part of the submission relates to areas of the seabed in the Arctic Ocean.

Any recommendations which the Commission may make are without prejudice to the delimitation of the continental shelf between states with opposite or adjacent coasts. Any disputed claims would have to be settled through negotiation or through other international dispute settlement mechanisms.

Existing territorial claims to Antarctica pre-date the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty in 1961. The Treaty precludes any new claim, or enlargement of an existing claim, to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica. It also provides a mechanism for the effective management of any disputes.

British Nationality: Torture

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he takes towards foreign governments alleged to have severely mistreated British citizens, including through the use of torture. [219328]

Meg Munn: The Government would take all allegations of mistreatment by a foreign government against British citizens extremely seriously. Our response would be determined by the circumstances of the case.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which foreign governments the Government has received compensation following allegations of torture of British citizens since 8 December 1988; how much was paid in these cases; and how long the process took in each case. [219329]

Meg Munn: We are not aware of any compensation received by the Government from foreign governments following allegations of torture of British nationals.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep records of payments centrally. Providing a more detailed response would incur a disproportionate cost.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss *(a)* the detention of journalist Victor Rolando Arroyo and *(b)* the imprisonment of Dr. José García Paneque with the Cuban ambassador to the UK. [217559]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials raise the continuing detention of political prisoners in Cuba with representatives of the Cuban government, including the ambassador, on a regular basis. I raised the issue of the continuing detention of all political prisoners in Cuba, including journalist Victor Rolando Arroya and Dr. José García Paneque, with Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Eumelio Caballero on 3 April and with the Cuban ambassador on 11 June.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215159]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies have awarded the following information technology (IT) contracts in the last two years. This list is not exhaustive. Details of IT contracts are not held centrally and a full list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FCO

Provision of Managed Website Statistics Service—Nedstad

Future Firecrest (new IT infrastructure) Consultancy—Tribal

Online Missing Persons and Travellers Registration Software—Worldreach

Development of Ministerial Visits Co-ordination Database—Parity

Home Office Biometrics Framework—Stena

FCOWeb FCO external websites platform—Logica

FCONet 3 Intranet Development—Logica

FCONet 3 Intranet Support—Logica

Enterprise Agreement—Microsoft

Premier Support Agreement—Microsoft

FCO Services

Tempest Workstation, Peripheral Equipment and Support—API Europe

Wider Internal Markets Hardware Support for UK/Overseas—Hewlett Packard

Wilton Park

Contact Records Management system development—GN Software

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1657W, on departmental planning permission, if he will outline the nature of the alterations to the third floor of the Old Admiralty Building; and who the current residents of that floor are. [221286]

Meg Munn: Alterations were made to the third floor of the Old Admiralty Building to provide open plan office space for Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has a standard retirement age; and how many employees have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218218]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no mandatory retirement age for UK civil servants in the grades below senior management.

For staff in the senior civil service (SCS)/senior management structure (SMS), the civil service imposes a default retirement age of 65. No serving members of the SCS/SMS in the FCO have reached 65 since 2006 (when the retirement age for these grades was raised from 60).

Iran: Guided Weapons

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with middle eastern governments on the testing of long-range Iranian missiles. [219902]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not held any discussions specifically about the Iranian missile tests with middle eastern governments. However, we have a regular and ongoing dialogue with them at political and official level that includes how to respond to the threat to regional security posed by Iran and that will include developments such as this. We have made clear publicly that the tests only serve to reinforce international concerns about Iranian intentions.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what communications he has had with the Iranian government on the testing of its long-range missiles. [219903]

Dr. Howells: We have not discussed the recent missile tests with the Iranian government, although we have made clear publicly that we feel the tests were an unwelcome move which can only serve to reinforce international concerns about Iranian intentions.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Russian and *(c)* American counterparts on the testing of long-range Iranian missiles. [219904]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not held any discussions specifically about the Iranian missile tests with Israel, Russia or the US. However, we have a regular and ongoing dialogue with them at political and official level that includes how to respond to the threat to regional security posed by Iran and that will include developments such as this. We have made clear publicly that the tests only serve to reinforce international concerns about Iranian intentions.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on Iraq: asylum, how many of the applications received under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme that were not from former Iraqi staff were from current Iraqi staff. [219741]

Dr. Howells: 220 applications for assistance under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have been received from currently employed staff. Of these 183 were from staff of the Ministry of Defence, 24 from staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and 13 from staff of the Department for International Development.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many allegations of misconduct have been made to his Department in respect of *(a)* British nationals and *(b)* nationals of other countries, other than Iraq, who are employees of private military or security companies contracted to work in Iraq by his Department; what the nature of each allegation is; what action his Department has taken in response; and if he will make a statement. [220618]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There has been one allegation of misconduct by the Iraqi authorities against a private military and security company contracted by the Government to work in Iraq. A complaint was made in February 2008 that a weapon was discharged from a vehicle owned by a private military and security company contracted by the Government. We carried out an investigation and established that this was a case of mistaken identity, as none of the company's vehicles were in the area at the time.

The only other allegation of misconduct of which we are aware was made in December 2007, by a local employee of a private military and security company which we had contracted to support police training in Basra. This individual returned a quantity of surplus ammunition which he alleged had been sold to him improperly by two expatriate employees, one British and one Australian, of the same private military and security company. By the time the allegation was made the two individuals who were the subject of the allegation were no longer employed on the contract in Basra, which was in the process of being wound up, nor were they in the UK. We and the head office of the company concerned investigated, taking a formal statement from the local employee and also contacting the two employees who were the subject of the allegation. Taking into account the content of the individuals' statements and the absence of any independent evidence, we determined that there were no grounds for taking the matter further.

Iraq: Radioactive Materials

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the US administration *(a)* sought permission and *(b)* gave prior notification to the Government in respect of the transport of uranium oxide from Iraq to Canada via Diego Garcia. [220443]

Dr. Howells: I can confirm that the US Administration did seek permission from the Administration of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and gave prior notification in respect of the transport of natural uranium ("yellowcake") through Diego Garcia for onward shipment to Canada.

The BIOT Administration agreed to facilitate the shipment in order to assist its removal from Iraq, where its continued presence raised proliferation concerns.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has recently had discussions with UK retailers and trade bodies representing companies which source goods from illegal Israeli settlements. [219691]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned that goods from illegal Israeli settlements may be entering the UK under false pretences and without paying the correct customs duties. We take this issue seriously and have alerted HM Revenue and Customs to it so that they can take appropriate action. We have not had direct discussions with retailers or trade bodies.

Mediterranean Region: EU External Relations

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he made concerning human rights and in particular freedom of religion in the course of discussions on the EU-Mediterranean Union on 13 and 14 July; whether he made representations to the Algerian government on treatment of Christians and the enactment of restrictive laws; and what conclusions the EU-Mediterranean meeting reached in respect of freedom of religion in participating countries. [220617]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the Paris Summit from 12-13 July to launch the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean. He held a range of bilateral meetings but was unable to find an opportunity to meet with the Algerian representatives.

At this first summit for the Union for the Mediterranean, talks focused on the development of the Union and on priorities for the Union. The summit agreed to take forward projects on tackling climate change, promoting energy security and education. There were no discussions on the issue of freedom of religion at the summit.

We continue to monitor the enforcement of religious laws in Algeria and are in contact with Christian leaders in Algiers. Since the laws came into effect there have been reports of people being arrested and sentenced for conducting 'evangelisation' campaigns. The laws have also led to the closing of some unauthorised places of worship, including those of Christian groups, and the arrest of unauthorised preachers. Our ambassador in Algiers plans to raise this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we will continue to monitor the situation, raising individual cases when it is appropriate.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of continuing Israeli settlement expansion on the EU aim of achieving a sovereign, independent, contiguous and viable Palestinian state. [220234]

Dr. Howells: Settlement expansion has a negative impact on the peace process and the EU's aim of achieving a Palestinian State. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said at his press conference in Bethlehem on 20 July,

"we want to see a freeze on settlements. Settlement expansion has made peace harder to achieve. It erodes trust, it heightens Palestinian suffering, it makes the compromises Israel will need to make for peace more difficult. So we are very clear—not just Britain but the whole of the EU- what should be done".

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government intends to give to Israel to fulfil its commitment made in supporting the Final Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean in Paris on 13th July to pursue a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. [220447]

Dr. Howells: We strongly support the declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean calling on all member states to pursue a Middle East zone free from weapons of mass destruction. We are working intensively with Israel and other states in the Middle East for a comprehensive regional peace settlement, and to ensure that Iran complies with its UN Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency obligations. This would provide the best possible context in which to work towards such a zone. We continue to call on all states in the region to adhere to key non-proliferation agreements.

Middle East: Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* practical steps his Department is taking to support the establishment of a verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and associated delivery systems; and if he will make a statement. [220104]

Dr. Howells: We strongly support the principle of establishing a Middle East zone free from weapons of mass destruction. We co-sponsored the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 non-proliferation treaty review conference and have consistently supported similar resolutions at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. Our first priority is peace and stability in the region, including a resolution to the Middle East Peace Process. We are working intensively for a comprehensive regional peace settlement, and to ensure that Iran complies with its UN Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency obligations. This would provide the best possible context in which to work towards a weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East.

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to propose changes to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; and if he will make a statement. [219758]

Dr. Howells: The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) has served the international community well. It remains the foundation of international non-proliferation efforts and a key contribution to collective peace and security. The UK does not plan to reopen the NPT for negotiation. But we are committed to a successful NPT review conference in 2010 and will work to promote consensus around key measures to strengthen the treaty's three pillars: zero tolerance of proliferation; a clear forward plan on multilateral nuclear disarmament; and supporting the right to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Rwanda: Genocide

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the Genocide Ideology Law recently passed in Rwanda; and if he will make a statement. [219647]

Meg Munn: The Rwandan Parliament adopted a new law criminalising genocide ideology in June 2008. The law is currently awaiting presidential signature. We have taken a close interest in the adoption of this legislation, including holding discussions during its development with the Government of Rwanda and interested non-governmental organisations.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of contingent liabilities for which the Government will be liable arising from any finding of systemic weakness in administration in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [220833]

Meg Munn: The recently announced commission of inquiry in the Turks and Caicos Islands will report on any systemic weakness in its administration.

Ukraine: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had recently and *(b)* plans to have with EU counterparts on anti-Semitism in (i) Ukraine and (ii) Russia; and if he will make a statement. [219555]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU has regular political dialogue with Ukraine at which we make clear our concerns about respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. On 28 November 2007 the EU carried out a demarche at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry to express concern about racist and anti-Semitic attacks. Under the terms of its relations with the EU, Ukraine is committed to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rights of persons belonging to minorities in line with international standards. Together with EU partners we have made it clear that we expect Ukraine to abide by these standards and values if it is to make progress on its aspirations for closer relations with the EU.

We do have concerns regarding human rights and political freedoms in Russia, including the reported rise in violent attacks on ethnic and religious minorities. An outline of our assessment can be found in the 2007 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights Annual Report.

We hold annual, bilateral human rights discussions with Russia. These were last held in January 2007 and they included discussion on the rights of ethnic and religious minorities. The next meeting is planned for later this year. We also raise our concerns through the EU/Russia human rights consultations, which were last held in April 2008. At the consultations the EU raised a number of concerns related to specific human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Russian Federation, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and combating racism and xenophobia. We welcome President Medvedev's condemnation of "any ethnic or religious enmity" in his speech on 9 May.

The FCO supports projects in Russia which promote human rights, including strengthening state and civil society capacity to combat religious and ethnic discrimination. Last year we spent £15,000 on such projects (out of a total spend of £700,000 to support human rights, good governance and reform in Russia).

The UK is committed to combating anti-Semitism and all forms of racism. At the 2007 Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, held in Warsaw from 24 September to 5 October 2007, we were the first country to report in detail on how we have implemented the Berlin Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism. We urged other participating states of the OSCE to do likewise. We will continue to work with our OSCE partners, including Russia, on intensifying efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Ukraine on *(a)* anti-Semitism and *(b)* anti-Semitic (i) organisations and (ii) publications in Ukraine; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [219704]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our embassy in Kiev regularly raises issues relating to anti-Semitism with the Ukrainian authorities, including the specific concerns about the policies and publications of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Our embassy in Kiev is also in close contact with local human rights organisations and representatives of the Jewish community with regard to issues relating to anti-Semitism in Ukraine. The UK has made clear that we expect Ukraine to abide by its commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of minorities, as a member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of anti-Semitism in Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [219705]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are very concerned about the high level of anti-Semitism in Ukraine. A poll conducted in 2006 found that one in three Ukrainians do not want Jews to be citizens, while investigations into suspected anti-Semitic attacks often fail to result in arrests. President Yushchenko has spoken out strongly and frequently against anti-Semitism and stated that he would take a resolute stance on the matter. This has resulted in a number of welcome developments: the security service and Ministry of Interior have set up units to combat racism and religious hatred; and a task force for the development of a national action plan to combat xenophobia and intolerance has been established. In 2008 a number of proposals for legislative reform that could result in tougher action against anti-Semitism were tabled.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received from the British Embassy in *(a)* Windhoek, *(b)* Gabarone, *(c)* Maputo and *(d)* Luanda on the attitude of those countries to the legitimacy of elections in Zimbabwe. [218634]

Meg Munn: Countries in the region have expressed a range of views in response to the sham election which took place in Zimbabwe on 27 June. But there is a common thread, they are all concerned about the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and the violence and instability accompanying it. Election observers from the Southern African Development Community, which represents countries in the region, have stated clearly that the election on 27 June did not represent the will of the Zimbabwean people.

The UK continues to engage with Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Angola and all of the countries in the region with the aim of supporting the establishment of a transitional Government in Zimbabwe that can start to repair the damage done to democracy, rule of law and economic well-being by the Mugabe regime.

Zimbabwe: Foreign Relations

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives of the Government are in its policy towards Zimbabwe. [219905]

Meg Munn: The Government's overall objective is that the democratic right of the people of Zimbabwe to choose who leads their country, and how it is governed, should be respected. The Zimbabwean people clearly indicated on 29 March their wish for a change of government and president. We do not respect the legitimacy of any Government in Zimbabwe that does not reflect that wish. The onus now is on the region—the Southern African Development Community and the African Union—to demonstrate that they are serious about making dialogue work.

We are also deeply concerned at the growing humanitarian crisis and are pressing the Zimbabwean authorities to immediately allow full and non discriminatory access to humanitarian assistance to prevent the suffering of the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe.

We shall continue our twin track approach of applying pressure on the Mugabe regime's elite via targeted sanctions and keeping the ordinary people of Zimbabwe alive through our contribution as the second largest bilateral donor of aid. We will continue to press others to join us in that approach.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Biofuels

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had on the EU's proposed biofuels sustainability criteria; and whether he plans to review the Government's own criteria in relation to biofuels. [219399]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK Government have been, and will continue to be, actively involved in discussions on sustainability criteria for biofuels at all levels in Brussels. These talks include Coreper, the ad hoc sustainability working group and in bilateral and other meetings with representatives from the European Commission and other member states.

Ministers and officials in the relevant Government Departments work together closely on these issues. We have been pressing for the sustainability criteria for biofuels to be as robust and comprehensive as possible, and in the light of the findings of the Gallagher review, we will also now press for them to take proper account of the indirect impacts of biofuels.

Once the renewable energy directive is adopted, the UK will need to amend its own sustainability requirements for biofuels accordingly. The detail of the renewable transport fuel obligation's reporting requirements is a matter for the Renewable Fuels Agency.

Business: Females

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each regional development agency's funding of women's enterprise. [203668]

Mr. McFadden: The Department and the regional development agencies are currently carrying out a major project which will evaluate all the agencies' programmes. Where agencies have discrete programmes for women's enterprise those will be evaluated separately. The result of the project will be published in the autumn.

The RDAs are our key partners in promoting enterprise and we are working collaboratively with them in the roll out of the strong package of measures on women's enterprise announced recently as part of the Government's Enterprise Strategy. Those measures include provision for: £12.5 million of Government capital through a women's investment fund; women's business centre pilots; enhanced mentoring support; a new national enterprise centre of expertise; a media campaign; and activity aimed at opening up procurement opportunities to women-owned businesses. More information on the strategy is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/enterprisestrategy

Canatxx

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has met representatives of Canatxx to discuss gas storage in the last 12 months. [220652]

Malcolm Wicks: Yes. Representatives of Canatxx gave me an oral presentation on their Preesall gas storage project (as well as their Amlwch LNG import project) on 5 December 2007.

Coal: Imports

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many tonnes of coal were imported into Britain in 2007. [220146]

Malcolm Wicks: Provisional figures show 43.3 million tonnes of coal were imported into the United Kingdom during 2007.

Coal: Mining

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many tonnes of coal were mined from Britain's deep coal mines in 2007. [220145]

Malcolm Wicks: Provisional figures show 7.7 million tonnes of coal were mined from deep mines in the United Kingdom during 2007.

Companies House: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what income his Department received from the Companies House 0870 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217539]

Mr. Thomas: The current income received by Companies House for the use of the 0870 number is as follows:

	Current income received (£)
2007-08	8,500
2006-07	28,700
2005-06	44,500

There is however an ongoing dispute over a rebate for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The expected income should be on similar lines as 2005-06.

Conditions of Employment: Parents

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which business leaders he and his predecessor have met in the last 12 months to discuss family-friendly working practices. [215782]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with the Confederation of British Industry, the Engineering Employers' Federation, the Institute of Directors and the British Chambers of Commerce. Family-friendly working practices are discussed.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons were for the time taken to transfer the letter of 18 June from the hon. Member for Walsall, North to the Department of Work and Pensions, ref: 74157; and if he will take steps to speed up the transfer of correspondence by his Department. [220007]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* A delay was occasioned because policy officials were in discussion about which Department should lead on the issues raised not only by my hon. Friend but by many other hon. Members.

It was agreed that it was for the Department of Work and Pensions to respond and all letters received were transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 30 June. Due to the volume of letters transferred, there was a delay in sending out letters to the Members concerned to inform them of the transfer for which I apologise.

This Department has reviewed its procedures to ensure that, in future, adequate resources are in place to cope with the transfer of such volumes of correspondence.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217386]

Mr. Thomas: The Civil Service Compensation scheme (CSCS) provides compensation for civil servants who depart early under the following categories:

compulsory early retirement or severance;

flexible early retirement or severance;

approved early retirement

Those over 50 receive early retirement; those under 50 generally qualify for lump sum severance payments.

The number of employees who have taken early retirement in BERR in the last two years (1 April to 31 March) are as follows:

	Number
2006-07	31
2007-08	83

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 21 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In the last two financial years twenty-two employees left Companies House due to early retirement.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3388) asking how many staff have taken early retirement from the Insolvency Service within the last two years.

Seven staff have taken early retirement in the last two years.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214698]

Mr. Thomas: The core Department outsourced its IT services to Fujitsu Services Ltd. via a private finance initiative (PFI) agreement awarded in 1998. The value of the agreement can be found in the Department's accounts. The agreement commenced in April 1999 and runs for 15 years. As the Department leases its computer equipment through this agreement, any financial depreciation is the responsibility of the supplier as they are responsible for the refresh of the equipment under the terms of the agreement.

Information on any other systems outside of the core Department's PFI agreement could be obtained only with disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many permanent staff within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [210861]

Mr. Thomas: The Department currently has four people actively seeking posts within the Department or elsewhere in Whitehall.

The Department's agencies have delegated responsibility for their human resource functions and the information requested is not held centrally. I have therefore approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 21 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has no staff without posts or as part of a people action team.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/2951) asking how many permanent staff within (a) his Department and (b) its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team.

The Insolvency Service does not have any permanent staff that are classed as staff without posts and part of a people action team. Therefore is a nil return.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since the Department was established. [217062]

Mr. Thomas: When the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was established on 30 June 2007, the number of staff employed by its predecessor, the Department of Trade and Industry, was 2,813. The current number of core BERR staff is 2,607 (excluding UKTI).

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 22 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

When the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was established in June 2007 Companies House had 1,153 employees (1,045 full time equivalent), and at the end of June 2008 there was 1,196 employees (1,092 full time equivalent).

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3374) asking what the change has been in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies since the Department was established.

Since our parent Department BERR was established in 2007, The Insolvency Service has increased its number of employees by 217.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them since his Department was established. [217372]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform awards non-consolidated special bonuses throughout the year to staff to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. There is no maximum limit to the size of bonus that can be awarded but bonus costs are constrained to an overall cost limit, so it is not possible to say what proportion of staff did not receive the maximum bonus possible.

The agencies of BERR are Companies House and the Insolvency Service. Information on their bonus schemes are an operational matter for the chief executives of BERR's agencies and I have asked them to reply to the right. hon. Member direct. A copy of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 22 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House awards special non-consolidated bonuses to staff throughout the year for exceptional performance. It also has a corporate bonus scheme linked to performance against a range of targets. There is no limit to the special bonuses except the budget for the scheme so no member of staff received the maximum bonus possible. On the corporate scheme, again, no member of staff received 100% of the maximum bonus possible.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3387) asking how many of The Insolvency Service's staff did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them since his Department was established.

The Insolvency Service special bonus scheme does not have a maximum value for any one particular bonus payment. The scheme as a whole is subject to an annual cost of no more than 0.4% of its annual pay bill.

Departmental Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the projected budget for each regulator for which his Department is responsible is for each financial year to 2011-12. [219918]

Mr. Thomas: The projected total net budget for each Statutory Regulator for which the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has responsibility is shown in the following table. Budgets within central government are set for periods of 3 years and the budgets are therefore shown for each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

£000

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Regulator	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital
The Coal Authority	27,349	8,710	28,496	4,849	30,200	4,222
Competition Commission	21,550	—	20,943	—	20,426	—
Financial Reporting Council	3,467	—	3,467	—	3,467	—

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of his Department's budget and that of its predecessor was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218059]

Mr. Thomas: Historic data on key science, engineering and technology research are collated by the Office for National Statistics in their Science, Engineering and Technology statistics. These can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/science-funding/set-stats/index.html

This includes outturn data for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (BERR) predecessor, the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) going back 10 years.

The Department's Annual Resource Accounts also include information on amounts spent on Research and Development alongside other programme expenditure. The information may be found at notes 10 and 11 of the 2006-07 DTI Resource Accounts. BERR's 2007-08 Resource Accounts will be published shortly.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people in his Department and its predecessor worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214132]

Mr. Thomas: The retirement age in the Civil Service for staff below the SCS is delegated to individual departments and agencies under the Civil Service

(Management Functions) Act 1992 as set out in Chapter 11 of the Civil Service Management Code. The retirement age for the SCS is not delegated to departments and is 65. Members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) have the right to request to continue to work beyond age 65 in the same way as those below the SCS.

The standard retirement age in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is 65. When an employee reaches age 64 and four months they are sent a letter providing details of their retirement date and how to request to continue to work beyond age 65 if they wish to do so.

The numbers of employees who worked beyond their 65th birthday in each of the last five years in BERR (and the former Department of Trade and Industry) are as follows:

	Number
2008	[1]17
2007	9
2006	9
2005	11
2004	12

[1] Of which five have since retired

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employees in his Department have been asked to retire on reaching 65 in each year since 2000. [218308]

Mr. Thomas: The retirement age in the civil service for staff below the senior civil service (SCS) is delegated to individual departments and agencies under the Civil Service (Management Functions) Act 1992 as set out in Chapter 11 of the Civil Service Management Code.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations which came into force on 1 October 2006, made it illegal to discriminate on grounds of age unless it can be objectively justified (in very narrow circumstances). A 'right to consider' procedure was included in the regulations, which allows employees to request to work beyond the retirement age of their organisation but employers do not have to agree to the request nor give a reason for their decision.

The standard retirement age in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is 65. Employees are not asked to retire at age 65. When an employee reaches 64 and four months they are provided with details of their retirement and informed of their right to request to continue to work beyond age 65 if they wish to do so.

The retirement age for the SCS is not delegated to Departments and is 65. Members of the SCS have the right to request to continue to work beyond age 65 in the same way as those below the SCS.

Electricity: Meters

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many electricity consumers with dynamically teleswitched meters there were in Scotland *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many consumers who now have such meters are no longer supplied by their previous electricity supplier. [216827]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) has some data about dynamically teleswitched meter customers in Scotland. In September 2003, there were 228,000 dynamically teleswitched meter customers. Ofgem does not have data for 2005, but that number had fallen to 176,000 by July 2008. Data on how many dynamically teleswitched meter customers have switched to another supplier are not available.

Environment

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis is for the Government's estimate of the value of the environmental industries by 2010, including renewables and nuclear energy, waste management and pollution control. [219392]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures for the UK's environmental industries, includes the renewables, waste management and pollution control sub-sectors, come from the report 'Emerging Markets in the Environmental Industries Sector', written by the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UKCEED) for the DTI and published in November 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's statement that a significant expansion of nuclear in the UK in the coming decades (going beyond 2010) could potentially create up to 100,000 jobs was based on a 20-reactor (10 station) fleet and the experience of jobs created from past nuclear construction in the UK and in other countries.

This includes jobs in the nuclear power stations, off site jobs for corporate, business, maintenance and fuel cycle functions, construction jobs, and jobs in the engineering and construction supply chains. This could represent around £20 billion worth of business for UK companies.

Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions staff employed by his Department have defrauded his Department in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [214629]

Mr. Thomas: 11 members of staff have defrauded the Department and its predecessor, the DTI, in the last 10 years.

All cases have resulted in disciplinary action being taken.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the losses to his Department from fraud committed by staff of his Department in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214636]

Mr. Thomas: We do not make estimates of losses. The Department conducts an annual exercise to collate details of discovered cases and passes the result to HM Treasury for inclusion in their Annual Report of Fraud against Government Departments.

The Annual Fraud Report analyses data submitted by central Government Departments and their agencies

about fraud and theft perpetrated by staff. Reports for 2006-07 and the previous two years can be found on Treasury's public website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/governance_risk/psr_managing_risk_of_fraud.cfm

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding his Department in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214639]

Mr. Thomas: There has been one prosecution since 2003 for attempting to defraud, and defrauding the Department and its predecessor, the DTI, since 2003.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff of his Department were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214643]

Mr. Thomas: One member of staff was responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in each year since 2003 in this Department and its predecessor.

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in each London borough in each of the last five years. [219278]

Malcolm Wicks: London borough level estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003. The following table shows fuel poverty levels taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

for all the London boroughs.

London borough	*Estimate of number of fuel poor households*
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
Total	162,200

Fuels: Prices

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated average *(a)* monthly and *(b)* annual fuel bills were for families in England and Wales in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [220594]

Malcolm Wicks: Fuel bills are only available on an annual basis and only for electricity and gas. Total and regionally split bills for domestic electricity and gas are published quarterly in tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 respectively of quarterly energy prices, available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/idex.html

A copy of this is also available from the House of Commons Library.

Group of Eight: Oil

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contribution the Government plans to make to the World Energy Forum announced at the G8 summit on 8 July. [218871]

Malcolm Wicks: In the communiqué of 8 July following the G8 summit in Hokkaido, G8 leaders proposed the holding of an energy forum to focus on energy efficiency and new technologies, which could also contribute to dialogue between energy producers and consumers. Japan has offered to host the Forum (which is anticipated to take place this autumn).

The United Kingdom will participate actively in the forum which will feed into the follow-up to the Jeddah energy consumers-producers' meeting in June that we will convene in London before the end of the year.

Industrial Disputes

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many working days were lost to industrial action in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside in each year since 1997. [220767]

Mr. McFadden: Data on days lost to industrial action are collected by the Office for National Statistics only at Government Office Region level. Therefore information on days lost relating to the Leeds Metropolitan District is outside of the scope of data collected. The available data for days lost to industrial action in the Government Office region of Yorkshire and Humberside are shown in the following table.

	Working days lost
1997	13,768
1998	2,154
1999	21,753
2000	8,008
2001	49,425
2002	91,175
2003	16,921
2004	80,081
2005	8,944
2006	51,877
2007	76,189

Insolvency

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* public limited companies, *(b)* other incorporated companies and *(c)* unincorporated associations became insolvent in the most recent year for which figures are available. [215151]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is available only for numbers of insolvency procedures, and does not, therefore, provide a count of actual companies becoming insolvent—the same company may enter, successively, into more than one insolvency procedure.

Corporate insolvency procedures include: compulsory liquidations, creditors' voluntary liquidations, administrations, receiverships and company voluntary arrangements.

Table 1 breaks each of these procedures down further, by type: into public limited companies (PLCs), private limited companies (Private Ltd.) and other (Other), for new cases in 2007. All the information recorded under Table 1 has been provided by Companies House from their company database, as at July 2008.

Table 1

Insolvency procedure	*Company type*	*Insolvencies in 2007*
Compulsory Liquidation	PLC	38
	Private Ltd.	5,070
	Other	17
Creditors Voluntary Liquidation	PLC	32
	Private Ltd.	7,430
	Other	19
Creditors Voluntary Liquidation (following Administration)	PLC	22
	Private Ltd.	1,071
	Other	2
CVA	PLC	7
	Private Ltd.	413
	Other	1
Receiver Appointments	PLC	2
	Private Ltd.	329
	Other	3
In Administration	PLC	52
	Private Ltd.	2,456
	Other	11
Total procedures, by Company type	PLC	153
	Private Ltd.	16,769
	Other	53

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received on conditions for qualification for the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund; and if he will make a statement. [219391]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR officials are in regular contact with industry representative bodies and individual companies on various issues of importance to them, one of which is the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF).

The MRDF is a demonstration scheme and was designed to show that a device had finished its research and development stage and was ready for roll-out as a commercial product. The recent report on marine renewable energy issued by the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) endorsed the design of the scheme and noted that it acts as an encouragement to developers to progress beyond the research phase to demonstration and deployment. Of course, we will be looking at the RAB report's detailed recommendations concerning the MRDF in light of responses to the renewable energy strategy consultation and will consider any necessary adjustments to the scheme in due course.

Minimum Wage: Service Industries

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that all waiting staff are guaranteed the national minimum wage, excluding gratuities, and that any gratuities given by customers are received in full by waiting staff with no deductions by employers; and if he will make a statement. [220156]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The use of tips as part of the national minimum wage is a complex issue. It is important to remember that under the current law workers are always entitled to receive the minimum wage.

Tips may count toward the minimum wage only where they have been paid through the employer's payroll.

We are already looking at this issue very carefully and believe tipping should be fairer and more transparent. Practice on tipping varies widely. In considering any change in this area, the Government would obviously consult fully and look at a range of options in line with better regulation.

Nuclear Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings he and his officials have had with representatives of *(a)* the nuclear energy industry and *(b)* the combined heat and power industry since January 2007; who attended each meeting; when each was held; and what matters were discussed. [220582]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Ministers and officials have held meetings with representatives of both industries. A full list could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's budget is in 2008-09 for work associated with *(a)* nuclear energy and *(b)* combined heat and power. [220586]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The department spends approximately £56 million per annum on international commitments associated with nuclear energy, including monies for the Global Partnership Fund for the former Soviet Union.

In addition the department spends £12.6 million on activities related to both legacy and new build nuclear policy.

Apart from a small sum paid for the collection of statistics, the department does not have a budget for work associated with combined heat and power. Policy lead on CHP rests with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the administrative costs of this work in BERR are not separately identified.

Offshore Drilling: Oil

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 142-44W, on offshore drilling: oil, what sources of oil and gas have been identified by the exploratory drilling recorded by his Department off the coast of *(a)* the Isles of Scilly, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* South West England; and what assessment has been made of whether such sources can be exploited. [221721]

Malcolm Wicks: From the list provided in my answer of 23 June, one exploration well only, number 103/1-1, discovered any appreciable hydrocarbons, which were probably sourced from shales of Jurassic age. This is situated due west of St. David's Head. There are currently no plans with the Department for development.

The nearby areas offered in the recent 25th Licensing Round have not attracted interest from oil companies.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 949-50W, on the Olympic games, what estimate he has made of the cost of his Department's Ministers' and officials' attendance at the Beijing Olympics. [219473]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Minister for Trade and Investment will be in Beijing from Thursday 21 August to Tuesday 26 August and will attend the closing ceremony only of the Olympic games.

The purpose of his visit is to promote British business capability, FDI and partnership opportunities in general as well as business opportunities arising from the London 2012 games. During his visit, my noble Friend will support several key business events and initiatives.

He will be accompanied by his private secretary and three BERR officials who will support him during the business side of his visit. The estimated cost of the trip for the party is £28,200.

Photovoltaics

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with his German counterpart on mechanisms to encourage installation of photovoltaic panels. [219700]

Malcolm Wicks: In December 2007 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with Matthias Machnig, State Secretary of the German Ministry for the Environment, where they discussed a number of energy related issues, including renewables. In November 2007 I also met with Mr. Machnig to discuss climate change and energy policy. This is in addition to other discussions both my right hon. Friend and I have had with German Ministers during and in the margins of European and international meetings.

Post Offices: Newcastle University

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate Post Office Ltd has made of the net annual saving which will arise from the closure of the Newcastle University Union Society post office; and if he will make a statement; [220840]

(2) what assessment Post Office Ltd has made of the effect of closure of the Newcastle University Union Society post office on students in Newcastle upon Tyne. [220841]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the losses to each regional development agency from fraud committed by staff of her Department in each year since the agencies were established; and if she will make a statement. [214634]

Mr. McFadden: BERR does not make estimates of losses but performs an annual exercise to record actual instances of discovered fraud, details of which are supplied to HM Treasury for inclusion in their Annual Fraud Report. Discovered levels of fraud in BERR and, previously in DTI, are extremely low.

Moreover I am not aware of any instance where fraudulent action by a BERR or DTI member of staff has resulted in a loss to a Regional Development Agency.

Regional Development Agencies: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to ensure that regional development agencies have a clear strategy for development in rural areas, with particular reference to remote locations. [217665]

Mr. McFadden: The Regional Development Agencies Act 1998 states explicitly that a regional development agency's purposes apply as much in relation to the rural parts of its area as in relation to the non-rural parts of its area. The Act requires a Regional Development Agency (RDA) to formulate and keep under review a strategy in relation to its purposes and to have regard to the strategy in exercising its functions. This strategy should reflect the distinctiveness of the different parts of the region, including rural areas, identifying challenges and opportunities for these geographic areas.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has also issued guidance obliging the Regional Development Agencies to ensure that their new corporate plans for 2008-11 tackle rural needs as a cross-cutting requirement. They have to demonstrate that they are ensuring that all sub-regions and localities within each region, including both rural and urban areas, can achieve their potential, consistent with the Government's objectives on creating economic opportunities for all and tackling spatial concentrations of deprivation.

Regulation: Standards

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* statutory regulators and *(b)* inspectorates are covered by the Regulators' Compliance Code. [220540]

Mr. McFadden: The functions to which the Regulators' Compliance Code applies are set out in the Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007 (SI 2007 No. 3544), which is available on the OPSI web-link at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/pdf/uksi_20073544 en.pdf.

Broadly the statutory regulators to which the Compliance Code applies are set out in Part 1 of the Schedule to that Order, and there are 30 of them. Part 2 covers the regulatory functions exercisable by a Minister of the Crown and Part 3 covers the regulatory functions exercisable by local authorities.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to his Department's June 2008 consultation paper on renewable energy strategy, what proportion of the UK's renewable energy target of 15 per cent. by 2020 he expects to be met from *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales. [219006]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission's proposed target of 15 per cent. renewable energy in the UK by 2020 does not specify where in the UK renewables should be located. We are working with all the Devolved Administrations in developing our Renewable Energy Strategy, but we have not yet reached a view on the proportion of the 2020 target that will be met from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to take account of affordability in developing its renewable energy strategy which do not make costs for domestic or business users unaffordable. [219397]

Malcolm Wicks: We are consulting this summer on how to meet the UK's share of the 2020 renewable energy target in the most cost-effective way.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 257W, on Royal Mail: pensions, what the value of the investment fund established to support the Royal Mail pension plan was on *(a)* 31 March 2008 and *(b)* 30 June 2008. [219779]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The value of the escrow account put in place to support the Royal Mail pension fund was £1,071 million on 31 March 2008 and £1,089 million on 30 June 2008.

Seals: Animal Products

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* value of each category of seal product (i) imports and (ii) exports was in each of the last five years. [217676]

Mr. Thomas: The following table sets out information on trade in seal fur and products:

	Total UK imports		*Total UK exports*	
	£	*kg*	£	*kg*
2003	95,455	2,450	29,717	421
2004	296,117	3,624	197,796	4,888
2005	238,194	4,129	243,024	3,638
2006	204,465	2,931	239,625	8,565
2007	173,407	957	1,879	33

A detailed breakdown of these figures from 2003-07 are as follows:

Imports

	£ sterling					kg				
Comcode	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
43017010: Raw seal furskins, whole, with or without head, tail or paws: raw furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal and of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs) ass	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
43017090:raw seal furskins, whole, with or without head, tail or paws: raw furskins of sea-lions, fur seals, other seals	—	4,542	540	—	n/a	—	110	4	—	n/a
43021941:whole furskins, NES, tanned or dressed, with or without head, tail or paws, not assembled: tanned or dressed furskins-of whitecoat pups of harp seal (blue-backs) not ass	—	—	15,395	—	—	—	—	248	—	—
43021949: whole furskins, NES, tanned or dressed, with or without head, tail or paws, not assembled: tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions of fur seals & other seals not ass	70,421	260,868	194,585	132,090	106,506	2,047	2,555	3,350	1,295	258
43023051:whole furskins and pieces or cuttings thereof, assembled (o/t of heading 848.30 [848.31 in 2007]): tanned or dressed furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal or of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
43023055: whole furskins and pieces or cuttings thereof, assembled (o/t of heading 848.30 [848.31 in 2007]):tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions, of fur seals of other seals ass	24,443	30,597	27,674	72,375	66,901	397	958	527	1,636	699
43031010:Articles of furskin, (not including headgear):articles of apparel of furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal or of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs)	591	110	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—
Total	95,455	296,117	238,194	204,465	173,407	2,450	3,624	4,129	2,931	957

Exports

Comcode	£ Sterling 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Kg 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
43017010: Raw seal furskins, whole, with or without head, tail or paws: raw furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal and of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs) ass	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
43017090: Raw seal furskins, whole, with or without head, tail or paws: raw furskins of sea-lions, fur seals, other seals	—	136,741	66,531	2,105	n/a	—	1,940	2,438	4	n/a
43021941: Whole furskins, NES, tanned or dressed, with or without head, tail or paws, not assembled: tanned or dressed furskins-of whitecoat pups of harp seal (blue-backs) not ass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
43021949:Whole furskins, NES, tanned or dressed, with or without head, tail or paws, not assembled: tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions of fur seals and other seals not ass	29,717	53,457	176,493	221,029	1,879	421	2,927	1,200	1,261	33
43023051: Whole furskins and pieces or cuttings thereof, assembled (o/t of heading 848.30 [848.31 in 2007]): tanned or dressed furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal or of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
43023055:Whole furskins and pieces or cuttings thereof, assembled (o/t of heading 848.30 [848.31 in 2007]):tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions, of fur seals of other seals ass	—	7,598	—	16,491	—	—	21	—	7,300	—
43031010: Articles of furskin, (not including headgear):articles of apparel of furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal or of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29,717	197,796	243,024	239,625	1,879	421	4,888	3,638	8,565	33

Sellafield: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 76W, on Sellafield, what the financial value is of the insurance indemnity against claims deemed to be uninsurable to be granted to the successful bidder to manage Sellafield; and how this figure was calculated. [220167]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* While the impact of any call on the proposed nuclear indemnity could be very high, there is an extremely small possibility

only of the indemnity ever being used, and it is therefore not possible to put a meaningful financial value on the indemnity. The impossibility of quantifying the monetary value of the indemnity is the main reason that there is no commercially available insurance, and the reason an indemnity is needed.

Severn Barrage: Railways

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration the Government has given to the feasibility of including a new railway line in the Severn barrage project. [219005]

Malcolm Wicks: We published the terms of reference for the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study in January. The terms of reference for the study reflect the Government view that there is not currently a strategic case to justify new transport links between Wales and south-west of England. The evidence is based primarily on the Eddington Review which is being responded to through the Government's "Towards a Sustainable Transport System"—both of these documents are available on the Department for Transport's website at

www.dft.gov.uk.

We expect to be consulting on the scope of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for a tidal power project in the Severn estuary later in the year and do not at this stage envisage including new transport links within the scope. That is not to say a new transport link could not be considered at a later stage—but such a development may require further assessments of its environmental impacts at that time.

The Department for Transport have commissioned further work from the Highways Agency and Network Rail on engineering issues and longer term transport requirements across the Severn estuary. The results of these high-level assessments will be available in the autumn.

Silverstone

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the local economic effects on Milton Keynes of Silverstone losing the right to hold the Formula 1 Grand Prix from 2010. [221198]

Mr. McFadden: No economic assessment has been made specifically for Milton Keynes. An Economic Impact Assessment was completed in 2003 on the Fosters British Grand Prix 2002 at Silverstone but it did not narrow it down to specific areas. A new Economic Assessment is being commissioned by Northampton Enterprise on the effect of the move from Silverstone.

Small Businesses: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of new businesses started by *(a)* women and *(b)* black and ethnic minority people in each of the last five years. [219046]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not produce estimates of the number of business start-ups by women and ethnic minority people.

However estimates are available of the number of newly self-employed people by gender and ethnicity from analysis of the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey.

BERR analysis of ONS Labour Force Survey on newly self-employed women and ethnic minority people is shown in the following table for the years 2003 to 2007.

Newly self-employed[1], UK

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Female	134,900	128,600	133,700	132,100	136,000
Ethnic Minority[2]	29,800	30,900	30,500	30,500	41,200
Total	412,000	412,500	394,600	361,500	407,200

[1] Those who in each quarter say they have been self-employed for less than three months.
[2] All non-white ethnic minority groups.
Source: BERR analysis of ONS Labour Force.

Supermarkets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to respond to the Competition Commission's report on supermarkets. [220374]

Mr. Thomas: I expect to issue the Government's response to the Competition Commission's report during July and within the 90 days set out in guidance.

Supermarkets: Ombudsman

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will adopt the Competition Commission's proposal of an ombudsman for supermarkets; and if he will make it his policy that the ombudsman should represent the local interest in supply chain operations. [221575]

Mr. Thomas: The CC is seeking, under Section 159 of the Enterprise Act 2002, undertakings from the grocery retailers covered by the new groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) to establish an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance with the GSCOP. If the CC is unsuccessful in establishing the Ombudsman within a reasonable period of time, the CC will formally ask BERR to take the necessary steps to set up an ombudsman. BERR would then carry out a full consultation before taking a decision on the way forward.

Trade Competitiveness: Medical Equipment

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the likely levels of future competitiveness in the market for *(a)* urology-related products, *(b)* stoma-related products and *(c)* single-line items. [220199]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department works closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to improve patients'

access to beneficial new treatments and medical technologies. The contribution that innovative medical technologies can make to the delivery of modern health and social care services was recognised as part of Lord Darzi's report on the NHS Next Stage Review "High Quality Care For All" published on 30 June 2008. As a result, the Department is working across Government and with the medical technology industry to develop a strategy which promotes uptake of clinically and cost effective innovative products throughout the care pathway. A copy if the Next Stage Review has already been placed in the Library.

Regarding stoma and urology items that are dispensed in Primary Care, mechanisms are in place to assess innovation when a supplier seeks to have an item listed in the Drug Tariff. Similar mechanisms would apply to single-line items.

The Department is seeking best value for money from the expenditure it makes in all areas of healthcare.

In Secondary Care, buyers procure goods and services via a tendering process. Consequently, market forces will drive a level of competition among suppliers who wish to secure NHS contracts.

Regarding the provision of stoma and urology items in primary care, the Department recently published an impact assessment (IA) alongside the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008". The IA considers the impact of the proposals set out in the consultation and includes a robust competition impact. A copy if the IA has already been placed in the Library.

Trade Unions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from trades unions on *(a)* alternative means of conducting union ballots and *(b)* secondary industrial action with the same company as the primary action; and if he will make a statement. [221420]

Mr. McFadden: The TUC's General Secretary regularly meets my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to discuss a range of issues which have included TUC proposals for reform to industrial action law. They last met on the 26 June.

UBS

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts have been awarded to UBS and its sister companies by his Department since June 2007. [220071]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Central records indicate that no contracts have been awarded by the Department to UBS since June 2007.

Further information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Wind Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* progress towards and *(b)* the merits of the target for offshore wind energy production; and what steps he plans to take to meet that target. [219389]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not have a target for 33 GW of electricity from offshore wind by 2020.

On 10 December 2007, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform commissioned a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on a draft plan for up to an additional 25 GW (installed capacity) of new offshore wind farms by 2020, in addition to the 8 GW already planned.

The assessment will consider the potential impacts and implications of future development before any decision is made as to what is an acceptable level of development. The SEA is due to be completed in spring 2009.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many wind turbines generating *(a)* under 100kW, *(b)* between 100kW and 1MW and *(c)* over 1MW there are in England and Wales. [219664]

Malcolm Wicks: In terms of wind turbines under 100kW ('microgeneration'), we assessed in our Element Energy research that there were 1,100 micro-wind turbines installed in the UK at the end of 2007. These were mostly in the range 1.5 to 4kW. However, we do not have these data broken down by nation. The research document can be downloaded at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

The following table shows the number of wind turbines generating in England and Wales at May 2008:

	Onshore		*Offshore*	
Country	*100kW to 1MW*	*Over 1MW*	*100kW to 1MW*	*Over 1MW*
England	310	107	0	122
Wales	395	68	0	30
Total	705	175	0	152

Source: AEA Technology.

Working Hours

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department's Work-Life Balance Study cost. [220753]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The latest work-life balance study comprised the 3rd Work-Life Balance Employee Survey in 2006 and the 3rd Work-Life Balance Employer Survey in 2007. The total cost was £316,245 (excluding VAT). The employee survey was £144,820 (excluding VAT) and the cost of the employer survey was £171,425 (excluding VAT).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission Act 1998

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* the Audit Commission and *(b)* her Department has produced on steps local authorities should take to publicise the rights of members of the public to financial information under the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003. [221219]

Mr. Dhanda: Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Audit Commission advise local authorities on how to meet their statutory obligations under the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

The Audit Commission publishes a leaflet "Councils' Accounts Your Rights: England" on its website. This leaflet is aimed at members of the public and summarises their rights to inspect, question and challenge councils' accounts.

Additionally, individuals have access to information about public authorities through powers under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission has provided on whether members of the public have rights to access the records of safety camera partnerships under the terms of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003. [221220]

Mr. Dhanda: Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Audit Commission provide guidance specifically on this issue.

The public's right of inspection under section 15 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 relates to the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, vouchers and receipts relating to them, which are placed on deposit during the annual four week inspection period. Where the partnership is accounted for through the authority it is therefore covered on the same basis as any other activity of the authority.

Business: Community Relations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to encourage businesses to share their facilities with local communities. [219551]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Government encourage businesses to build corporate responsibility into their operations and to take account of their economic, social and environmental impacts, including on local communities. Government also encourages businesses to be engaged in local strategic partnerships and priority setting through local area agreements, recognising that business involvement will often play a critical part in delivering better services and outcomes for local communities.

Within this context, it is for individual businesses to consider whether it would be appropriate to share their facilities with local communities.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1347W, on carbon emissions, what the differences are between HM Treasury's definition of zero carbon for stamp duty relief and that in the Level 6 Code for Sustainable Homes. [221156]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no differences between the definition of zero carbon used by HM Treasury for the purposes of stamp duty relief and that used for the Code for Sustainable Homes. The Government have committed to keeping the definition under review and this will be the subject of a forthcoming consultation exercise.

Carers: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people resident in Stroud constituency are proscribed from working in the care and children's sector under *(a)* the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list and *(b)* the Protection of Children Act 1999 lists. [220282]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply

The identification of the number of individuals registered on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) and the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) lists who have home addresses in Stroud would require each of the case records to be checked. This could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost and would only provide historical information correct at the time at which the individuals concerned were registered.

Once an individual is on either list, a standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure will reveal the barred status of that individual to a relevant employer together with details of any criminal convictions. Information on an individual's address at the time of listing is not necessary in order to check whether that person is barred.

The part of this question which relates to the PoVA list is answered on behalf of the Department of Health who have responsibility for PoVA.

Communities in Control White Paper

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Communities in Control White Paper—Impact Assessments, what *(a)* methodology was used and *(b)* assumptions were made in calculating the estimated cost of voting incentives. [221533]

Mr. Dhanda: The Impact Assessments for the White Paper "Communities in control: real people, real power", which was published on 9 July 2008, were prepared according to guidance issued by the Better Regulation Executive. An estimate of the costs of voting incentives was calculated on the assumption that £1,000 would be

spent per authority, per election, with the incentive taking the form of a small reward, such as the opportunity to take part in a prize draw. The Ministry of Justice lead on voting incentives and are currently considering these proposals.

Construction: Materials

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage of the construction products market represented by *(a)* recycled and *(b)* re-used materials, expressed in (i) cash terms and (ii) mass, in each year since 2004. [219666]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's Report "Monitoring the Sustainability of Buildings", published in 2007 contained data about the value and mass of recycled and reusable materials used as of November 2004 only.

This can be viewed on the Department's website via the link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/381414.pdf

Figures for later years are not currently available, but further data are currently being compiled for the next report on this subject which will be published in 2009.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which projects her Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221603]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government commissions work from a range of organisations to support the development of evidenced based policy. We do not currently hold centrally a list of contractors for all projects commissioned in the Department and to compile one could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what purchasing process is used by her Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219949]

Mr. Dhanda: As with the majority of commodities procured by the Department, the purchasing process encompasses the generating of a purchase order on the departmental finance system and the subsequent paying against an associated and agreed invoice.

For more lower value commodities, the Department promotes the use of the Government Procurement Card (GPC) as an efficient and cost effective purchasing device.

Within the Department, the staff handbook gives guidance to staff on when it might be appropriate to offer hospitality and the financial limits that apply. The purchase of alcohol for hospitality reasons is expected to be rare and limited to small amounts.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221578]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government does not hire out its conference facilities, and only allows use of them by its own staff, or the departments/non departmental public bodies with whom it shares its buildings. It does not charge for the use of rooms, but does charge for refreshments.

For the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and the Fire Service College this information is not available. As a trading funds who hire conference space to all sectors, any such arrangements would be commercially confidential.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget her Department has allocated to the Read My Day/ BloginaBox platform for each of the next three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [220194]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has agreed to provide funding of £10,590 to provide the required resources for the ReadmyDay/BloginaBox platform to operate until October 2011.

The Department will be communicating with all users on the platform to inform them of the decision and to encourage the establishment of a user group to seek how the platform can be made sustainable beyond this date. It is hoped that this seed funding will provide the opportunity for users to take control of this important asset and secure its future for them and other civic leaders.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many visits have been made to the International Centre of Excellence for Local e-Democracy website since its launch; and if she will make a statement. [220195]

Mr. Dhanda: Since the launch of the ICELE website in October 2006 there have been over 750,000 visits. In the last six full months to 30 June 2008, approximately 300,000 visits have been recorded.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to maintain and promote the resources and toolkits developed by the International Centre for Excellence for Local e-Democracy; and if she will make a statement. [220196]

Mr. Dhanda: A review is currently being conducted by the Department and the International Centre of Excellence for Local eDemocracy to establish the current content and web traffic to the site. We are keen to retain

the resources and toolkits developed by the International Centre of Excellence for Local eDemocracy and the previous Local e-Democracy National Project incorporated into it.

The Department is exploring the options currently available including the use existing web resources to promote the empowerment agenda.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community groups have created websites using the Voice platform sponsored by her Department since the platform was launched; and if she will make a statement. [220286]

Mr. Dhanda: There are currently 3,362 community groups who have created websites and are registered on the VOICE site or using its open source derivatives.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has given to the International Centre for Excellence for Local e-Democracy to support the Voice platform; and if she will make a statement. [220287]

Mr. Dhanda: The Voice platform has been constructed from an amalgam of different national projects and partnerships within the Local e-Government Programme which ran from 2002 to 2006.

Funding directly attributable to the product was for £3,500,000 for the Environment and Community Online Residents e-Services (ENCORE) National Project, £350,000 for the Local Directgov Neighbourhoods and Parish Councils Project and £234,000 allocated to International Centre of Excellence for Local eDemocracy for further development and coding issues.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget allocation her Department has made for the maintenance of the Voice platform for each of the next two financial years. [220288]

Mr. Dhanda: The Voice platform is fully funded up to April 2009 using existing resources allocated to the International centre of Excellence for Local eDemocracy (ICELE) and thus fulfilling current subscriptions to the service.

The Voice platform is almost self-sufficient via local authority and voluntary organisation subscriptions. Negotiations are being undertaken as part of a review with existing local authority users to determine whether it is viable to transfer the responsibility for maintaining hosting and license fees to a current user as a new host authority to enable taking this product forward. A small additional amount of seed funding will be offered to enable e-voice as a service to be transferred to the new host body and the services to continue.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many blogs by councillors and local government officers are registered on the ReadMyDay/Blog-in-a-Box platform sponsored by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [220289]

Mr. Dhanda: There are currently 166 councillors and 50 local government officers registered on the ReadmyDay/ BloginaBox platform from a total of 93 local authorities.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [221242]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows how many hours overtime was claimed by staff in each pay grade in the Communities and Local Government Headquarters in each of the last 12 months. Data from our Agencies and NDPBs are not held centrally.

Hours

	2007						2008					
Grade	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
PBEM2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	374	295	112	155	387	360	235	134	347	497	224	356
3	909	632	349	399	686	875	661	643	649	749	545	448
4	1,274	1,763	589	823	1,623	861	1,375	630	978	1,332	736	1,213
5	440	455	372	349	415	267	345	419	466	596	443	486
6	433	314	222	179	550	291	350	279	551	352	222	550
7	121	97	—	—	14	91	—	8	28	26	4	44
Total	3,559	3,554	1,644	1,905	3,675	2,747	2,967	2,112	3,021	3,551	2,174	3,097

Please note that the amount of overtime hours claimed and paid in each of the 12 months may not necessarily reflect the work actually carried out in the specified month. This is because employees often submit claims for overtime payment in either the month following the work or later.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in her Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221300]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in each pay grade in the Communities and Local Government Headquarters in each of the last 12 months. Data for our Agencies and NDPBs are not held centrally.

£

	2007						2008					
	July	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
PBEM2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68	—	—	—
1	129	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	6,887	5,426	2,119	3,062	7,379	7,001	4,576	5,114	6,674	10,318	4,373	7,502
3	18,906	13,023	7,739	8,598	14,748	18,698	14,709	14,301	14,016	16,724	11,695	10,014
4	23,211	32,493	11,832	15,707	32,553	16,650	24,777	25,305	17,384	25,798	13,295	22,530
5	10,299	10,361	9,098	8,330	10,656	6,019	8,727	11,735	11,624	15,687	12,767	12,899
6	7,421	5,117	3,894	3,418	9,903	4,685	5,961	8,836	9,624	6,313	4,201	9,679
7	2,667	1,992	—	—	265	2,058	—	149	519	439	128	1,223
Total	69,519	68,411	34,682	39,115	75,504	55,111	58,750	65,439	59,910	75,280	46,459	63,846

Please note that the amount of overtime paid in each of the 12 months may not necessarily reflect the work actually carried out in the specified month. This is because employees often submit claims for overtime payments either the month following the work or later.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department and is predecessors was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220743]

Mr. Dhanda: For the Department's policy on the use of recycled paper, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 263W.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums her Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221345]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no centrally held record held by this Department for either listening exercises or public forums, and it is therefore not possible to provide an authoritative list without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by her Department since 27 June 2007. [221374]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 27 July 2007 my Department has reviewed 20 specific pieces of regulations, covering Building Regulations, fire, housing, local government and planning and initiated 62 consultations.

Departmental Recruitment

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what job titles are used in her Department for full-time posts. [220507]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on job titles is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which she is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in her (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220191]

Mr. Dhanda: The average salaries of disabled staff, non-disabled staff and staff for which their disability status is unknown, is given in the following table.

	Average salaries (full-time equivalent) (£)	*Staff numbers (headcount)*
Disabled—full-time	35,306	88
Disabled—part-time	38,994	11
Non disabled—full-time	38,448	1,289
Non disabled—part-time	38,666	140
Unknown/do not want to disclose—full-time	35,429	411
Unknown/do not want to disclose—part-time	37,791	44

Details of the average salaries of disabled and non-disabled staff in the Department's agencies are not held centrally.

Double Glazing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of households installed double glazing in each year since 2004; and what proportion of these were initial installations. [219682]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested by the hon. Member is not available in the form requested but DEFRA has data on houses with existing double glazing for England in 2004 and 2005 from BRE's "Energy Use in Homes" reports. The figures are as follows:

				Percentage
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
House fully double glazed	57	58	n/a	n/a
Houses with at least one double glazed window	85	87	n/a	n/a
Houses with less than half of windows double glazed	24	23	n/a	n/a

n/a = Data not yet available

Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter to her Department from *(a)* the Curborough Consortium and *(b)* Gallagher Estates outlining their respective reasons for withdrawing from the eco-towns bidding process; [221523]

(2) which *(a)* developers, *(b)* bidders and *(c)* local authorities have withdrawn from the eco-town process subsequent to their bids being short-listed by her Department; and for what reasons in each case. [221628]

Caroline Flint: Three promoters have withdrawn their proposals for an eco-town since being shortlisted for further appraisal and consultation by Government:

Manby (East Lindsey district council)

Curborough (The Curborough Consortium)

NewMarston (Gallagher Estates).

Reasons given for withdrawal by each promoter are given in brief as follows. Copies of press releases (Manby and Curborough) and a letter (New Marston) providing more information on the reasons for withdrawal will be forwarded to the hon. Gentleman.

Manby

ELDC has decided instead to develop its work in alternative ways with local partners to address the key issues of affordable housing, skills, investment and coastal flood defences.

Curborough

The Curborough Consortium has decided to focus its attention on their existing planning application for a new settlement, taking account of the feedback of the eco-town challenge panel.

New Marston

Gallagher Estates have decided to focus on the delivery of already planned developments in the area.

Eco-towns: Curborough

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received regarding her Department's advertisement regarding the proposed eco-town at Curborough, near Lichfield; what response she has made to such representations; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each representation received and response made. [216422]

Caroline Flint: We used advertorials to encourage people to respond and take part in the consultation process for eco-towns, and they provided details of where to obtain more information. The first stage of the eco-towns consultation closed on 30 June and in due course we will provide a statement on the responses received, including those for Curborough.

Eco-towns: Religion

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration was given to the inclusion of references to faith centres during the drafting process for the recent consultation paper on eco-towns. [216614]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* As we set out in the consultation document each eco-town location will need its own approach and the consultation document only provides an indication of some of the benefits that eco-towns will provide. Also, as referred to in the consultation document, the Town and Country Planning Association have produced a best practice worksheet on community development, which is available to all those taking eco-towns forward, and provides advice about working with communities, including faith communities. We will be encouraging schemes to put this guidance into practice as individual projects are taken forward, including for example the funding and endowment of community assets which may be available to faith groups, as part of the development gain.

As part of the second stage of consultation we will be consulting on community issues among other criteria in the draft planning policy statement on eco-towns, and we will also be engaging more closely with faith communities to ensure that their views are taken into account in how the programmes goes forward.

In planning for eco-towns local authorities will also need to take account of 'PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development' which requires that they take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the use of empty dwelling management orders. [221217]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Act 2004 introduced voluntary powers for councils to apply to make an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO). The decision to pursue an Empty Dwelling Management

Order (EDMO) is therefore at the discretion of the individual council where the property is based and we have no plans to amend this aspect of the legislation.

We are confident that the legislation giving local authorities the power to pursue an EDMO is beginning to work well. We always intended that it should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. Our policy is to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a council's comprehensive empty property strategy.

Since the legislation was introduced, the number of properties empty for longer than six months has fallen by 4 per cent. from 282,461 to 271,252.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* number of calls to primary fires, *(b)* response times to primary fires, *(c)* number of calls to road traffic accidents, *(d)* response times to road traffic accidents and *(e)* percentage of targets met with respect to primary fires and road traffic accidents for each fire service in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [220305]

Mr. Dhanda: The most recent estimates for number of calls to primary fires, response times to primary fires, number of calls to road traffic collisions are as follows:

Primary fires and road traffic collisions attended by fire and rescue services

	Primary fires, 2007 Q2		
	Number of fires	*Average response time (minutes)*	*Number of road traffic collisions, 2006-07*
Non metropolitan authorities			
Avon	767	7.8	761
Bedfordshire and Luton	346	7.4	439
Buckinghamshire	375	7.9	605
Cambridgeshire	477	9.7	762
Cheshire	562	7.6	721
Cleveland	372	5.4	468
Cornwall	184	9.8	519
County Durham and Darlington	438	8.1	451
Cumbria	310	8.5	360
Derbyshire	489	8.4	787
Devon	625	8.0	1,126
Dorset	289	8.5	588
East Sussex	425	7.0	731
Essex	615	7.5	1,617
Gloucestershire	385	9.2	544
Hampshire	725	7.2	1,370
Hereford and Worcester	289	9.3	747
Hertfordshire	431	6.9	556
Humberside	729	6.8	694
Isle of Wight	78	8.3	100
Isles of Scilly	0	0.0	n/a
Kent	781	7.1	1,268
Lancashire	951	7.0	816
Leicestershire	417	7.0	961
Lincolnshire	374	10.0	725
Norfolk	439	8.8	1,671
North Yorkshire	367	8.7	705
Northamptonshire	410	7.6	647
Northumberland	206	7.7	260
Nottinghamshire	756	6.6	753
Oxfordshire	309	9.6	458
Royal Berkshire	394	8.1	660
Shropshire	241	8.1	336
Somerset	261	9.9	499
Staffordshire	553	8.4	970
Suffolk	322	10.1	539
Surrey	461	8.9	997
Warwickshire	285	8.0	613
West Sussex	366	8.7	912
Wiltshire	297	9.5	690
Metropolitan authorities			
London	3,457	5.7	5,318
Greater Manchester	2,361	7.0	1,092
Merseyside	1,214	5.9	902
South Yorkshire	1,037	7.3	1,152
Tyne and Wear	1,023	5.4	488
West Midlands	1,529	6.1	2,220
West Yorkshire	1,454	6.9	1,109

Source:
returns to Communities and Local Government

Response times to reach road traffic collisions are not held centrally.

Targets with respect to primary fires and road traffic collisions are a matter for each Fire and Rescue Authority and are not held centrally.

Government Departments: Public Participation

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the cross-government access plan on public engagement; and if she will make a statement. [218748]

Mr. Dhanda: The proposal to develop a cross-government approach to community empowerment became the White Paper 'Communities in control: real people, real power;', which was published on 9 July 2008.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the level of mis-selling of no sale, no fee deferred-payment home information packs. [221218]

Caroline Flint: No such estimate has been made. The terms on which Home Information Packs (HIPs) are provided to consumers are a matter for the market and the Government have no role in this. HIP providers who

subscribe to the HIP Code undertake to ensure that all literature, terms, conditions and advertisements are clear, fair, reasonable and accurate and are not misleading.

Homelessness: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were *(a)* registered as homeless and *(b)* on Castle Point Borough Council's housing list in Castle Point in each of the last 10 years. [212599]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1238-40W.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 782W.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Homes and Communities Agency will have in *(a)* promoting the lifetime homes standard and *(b)* delivering accessible housing standards. [219798]

Caroline Flint: As stated in the National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, Lifetime Homes Standards will be a mandatory element in the code for Sustainable Homes at level 6 from 2008, at level 4 from 2010 and level 3 from 2013. This will have the effect of ensuring that all public sector funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011.

We have recently amended the Housing and Regeneration Bill, to make it explicit that the object of the Homes and Communities Agency related to contributing to the achievement of good design specifically includes reference to design which has due regard to the needs of both elderly and disabled persons.

We will expect the HCA to promote well designed quality homes and places by using industry benchmarks in conjunction with recognised public sector standards. The standards adopted will include social, economic, environmental and physical measures of design and performance, building on the work of English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation. They will apply equally to the private and public sector activity in which the HCA engages, covering regeneration and housing, existing places and new places. We will also expect the HCA to consult widely about their proposed approach to quality before adopting specific measures.

Housing: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes are planned to be built in *(a)* Bournemouth and *(b)* Dorset; and if she will make a statement. [220398]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Panel Report into the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West recommended an overall net increase in dwellings for Bournemouth of 16,100 for the period 2006-26 and 48,100 for Dorset. This was the recommendation of the panel based on evidence submitted to and discussed at the Examination in Public held between 17 April and 6 July 2007. The Secretary of State, in her proposed changes to the RSS published today, agreed with these figures. The proposed changes are now subject to a 12-week consultation period.

Housing: Key Workers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of key worker homes built under the Key Worker Living programme are *(a)* empty and *(b)* have not yet been sold or let, broken down by Government office region. [221332]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 2001 we have helped over 28,000 key workers purchase their own home.

From the 2006-08 National Affordable Housing programme, 470 properties are being exclusively marketed to key workers, of which 461 have been on the market for less than six months and nine have been marketed exclusively to key workers for more than six months. These properties are only located in three regions:

London: 427 of which 0 have been marketed for more than six months

South East: 42 of which eight have been marketed for more than six months

East: one which has been marketed for more than six months

Since November 2005, we have put in place a 'cascade' system. The cascade system allows any new build property that has been marketed exclusively to key workers for a significant period of time (usually more than six months) to be offered to other eligible first time buyers.

We no longer fund homes built to be exclusively marketed for key workers.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Social Homebuy sales there have been to date. [221629]

Caroline Flint: Social homebuy is a voluntary demand-led scheme, launched in April 2006. The scheme enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a minimum 25 per cent. share in their rented home at discount. There were 235 sales from April 2006 to end June 2008.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between residence in social housing and worklessness in the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [221701]

Caroline Flint: In February, I called for a wide ranging debate about how best to tackle the challenge of worklessness in social housing, examining the full range of options.

This debate is now under way and is being informed by the range of available evidence, which includes: the Hills Review of social housing; Housing Corporation research on "Housing associations tackling worklessness"; longitudinal analysis on the relationship between housing

and life chances, by Leon Feinstein, Ruth Lupton and colleagues from the Institute of Education, for the Smith Institute and Housing Corporation; Department for Work and Pensions Research Report "Social housing and worklessness: Key policy messages"; CORE data on new social lettings; Labour Force Survey data; Family Resources Survey data; and Survey of English Housing data.

Housing: Parking

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues on the provision of parking spaces as part of the new-build developments; and if she will make a statement. [221397]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's overall planning policy on parking is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 13: "Transport" (PPG 13).

National planning policy for housing in Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) gives local planning authorities the ability to set their own residential parking policies, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6) sets out policies on town centre development. It advises that new development should be located preferably in town centres or other locations offering good access by transport other than the private car and developers are expected to demonstrate flexibility in parking provision. Supporting "Guidance on Design and Implementation Tools" sets out the design considerations.

Draft Planning Policy Statement 4: "Planning for Sustainable Economic Development" (PPS4) proposes the setting of maximum parking standards for non-residential development by local planning authorities to take account of local circumstances, particularly the needs of hospitals.

"Manual for Streets", which complements PPS3, provides guidance on the design and provision of parking for residential streets. Further guidance is set out in "By Design: Better Places to Live, Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention" and "By Design". Good practice guidance on parking for the elderly and disabled, including blue badge schemes, is given in "Planning and Access for Disabled People".

"Guidance on Transport Assessments", published jointly with the Department for Transport, is also relevant. This provides advice to applicants on mitigating the transport impacts of developments and on the role of parking provision in such considerations.

Land Use: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements local authorities will have to provide information to her Department for inclusion on the new green space database. [221221]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no requirement for local authorities to provide information for inclusion on the green space database. This is in line with the commitment the Government made in the 2006 Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to reduce the number of performance indicators against which local authorities must report to central Government under 200.

The green space database will make widely available information held by the Department on green space. We hope that stakeholders with an interest in green space, including but not limited to local authorities, will benefit from this and be encouraged to share information voluntarily.

Local Authorities: Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* registered homeless people and *(b)* people in receipt of housing benefit have been housed in the private rented sector in each of the last five years. [219519]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The first table shows the total number of households housed in temporary accommodation under homelessness provisions, in the private sector, as at the end of the last five years. This includes those households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, plus those for whom a decision, appeal or possible referral is pending, and those found to be intentionally homeless but who are being housed for a reasonable period by the authority.

Number of households in temporary accommodation in the private sector, at the end of each of year, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England	51,930	57,390	59,870	57,140	52,480

Source:
CLG PIE Homelessness returns (quarterly)

The second table shows the number of households who had been owed a main homelessness duty, but for whom the homelessness duty was ended during the year by accepting a qualifying offer of an assured shorthold tenancy in the private sector. It comprises both those households who went immediately into settled private sector accommodation following acceptance of being owed a main homelessness duty, and those who had spent a period of time in temporary circumstances first.

Number of households for whom the main homelessness duty was ended during the year following acceptance of a qualifying offer of an assured shorthold tenancy, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England	4,550	3,000	2,950	3,160	3,050

Source:
CLG PIE Homelessness returns (quarterly)

The third table shows the total number of recipients of housing benefit in the private rented sector in England (including, but not limited to those households owed a main homelessness duty), in each of the last five years for which data are available.

Number of housing benefit recipients living in the private rented sector in last five years for which data are available, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
England	619,000	630,000	681,000	718,000	769,000

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person, couple or family.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Annual caseloads are the average of four quarterly figures.

Source:
DWP Quarterly National Statistics

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions in the 2007 Local Government White Paper Implementation Plan have not been implemented or commenced to the timetable outlined in the plan. [221525]

Mr. Dhanda: "Strong and Prosperous Communities—The Local Government White Paper" was published in October 2006. The White Paper set out the Government's commitment to reform of local public services and builds on earlier progress in improving the quality of local services to turn reform into lasting transformation.

The White Paper includes a large number of commitments. The vast majority of actions are proceeding to plan. These include the successful negotiations of all 150 Local Area Agreements (LAAs) which were signed-off on 30 June 2008, the agreement on 14 July 2008 of the first seven Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs), and the implementation of nine new unitary councils, which Parliament has approved, which is on track for 1 April 2009.

There are three areas which have taken longer to implement than the estimated timetable set out in the November 2007 Implementation Plan. These are:

the Councillor Call for Action and new overview and scrutiny powers. We are working with key stakeholders to implement in a coherent fashion changes to overview and scrutiny arrangements flowing both from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006—including the Councillor Call for Action, for which we are currently analysing the response to a consultation exercise which closed in March. We will work with the Local Government Association to issue guidance on this later this year. We will consult shortly on implementation of the overview and scrutiny powers.

extending the power to promote well-being to eligible parish councils. We are consulting stakeholders on secondary legislation and related guidance, with commencement scheduled before the end of this year.

we will also give local authorities the power to deal with local problems both by making certain byelaws without confirmation from the Secretary of State and by enforcing them with fixed penalty notices. A consultation exercise will be launched shortly and the intention is for these provisions to be in place by the end of 2008.

A further version of the White Paper Implementation Plan will be published shortly.

Local Government: Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for reviewing the guidance to local authorities on publicity. [221631]

Mr. Dhanda: As stated in the Department's White Paper, "Communities in control: real people, real power", we will consult on potential changes to the Publicity Code and associated guidance in the autumn.

Local Government: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of the duty on best value authorities to involve local people. [221534]

Mr. Dhanda: The timetable is unaltered. The duty on best value authorities to involve local people comes into effect on 1 April 2009.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage local authorities to exercise powers providing for public participation in council meetings; and what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* others on the issue. [221742]

Mr. Dhanda: The recently issued White Paper "Communities in Control: Real people, real power" announced our intention to establish a new duty to promote democracy which will require local authorities to inform and encourage local people to participate in democratic activities.

This duty was proposed by the Councillors Commission which engaged widely with local government and other stakeholders in developing the report it published in December 2007, and the White Paper took into account responses to the Commission's report.

Natural Gas: Pipelines

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Thames Gateway Development Corporation have had with Calor Gas on pipe line developments in Essex in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [220913]

Caroline Flint: The Department has had no conversations with Calor Gas Ltd on pipe line developments in Essex in the last 12 months.

The Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation in its capacity as planning authority for Thurrock determined in May 2007 a planning application made by Calor Gas Ltd to construct an underground pipe line between Canvey Island and Stanford-le-Hope and for an above ground installation at the Stanford-le-Hope terminal. The decision by the TTGDC planning committee only covers the section of the pipe line in Thurrock. The planning permission was subject to a s.106 agreement, which has now been signed enabling the decision notice to be issued in June 2008.

Places of Change Programme

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any schemes subject to awards under the Places of Change programme have been taken to judicial review by local opponents. [220370]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are aware that a judicial review claim is being brought against Northampton borough council in respect of the proposal to redevelop the Robinson House hostel into accommodation for rough sleepers.

Northampton borough council have been allocated £1.42 million from the Places of Change Programme towards the reprovision of its services for rough sleepers in Robinson House. They are currently conducting an options appraisal of sites in Northampton, including Robinson House, in order to take this project forward.

Schemes are taken forward by local authorities and are subject to the planning process. We are not aware of any other judicial review claim being made in relation to the Places of Change Programme since it commenced in April 2008.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the proposed new Planning Policy Statement 6 makes to whether local planning authorities can take into account the identity of an occupier as a material consideration when assessing a planning application for a new retail development or change of use. [221630]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proposed changes to Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6) introduce no changes to the extent to which local planning authorities can take into account the identity of an occupier when assessing a planning application for retail development or a change of use.

Regional Planning and Development: Eco-towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W, on regional planning and development: eco-towns, whether the partial reviews will consider the merits of Green Belt reviews to meet the revised building targets. [217957]

Caroline Flint: The RSS should provide a broad development strategy for the region for a 15 to 20 year period. In considering whether reviews of the RSS are needed, regional planning bodies should, alongside other matters, keep the need to consider a review of the extent of Green Belt in their regions under consideration.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W, on regional planning and development: eco-towns, whether the partial reviews will be conducted by the regional development agencies. [217961]

Caroline Flint: All reviews of regional spatial strategies, where they are carried out, will be undertaken by the regional planning body (RPB). Regional development agencies are not the RPB under the terms of existing legislation.

Rents: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much rent has been paid by local authority tenants in Rotherham in each year since 1997. [217549]

Mr. Iain Wright: CLG does not have information on the amount of rent actually paid by tenants in local authorities. It compiles information on the rental income received by an authority towards its housing revenue account which includes rent rebates for housing benefit. On average 60 per cent. of local authority tenants are on housing benefit.

Rent income to the housing revenue account – Rotherham

	£
1997-98	40,148,086
1998-99	40,590,024
1999-2000	40,824,583
2001-02	44,566,301
2002-03	49,821,490
2003-04	47,656,886
2004-05	49,794,741
2005-06	51,379,118
2006-07	50,656,093

These figures are based on unaudited information provided by Rotherham council.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on social housing waiting lists in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District in each of the last five years. [213358]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 21 July, *Official Report*, column 782W.

Information on local authority waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the registered social landlord will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for re-opening the public inquiry on the Thames Gateway Bridge; and if she will make a statement. [219877]

Mr. Dhanda: The Planning Inspectorate will be making arrangements to re-open the inquiry and it is currently envisaged that this will be in late spring 2009. The Inspectorate is waiting for the applicant, Transport for

London, to advise formally when the evidence required by the Secretary of State will be ready to transmit to parties to the inquiry.

Thames Gateway: Annual Reports

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the annual report on the Thames Gateway before the House rises for the summer adjournment; and if she will make a statement. [220844]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Thames Gateway Annual Report 2007-08 was published on 15 July 2008. An electronic version of the report can be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/thamesgateway/annualreport

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reason was for the time taken in publishing the Thames Gateway annual report in 2008. [221228]

Caroline Flint: The Thames Gateway Annual Report 2007-08 was published on 15 July 2008 to coincide with the bimonthly meeting of the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership.

Thermal Insulation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of households with cavity walls acquired cavity insulation in each year since 2004. [219680]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Data shown in the following table for the percentage of homes with cavity wall insulation are taken from the GB-wide "Domestic Energy Factfile" for 2004 and the English House Condition Survey from 2005.

DEFRA estimates that there are around 7.3 million households with fillable but unfilled cavities in 2008, plus around 800,000 households with cavities that are difficult or impossible to fill. This implies that around 54 per cent. of cavity homes in GB had cavity insulation at March 2008. It is anticipated that around 2.9 million additional cavities will be filled during the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target programme, which runs from 2008-11.

	Estimated number of cavity insulations per year (GB)	*Percentage of cavity homes with filled cavities*
2003-04	264,000	—
2004-05	264,000	[1]37
2005-06	445,000	[2]40
2006-07	445,000	—
2007-08	n/k	—
2008-09	n/k	[3]54

n/k = Not known
[1] GB. Source—Domestic Energy factfile
[2] England only, BRE Thermal insulation update
[3] GB. Estimate around this figure

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of households with hot water tanks installed tank insulation in each year since 2004; and what proportion of these were first-time installations. [219681]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Tank insulation is one of the approved measures in the Energy Efficiency Commitment. The independent review commissioned by DEFRA on EEC1 (2002-05) estimated that around 195,000 tanks were insulated by this programme, which is an average of 65,000 per year.

Ofgem is due to report on the second phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (2005-08) on 1 August 2008. The headline report will probably not contain information on tank insulation, as this is not a major measure, however, DEFRA is commissioning a detailed study of EEC2 measures, to be completed by the end of the year.

The Thermal Insulation Updates for 2004 and 2005 (which apply to England only) states that around 2 per cent. of tanks were uninsulated in 2003 and around 1.5 per cent. were uninsulated in 2005.

Note also that the increasing market for combination boilers means that there are fewer hot water tanks to insulate.

Travelling People

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has given to the Gypsy Reform Council in the last year. [221658]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government has given no funding to an organisation called the Gypsy Reform Council in this financial year (2008-09) or in financial year 2007-08.

Utilities: Voluntary Organisations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the effects of rising water and fuel bills on charitable organisations, with particular reference to places of worship. [220802]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend has had no such discussions.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the Access to Work budget was spent on the provision of support workers in each of the last 10 years. [220555]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The information is not available prior to 2007. In 2007 48 per cent. of Access to Work expenditure was on the provision of support workers.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a learning disability were supported in work through Access to Work funding in each of the last 10 years. [220556]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of people estimated as having a learning disability who have received Access to Work help

	Number
2003-04	1,800
2004-05	2,100
2005-06	2,100
2006-07	1,900
2007-08 (provisional)	1,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. A new, more relevant definition of participation has been established for reporting from 2007-08 onwards. Data are not yet available to give a final figure for the year 2007-08. This figure is not directly comparable with figures for previous years.
3. These figures are based on the condition recorded on the Access to Work computer system. Only the primary condition of a participant is recorded, and as such these figures are likely to under-estimate the numbers of those with a learning disability. A high proportion of participants (20-30 per cent.) have their condition recorded as 'Other'.

Source:
The Access to Work Evaluation Database.

Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of housing benefit recipients received backdated payments *(a)* in total and *(b)* for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [219195]

(2) how many and what proportion of working age council tax benefit recipients received backdated payments *(a)* in total and *(b)* for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219199]

(3) how many and what proportion of pensioner council tax benefit recipients received backdated payments *(a)* in total and *(b)* for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219200]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Our ability to provide this breakdown is restricted by the breadth and reliability of the data available to us.

As part of the Equality Impact Assessment, we have provided an estimate of the proportion of housing benefit and council tax benefit case loads affected by the proposals to reduce the backdating facilities to three months. There are, however, important caveats to these estimates which must be noted.

A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/PC-HB-CTB-EIA-Apr08.pdf

Figures on the number of successful backdating claims are derived from the Single Housing Benefit Extract (HBSD-IAD scan). The backdating variable in the Single Housing Benefit Extract was introduced relatively recently in April 2007 and accordingly we have no means of corroborating the data's robustness against historical data. Furthermore, given that the data only go back six months, we currently have an insufficient pool of evidence to derive reliable figures from the data. These concerns should be allayed with time as the scan data improve.

Based on the first six months of data available, it is estimated that approximately 0.2 per cent. of new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims would be affected by a reduction in the backdating period to three months. These figures may be subject to revision as more data become available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average sum received for backdated housing benefit was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per month for housing benefit recipients who received backdated payments for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [219196]

(2) what was the average sum received in backdated council tax benefits was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per month by pensioner council tax benefit recipients who received backdated payments for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219202]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Our ability to provide this breakdown is restricted by the breadth and reliability of the data available to us. We will review the situation regularly as more data become available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department spent on backdated payments of housing benefit in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [219198]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on backdated payments of council tax benefit in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219204]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 734W.

Child Support Agency: Managers

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what categories of managers are working at the Child Support Agency; [216600]

(2) how many managers are employed at the Child Support Agency. [216601]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 22 July 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what categories of managers there are working at the Child Support Agency. [216600] and

How many managers are employed at the Child Support Agency. [216601]

The Child Support Agency, in line with other government departments and agencies, uses the standard Civil Service grade structure. The Agency's managers are distributed across the six traditional Civil Service management grades: Executive Officer, Higher and Senior Executive Officer, Unified Grades 7 and 6 and the Senior Civil Service.

These grades include both management and a variety of non-managerial, specialist roles. An analysis of the information that the Agency holds on the number of people within these grades with job titles suggesting managerial responsibility reveals that there are presently around 800 people employed either as 'managers', 'directors' or 'area heads', and a further 700 people employed as 'team leaders'. These figures do also include a number of specialist and professional roles which may not include people management.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what income his Department received from the Child Support Agency's 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217547]

Mr. Plaskitt: Figures concerning income from the use of 0845 numbers are only available for the Department for Work and Pensions as a whole and cannot be allocated to individual agencies. The Department stopped receiving a rebate from its 0845 numbers on 14 December 2007. This did not affect the charge customers pay for contacting the Department.

The Department received a rebate of £1,490,640.47 for the period covering 1 October 2005 to 14 December 2007 and this was used to pay for other telecommunication services. No information is available for any earlier period and no breakdown of this figure is available. The Department ceased this arrangement on 14 December 2007 and no longer receives any rebate. This change in arrangement does not affect the charge a customer pays for contacting the Department.

Children: Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on child poverty if fraud and error were eradicated from *(a)* council tax benefit, *(b)* the savings element of pension credits, *(c)* housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(d)* all benefit payments; and if he will make a statement; [218670]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of the eradication of fraud and error from *(a)* income support and *(b)* jobseekers allowance systems; and if he will make a statement. [219148]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Benefits, including income-related benefits, play a key role in making work pay, supporting those who cannot work, reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

The estimates of fraud and error across all benefits has reduced by a third since 2000-01 and for fraud are down by two thirds during the same period. We are keen to ensure that support goes to the right customers at the right time and are committed to reducing error and fraud across all benefits.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on child poverty if caseload take-up rates amongst working age families for income support were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218673]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on child poverty if the caseload take-up rates amongst working age families for all benefit entitlements were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218679]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on child poverty if the caseload take-up rates amongst working age families for council tax benefit were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent. and *(c)* 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218680]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on child poverty if expenditure take-up rates amongst working age families for jobseekers allowance were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent., *(c)* 80 per cent. and *(d)* 70 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218685]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the effects on levels of child poverty if expenditure take-up rates amongst working age families for income support were increased to 100 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219518]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in expenditure take-up rates for all benefits amongst working age families to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219558]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in expenditure take-up rates for council tax benefit amongst working age families to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent. and *(c)* 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219559]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in caseload take-up rates for jobseekers allowance for working age families to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent., *(c)* 80 per cent. and *(d)* 70 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219560]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the effects on levels of child poverty if *(a)* caseload and *(b)* expenditure take-up rates for housing benefit and local housing allowance amongst working age families were increased to (a) 100 per cent. and (b) 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [219561]

Mr. Timms: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such there are many possible measures of poverty. Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual National Statistics publication 'Households Below Average Income'. This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median household income before and after deducting housing costs.

If there were 100 per cent take-up of the main income-related benefits by everyone in the population entitled to claim them, it is estimated that the number of children below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income would fall by around 200,000 before housing costs are taken into account and 100,000 on an after housing costs basis, based on 2008-09 benefit rates. Corresponding estimates are not available for 90 per cent. take-up, nor for 100 per cent. take-up of individual benefits.

We have made good progress on tackling child poverty. We continue to develop strategies to support parents into work and progress in work, because we know that work is the best route out of poverty—providing increased incomes and better opportunities for people and their families. Our specialised schemes will ensure the long-term unemployed get the individualised support they need.

Council Tax Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average sum received in backdated council tax benefits was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per month by working age council tax benefit recipients who received backdated payments for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219201]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Our ability to provide this breakdown is restricted by the breadth and reliability of the data available to us.

Council Tax: Tax Collection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many times deductions have been made from benefits for failure to pay council tax in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214915]

(2) how many claimants have had deductions made from their *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support for failing to pay their council tax in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214928]

(3) how many claimants have had deductions made to benefits for failure to pay their council tax bill *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times, *(d)* four times and *(e)* five times or more in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [214929]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information on the number of claimants who have had deductions made from income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years has been placed in the Library.

Information is not available on how many claimants have had deductions made from their benefits for council tax broken down by the number of occasions.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217057]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following tables.

1. Below SCS

The Department for Work and Pensions currently operates two separate bonus schemes, which may be paid on top of regular salary. These are the individual performance bonus scheme and the special bonus scheme.

Individual performance bonus—all staff have the potential to earn an individual performance bonus, based on the performance level they receive through the performance management system. Individual performance is relatively assessed at the end of the performance year against the objectives set and competencies required. There are four performance levels. In 2006 and 2007 people who achieved one of the top three levels received a bonus, determined by their grade and performance level.

Percentage of employees who received a performance bonus

Performance year	*Percentage receiving maximum bonus*	*Percentage not receiving maximum bonus*
2005-06	19.8	80.2
2006-07	18.2	81.8

Special bonus—the special bonus scheme enables line managers to award a one-off bonus to recognise and reward exceptional personal or team achievement. Detailed criteria are determined by local managers. Awards may be cash or vouchers but the amounts that can be awarded are modest because the total expenditure over the year is limited to 0.25 per cent. of the manager's staffing budget. As there is no maximum amount set, these have not been included in the aforementioned table.

2. SCS

Performance year	*Percentage receiving maximum bonus*	*Percentage not receiving maximum bonus*
2005-06	8.45	91.55
2006-07	1.78	98.22

All bonuses are non-consolidated and so they are not added into salary and are not-pensionable.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria are used to decide which region is selected for a pilot scheme by his Department; [216918]

(2) what his Department's total budget was for running pilot schemes in each of the last five years; and how much was spent *(a)* in Wales and *(b)* on testing service provision through the medium of Welsh; [216919]

(3) how many pilot schemes were run by his Department in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [216920]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* The Department runs pilots to test the effectiveness of different approaches to service provision in achieving results and in improving the customer experience. The decision on where these pilots are operated is based on a number of different criteria. These can include the type and location of the service being tested, the customer group involved, and the location of other pilots already under way. The decision on the location of a pilot also takes account of the need to ensure the customer base is sufficiently large to make the results of the pilot meaningful. Any pilot testing a service in Wales includes testing service provision in the Welsh language. Pilots that have been run in Wales include Pathways to Work in Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taff; Swansea Bay, West Wales; and Eastern Valleys; and new deal plus for lone parents in Cardiff.

Data over the last five years on the number of pilot schemes, the regions involved, and costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled: Respite Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the funding for the provision of short break services announced in the Aiming High for Disabled Children document, will be spent in each year over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [220210]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

In line with the commitments in Aiming High for Disabled Children, the Government intend to issue local authorities with revenue funding of £15.6 million in 2008-09, £75.8 million in 2009-10, and £177.6 million in 2010-11 for the transformation of short break provision. £11 million will be spent over the CSR period on programme support and evaluation.

In addition to this funding, the Government will also provide local authorities with short break capital funding of £4.5 million in 2008-09, £33 million in 2009-10 and £52.5 million in 2010-11. This additional £90 million was announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007.

Funding allocations to local authorities can be viewed at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EU nationals and *(c)* non-EU nationals were in (i) full-time employment and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1995; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. [169293]

Mr. Timms: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member which was as a result of an administrative error in relation to the transfer of his question to another Department. The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. The National Statistician will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1299-1301W, on employment, if he will break down the figures in Table D, foreign nationals, into *(a)* EU and *(b)* non EU citizens. [206255]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is given in the following tables.

The figures for foreign nationals provided in the answer given to the hon. Member on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1299-1301W, were, as stated in the response, based on 2003 population estimates which were the latest estimates available at the time. On 14 May, ONS released re-weighted data based on 2007 population estimates. The foreign nationals table provided has therefore been revised to reflect the latest population estimates available and to include data on additional quarters now available, namely Q2 1998, Q2 2000 and Q1 2008. The tables for EU and non-EU nationals also use the 2007 population estimates.

Table (D) foreign nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	*(ii) WA employment*	*(iii) 16+ employment*
Q2 1997	60.3	940,000	970,000
Q2 1998	60.3	1,040,000	1,060,000
Q2 1999	60.0	990,000	1,020,000
Q2 2000	60.4	1,110,000	1,140,000
Q2 2001	61.6	1,180,000	1,210,000
Q2 2002	62.2	1,260,000	1,300,000
Q2 2003	62.7	1,360,000	1,390,000
Q2 2004	64.8	1,470,000	1,500,000
Q2 2005	63.9	1,570,000	1,600,000
Q1 2006	67.0	1,760,000	1,800,000
Q2 2006	68.0	1,840,000	1,880,000
Q3 2006	69.2	1,910,000	1,960,000
Q4 2006	68.7	1,960,000	2,010,000
Q1 2007	66.9	1,980,000	2,020,000
Q2 2007	67.9	2,100,000	2,140,000
Q3 2007	68.6	2,110,000	2,150,000
Q4 2007	68.3	2,170,000	2,210,000
Q1 2008	69.2	2,250,000	2,290,000

Table (D) (a) EU nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	*(ii) WA employment*	*(iii) 16+ employment*
Q2 1997	66.7	400,000	420,000
Q2 1998	68.5	450,000	470,000

Table (D) (a) EU nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ employment
Q2 1999	69.0	430,000	450,000
Q2 2000	69.0	440,000	460,000
Q2 2001	72.6	470,000	490,000
Q2 2002	72.4	460,000	480,000
Q2 2003	72.4	490,000	520,000
Q2 2004	71.9	560,000	580,000
Q2 2005	73.2	620,000	640,000
Q1 2006	75.2	720,000	740,000
Q2 2006	75.8	710,000	730,000
Q3 2006	77.3	750,000	780,000
Q4 2006	77.2	830,000	860,000
Q1 2007	77.4	900,000	920,000
Q2 2007	77.1	970,000	990,000
Q3 2007	78.4	970,000	990,000
Q4 2007	79.0	1,010,000	1,030,000
Q1 2008	78.9	1,070,000	1,090,000

Table (D) (b) non-EU nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ employment
Q2 1997	56.2	540,000	550,000
Q2 1998	55.3	590,000	300,000
Q2 1999	54.6	560,000	570,000
Q2 2000	55.9	670,000	580,000
Q2 2001	56.0	710,000	^30,000
Q2 2002	57.5	800,000	520,000
Q2 2003	58.2	860,000	370,000
Q2 2004	61.1	910,000	J20.000
Q2 2005	59.0	950,000	J60.000
Q1 2006	62.3	1,040,000	060,000
Q2 2006	63.8	1,120,000	140,000
Q3 2006	64.8	1,160,000	180,000
Q4 2006	63.6	1,130,000	150,000
Q1 2007	60.1	1,080,000	100,000
Q2 2007	61.7	1,130,000	150,000
Q3 2007	62.1	1,140,000	160,000
Q4 2007	61.1	1,160,000	180,000
Q1 2008	62.3	1,190,000	200,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. The figures provided in the tables are not seasonally adjusted. This means direct comparisons between different quarters are not possible.
3. In order to provide the more detailed breakdown that is required to answer the question, a country is defined as being in the EU only from the date at which it became a member state. This means that workers from some countries (e.g. Estonia) will be counted as non-EU nationals for some years (in the case of Estonia prior to 2004) and EU nationals for other years.
4. The totals for foreign nationals in Table (D) may not be equal to the sum of the corresponding numbers shown for EU and non-EU nationals—Tables (D) (a) and (D) (b) respectively—due to rounding.
5. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
6. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because:
it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months;
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent;
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc);
it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment Services: Hearing Impaired

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what facilities jobcentres offer to deaf people who arrive to make enquiries *(a)* with and *(b)* without an appointment; and how many front-line jobcentre staff have qualifications in British Sign Language. [214617]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your question asking what facilities Jobcentres offer to deaf people who arrive to make enquiries (a) with and (b) without an appointment; and how many front line jobcentre staff have qualifications in British Sign Language. I am replying on behalf of Lesley Strathie as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Within Jobcentre Plus we recognise the diverse range of customers we serve and we are fully committed to providing equally accessible and available services to all customers.

Customers who are hearing impaired can obtain support from Jobcentre Plus in the following ways:

if a customer is able to use a hearing loop, we provide integrated and portable hearing loop facilities in each Jobcentre;

where customers prefer to have a qualified British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter present, the Jobcentre will arrange for an external interpreter to be present at the interview. We currently have four contracted providers that provide BSL interpreters nationally, or staff can use local qualified interpreters, lip speakers, or deaf blind interpreters; or

alternatively, customers can choose to bring friends, relatives or intermediaries to act as interpreting agents for them. If a customer provides their own professional qualified interpreter they can be reimbursed with reasonable costs.

We do not hold a central national database of staff who are qualified in BSL and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to providing a first-class service and ensuring we fully support all our customers.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of backdated housing benefit had incomes below 60 per cent. of median income before housing costs *(a)* before and *(b)* after receiving backdated housing benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [219197]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing and related benefits in each of the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [221261]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain

	Outturn (£ million)	
	Nominal terms	*Real terms 2008-09 prices*
1987-88	3,536	7,236
1988-89	3,757	7,187
1989-90	4,258	7,600
1990-91	5,106	8,450
1991-92	6,363	9,925
1992-93	7,814	11,807
1993-94	9,218	13,575
1994-95	10,104	14,657
1995-96	10,876	15,313
1996-97	11,380	15,499
1997-98	11,177	14,790
1998-99	11,065	14,281
1999-2000	11,064	13,997
2000-01	11,162	13,923
2001-02	11,589	14,117
2002-03	12,637	14,926
2003-04	12,342	14,167
2004-05	13,158	14,698
2005-06	13,928	15,237
2006-07	14,840	15,782

Notes:
1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.
2. Figures to 2005-06 are taken from the final audited subsidy claims submitted to the Department by each local authority.
3. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet audited, and represent provisional outturn for the year.
4. Figures exclude asylum seekers from April 1999, since when the National Asylum Support Service has reimbursed DWP for benefits paid to asylum seekers.

Source:
DWP expenditure tables.
Benefit expenditure information is available online at www.dwp.gov.uk-asd-asd4-medium_term.asp
Local authority expenditure information is available online at www.dwp.gov.uk-asd-asd4-HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what effects on his Department's costs are expected to arise from the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in *(a)* October 2008 and *(b)* October 2009; and if he will make a statement; [215750]

(2) what effects on his Department's costs are expected to arise from the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [215836]

Mr. Plaskitt: The estimated costs for implementing these changes are £9.2 million in 2008-09, £26.1 million in 2009-10 and £38.9 million in 2010-11, and will be met from the Department's spending settlement.

The impact on recurrent departmental costs of the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support are currently expected to be £2.8 million in 2008-09, £20.6 million in 2009-10 and £36.5 million in 2010-11. These costs are the current estimates and will be continually reviewed during implementation.

Job Centres: Closures

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres have closed in each region in each of the last four years. [218086]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your question seeking details of how many Jobcentres have closed, in each region, in each of the last four years. I am replying on behalf of Lesley Strathie as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus was created in April 2002 by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency and has continued to refocus and transform the way it delivers its services. It now provides access to a wide range of services by telephone through Benefit Delivery and Contact Centres and provides face to face access for customers through a network of modernised Jobcentres.

The following table provides details of the customer facing Jobcentre Plus offices which were closed between 2004 and 2007.

Customer facing Jobcentres closed since January 2004

Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East Midlands	4	2	13	2
East of England	1	12	5	1
London	11	7	24	10
North East	4	7	4	2
North West	14	10	17	8
Scotland	11	14	22	3
South East	14	10	15	5
South West	12	11	8	4
Wales	13	8	23	1
West Midlands	3	7	19	12
Yorkshire and Humber	8	11	7	1

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 169293, on employment rates, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 26 November 2007. [207299]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member's question 169293 on employment rates today.

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of national insurance numbers issued to migrant workers in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [216899]

Mr. Timms: The most recent data available on national insurance numbers registered to adult foreign nationals are for the financial year 2006-07. Information on these registrations can be found in the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals Entering the UK 2006-07" which has been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf

New Deal 50 Plus

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 643-44W, on the New Deal 50 plus, how many participants there were on the New Deal 50 Plus in each month since September 2006; how many participants there have been on each other New Deal programme since the inception of each; and how many of these were completing each course for the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth or more time. [213847]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 June 2008]:* Information on the number of current participants on New Deal 50 plus is not available. These statistics have been suspended while a review of the method for compiling New Deal 50 plus current participant figures is carried out.

Participants on the voluntary New Deals can leave the programme at any point.

Participants on New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus who are claiming jobseeker's allowance are expected to follow a structured route through these mandatory New Deal programmes in order to continue receiving benefit. However, there is no strict definition of 'completing' New Deal programmes as people can leave benefits and thus leave New Deal at any point.

The available information on the number of times an individual participates in the New Deal is in the following table.

Benefit recipients participating in New Deal more than once are more likely to enter employment from their second spell on the programme than their first, and from their third spell than their second. Each period on New Deal moves participants closer to the labour market.

New Deal—Number of individuals starting

		Number of times individual participates			
	Number of individuals starting	*First time*	*Second time*	*Third time*	*Fourth time or more*
New Deal For Young people	1,282,820	912,830	256,910	84,030	29,040
New Deal 25 plus	757,510	532,900	145,320	53,120	26,170
New Deal For Lone Parents[1]	760,520	524,340	162,230	51,070	22,880
New Deal For Disabled People	293,770	259,990	28,110	4,520	1,160
New Deal 50 Plus	95,410	92,550	2,750	110	10
New Deal For Partners	9,200	9,030	160	10	[2]

[1] Information on starters and current participants for New Deal for Lone Parents are currently available to March 2007 only. Statistics after this period have temporarily been withdrawn pending a review of data that feeds into the statistics.
[2] Indicates nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. Information on number of times people participate on New Deal 50 Plus is only available from January 2004.
2. Latest data are to February 2008, except for Lone Parents (March 2007—see [1])
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Older Workers: Further Education

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides for people over 55 years of age who have been made redundant *(a)* in the previous 12 months and *(b)* more than one year ago to take up (i) further education and (ii) life-long learning opportunities. [218798]

Mr. Timms: Every participant in the New Deals, whatever their age, can call on the services of a personal adviser, who can help the claimant to look for a job or overcome their own personal barriers to finding work. The New Deals allow those out of work to take a new look at their own personal situation and to take the skills and experience that they may have already and build on them to create better opportunities for work.

Jobcentre Plus signposts its customers to relevant non-Department for Work and Pensions contracted provision, i.e.; University for Industry (Ufl) learndirect, apprenticeship opportunities, Career Development Loans, Adult Learning Grant, Nextstep and IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) provision in Scotland and Wales.

The development and delivery of programmes to help unemployed people in Northern Ireland into work is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of recipients of backdated pension credit benefit had incomes below 60 per cent. of median income before housing costs *(a)* before and *(b)* after receiving backdated pension credit in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [219207]

(2) what assessment the Department has made of the likely effect on pensioner poverty of the Department's proposals to reduce the backdating period for pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [219208]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The specific information requested is not available.

Since the introduction of pension credit the number of pensioners with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income after deducting housing costs, have fallen by 500,000. The proposal to change the length of time allowed for customers to claim pension credit (known as backdating) from 12 to three months is part of a further package of pensions measures that will make claiming benefit entitlements simpler and less intrusive and deliver extra support to low-income pensioners. This package includes the introduction of a more automatic claims process for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims made over the phone with pension credit claims, which will benefit around 50,000 pensioners over the comprehensive spending review period.

Tackling pensioner poverty is a priority. We will continue to strive to ensure that older people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as: sophisticated data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, local and national advertising and media campaigns, a simple and straight-forward claim process and ever closer working with partner organisations.

Pension Service: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what income his Department received from the Pension Service's 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217546]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that the information is not available in the form requested.

Although the DWP, which includes the Pension Service, received a £1.5 million rebate on its telephone charges from British Telecom, in relation to its 0845 services for the period from 1 October 2005 to the 30 November 2007, this rebate was offset against DWP telephony costs. After this date, the rebate arrangements ceased. This change in arrangement does not affect the charge a customer pays for contacting the Department. The charge a customer pays depends on their personal contract.

No information is available for any earlier period, nor on the amount relating specifically to calls to the Pension Service.

Pensioners: Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for housing benefit/local housing allowance among pensioners increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218678]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on pensioner poverty if the expenditure take-up rate for the guarantee element of pension credit increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218682]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on pensioner poverty if the expenditure take-up rates for the guarantee and savings element of pension credit increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. (b) 90 per cent. and *(c)* 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218683]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for the savings element of pension credit increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 90 per cent. and *(c)* 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218684]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for housing benefits or local housing allowance among pensioners were increased to 100 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219718]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the expenditure take-up rate for council tax benefits amongst pensioners were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent. *(c)* 80 per cent. and *(d)* 70 per cent.; and if he will make a statement [219719]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for council tax benefits among pensioners were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 90 per cent. *(c)* 80 per cent. and *(d)* 70 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219720]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for the guarantee and savings element of pension credits were *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 90 per cent. and *(c)* 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219721]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the expenditure take-up rate for the savings element of pension credits were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent., and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219722]

(10) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty if the caseload take-up rate for the guarantee element of pension credit were increased to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent; and if he will make a statement. [219723]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual national statistics publication households below average income. This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median household income before and after deducting housing costs.

The information is not available in the format requested. It is not possible to model the impact of less than full take up of individual benefits on the number of individuals in households below thresholds of median household income in a robust way.

Estimates will depend on which eligible non-recipients take up which benefit and where they are within the income distribution.

It is estimated that if there were 100 per cent. take up off all income-related benefits by everyone in the population entitled to claim them the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income would fall by around 700,000, after housing costs have been taken into account, based on 2008-09 benefit rates.

Tackling pensioner poverty remains a priority. We will continue to strive to ensure that older people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as; using sophisticated data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, local and national advertising and media campaigns, a simple and straight-forward claim process and ever closer working with partner organisations. In addition to pension credit we have increased winter fuel payments to £200 for households with someone aged 60-79, and £300 for those with someone aged 80 or over. And we will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. Since 1997, we have also introduced free eye-tests, free bus passes for pensioners and free television licences for over 75s.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of pensioner poverty of the

eradication of fraud and error from *(a)* the savings element of pension credits, *(b)* housing benefit and local housing allowance, *(c)* disability living allowance and *(d)* all benefits systems; and if he will make a statement; [219149]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of pensioner poverty of the eradication of fraud and error from payments of the guarantee element of pension credits; and if he will make a statement; [219724]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty of the eradication of fraud and error from payments of the guarantee and savings element of pension credits; and if he will make a statement; [219725]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect on levels of pensioner poverty of the eradication of fraud and error from council tax benefit payments; and if he will make a statement. [219726]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to tackling pensioner poverty. The strategy since 1997 has been to target help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

We have made significant progress. The number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by 900,000 since 1998-99 and by around 500,000 since the introduction of pension credit in 2003 (after housing costs).

We are keen to ensure that support goes to the right customers at the right time and are committed to reducing fraud and error across the benefit system. The estimate of fraud and error across all benefits has reduced by a third since 2000-01 and for fraud is down by two-thirds during the same period.

Information on the impact of the eradication of fraud and error on levels of pensioner poverty is not available.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioners lived below the Government's designated poverty level, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age in each year since 1997. [212897]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures.

It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. As no single measure captures all aspects of poverty, the public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are the percentage of pensioners in relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), measured after housing costs.

Figures for the number and percentage of pensioners below the 60 per cent. contemporary median household income after housing costs threshold by gender and age are shown in the following tables. Further information is set out in the annual national statistics publication "Households Below Average Income" which is available in the Library.

Number of pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs, by gender and age—Figures are United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are great Britain only

	Gender		Age						
	Male	Female	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	All pensioners
Great Britain									
1996-97	0.9	2.0	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	2.9
1997-98	0.9	2.0	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	2.9
1998-99	0.9	1.9	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	2.9
1999-2000	0.9	1.9	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	2.8
2000-01	0.8	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	2.6
2001-02	0.9	1.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	2.6
United Kingdom									
2002-03	0.9	1.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	2.5
2003-04	0.7	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	2.2
2004-05	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.9
2005-06	0.6	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.8
2006-07	0.7	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	2.1

Percentage of pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs, by gender and age—Figures are United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards: Earlier years are Great Britain only

	Gender		Age						
	Male	Female	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	All pensioners
Great Britain									
1996-97	24	32	21	21	29	36	39	38	29
1997-98	26	31	20	22	30	37	37	38	29
1998-99	26	30	21	21	30	35	37	35	29
1999-2000	24	29	21	22	28	30	39	35	28
2000-01	23	28	21	21	25	31	30	33	26
2001-02	23	27	21	20	27	29	31	31	26

Percentage of pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs, by gender and age—Figures are United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards: Earlier years are Great Britain only

	Gender		Age						
	Male	*Female*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*80-84*	*85+*	*All pensioners*
United Kingdom									
2002-03	23	25	20	20	24	27	30	29	24
2003-04	18	22	19	18	21	23	24	22	21
2004-05	16	18	18	16	16	19	19	22	18
2005-06	16	18	16	16	16	17	18	22	17
2006-07	17	20	17	16	17	21	21	25	19

Notes

1. Data for Northern Ireland have only been collected since 2002-03, so the information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 to 2006-07, and for Great Britain for 1996-97 to 2001-02.
2. A pensioner is defined as anyone over state pension age.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
5. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
6. Small year-on-year movements should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for council tax benefit there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [220776]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available prior to 2001-02. The available information is in the following table.

New council tax benefit claims received each year by London local authorities

Local authority	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking	6328	7153	—	4275	5918	6047	5102
Barnet	10686	10261	7368	8501	8775	7235	6595
Bexley	4737	6648	5654	4833	4661	5283	4302
Brent	11547	10123	6061	8842	6785	6050	7866
Bromley	1551	9234	5333	6018	6560	5342	3707
Camden	7561	6864	1461	5367	4534	4983	4320
City of London	162	196	81	159	121	174	149
Croydon	7951	10827	11163	11400	8281	7820	4344
Ealing	13758	15850	14954	12149	8513	3671	7703
Enfield	—	9610	8859	10402	6483	8022	6496
Greenwich	9418	9826	7675	8129	8006	7109	5275
Hackney	18421	15266	3516	13157	8597	9152	8724
Hammersmith and Fulham	6015	4395	6046	2663	4916	4103	3866
Haringey	19495	18356	8479	5713	5328	5377	5258
Harrow	3975	5620	5254	4976	4739	4704	2309
Havering	5160	5370	5215	4877	4461	4567	4266
Hillingdon	8954	8260	5361	5292	4059	5938	6351
Hounslow	—	6147	3925	5775	5233	6191	5704
Islington	7162	10015	8477	7902	5123	5165	7867
Kensington and Chelsea	3721	3895	2069	3697	4672	3385	1601
Kingston upon Thames	3778	3273	3624	3458	2904	3531	3131
Lambeth	—	17003	10802	12377	8545	8378	9186
Lewisham	11076	10634	9049	10591	11269	6570	8316
Merton	6278	5496	4597	4104	5544	4272	4527
Newham	—	14907	10630	10940	10249	8563	6192
Redbridge	5965	6622	5154	5900	6089	5109	4570
Richmond upon Thames	2187	2426	2918	2740	2736	3013	2851
Southwark	14151	16196	14024	12654	9255	9380	5913
Sutton	4609	4473	2629	3211	3303	3656	3465
Tower Hamlets	9852	14977	10102	8838	8260	8738	6516
Waltham Forest	11593	10169	7445	7527	6505	6872	6494
Wandsworth	5809	8516	6200	6043	4440	9739	4722
Westminster	4885	2168	—	—	—	1969	2078

Notes:
1. The total number of new council tax benefit claims consists of successful, unsuccessful, defective and withdrawn claims.
2. Where no data exists they were not supplied by the relevant local authority.
3. The Department is currently making arrangements for local authorities to submit their data where they have not previously done so for 2007-08. Consequently, the figures for 2007-8 are subject to change.
Source:
Local authority reported performance data

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative costs of the Financial Assistance Scheme were in each month since April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [216984]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Month	*Expenditure (£)*
April 2007	126,436
May 2007	124,408
June 2007	137,749
July 2007[1]	544,794
August 2007	153,413
September 2007[2]	279,951
October 2007	163,836
November 2007[3]	261,777
December 2007	134,704
January 2008	109,974
February 2008	159,726
March 2008	167,255
April 2008	128,454
May 2008	145,650

[1] July costs include an element for IT (maintenance) annual costs circa £451,434
[2] September costs include an element for IT (licence and change requests) annual costs circa £159,000.
[3] November costs include circa £50,000 salary costs in respect of backdated pay award and circa £76,000 IT costs.

Personal Accounts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of final salary which would be provided for a personal account saver for *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* all people on average earnings throughout their working lives; [216839]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of final salary from average earnings at which the income from personal account saving would provide an income above the level of the basic state pension. [215367]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Personal accounts and other private pensions are not intended to give an income instead of the basic state pension. Any income from private pension saving—in an occupational defined benefit or defined contribution scheme—will be in addition to state pension entitlements.

A male median earner, who, from age 22 in 2012 to state pension age, works and saves in an occupational defined contribution pension at the minimum level set out under reform—4 per cent. from the individual, 1 per cent tax relief and 3 per cent. from the employer on banded earnings between around £5,000 and £33,000—can expect to receive a gross weekly private pension of around £80 in today's earnings terms (roughly equivalent to the level of the basic state pension), and a total net weekly income of £224. His replacement rate from saving would be 50 per cent., an improvement of around 15 percentage points from saving.

A female median earner, with the same work and savings history, can expect to receive around £55 gross weekly private pension, and a total net weekly income of £202. Her replacement rate from saving would be 57 per cent., an improvement of around 12 percentage points from saving. Her replacement rate from the state pension system is higher than that of the previous example reflecting the fact that her state pension entitlement will be the same as that for the male median example, but the earnings with which they are compared will be lower.

A male average earner, again with the same work and savings history, can expect to receive around £72 gross weekly private pension, and a total net weekly income of £216. The replacement rate from saving would be 53 per cent., an improvement of around 14 percentage points from saving.

Note:
These examples assume male median earnings of £24,440, female median earnings of £19,240 and average earnings of £22,360. For all examples, an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent, and phasing over a three year period are assumed. The whole of the pension pot is annuitised using gender-specific RPI-linked annuities for the male and female earners and a male RPI-linked annuity for the average earner. All figures are in 2007-08 earnings terms. The replacement rates shown are higher than the 45 per cent targeted by the Pensions Commission for lifetime median earners as they refer to saving from age 22 rather than from around age 30 as used by the Pensions Commission.

Personal Accounts: Females

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions based on average earnings during a working life and a final salary level of average earnings for women who take *(a)* three years, *(b)* four years, *(c)* five years and *(d)* six years out of their working life for child rearing, what percentage of final salary would be provided for a personal account saver; and if he will provide the percentage assuming (i) return to full-time working and (ii) two years on top of the time out at half-pay for part-time working. [218701]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A female median earner, who, from age 22 in 2012 to state pension age, works and saves in an occupational defined contribution pension at the minimum level set out under reform—4 per cent. from the individual, 1 per cent. tax relief and 3 per cent. from the employer on banded earnings between around £5,000 and £33,000—can expect to receive around £55 gross weekly private pension, and a total net weekly income of £202. Her overall replacement rate would be 57 per cent.

The following table shows the expected gross weekly private pension, total net weekly income and replacement rate for a female median earner, with the same work and savings history apart from taking three, four, five or six years out of their working life to raise children and then:

(i) returns immediately to full-time work;

(ii) works part-time for two years before returning to full-time work.

Retirement incomes for a women taking time out of the labour market to care for her children

	Years out of labour market				
	None	*3 years*	*4 years*	*5 years*	*6 years*
(i) Returns immediately to full-time work					
Gross private pension income (£)	55	50	49	47	46
Net total income (£)	202	199	198	197	196
Overall replacement rate (percentage)	57	56	55	55	55
(ii) Works part-time for two years before returning to full-time work					
Gross private pension income (£)	55	48	47	45	44
Net total income (£)	202	197	196	195	194
Overall replacement rate (percentage)	57	55	55	54	54

Notes:
1. Net total income is total retirement income after tax from private pension income, basic state pension, second state pension and income related benefits. Replacement rate is total retirement income as a percentage of final salary
2. These examples assume full-time female median earnings of £19,240, part-time median earnings of £9,620, an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent., and that contributions are phased in over a three-year period. The break from labour market activity is assumed to occur at age 30. The whole of the pension pot is annuitised using gender-specific RPI-linked annuities. Replacement rates are rounded to the nearest 1 per cent. and income figures are rounded to the nearest £1. Figures are based on standard assumptions about factors such as investment growth and a lifestyled fund.

Post Office Card Account

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit payable to residents in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne was paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [219093]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in each of the last five years.

	December 2003		*December 2004*		*December 2005*		*December 2006*		*December 2007*	
	Total	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*
Attendance Allowance	10	2	120	19	130	22	110	21	140	25
Bereavement Benefit	—	—	—	—	10	11	10	11	—	—
Disability Living Allowance	30	1	530	18	690	23	690	23	740	23
Incapacity Benefit	—	—	360	18	550	27	510	26	480	25
Carers Allowance	—	—	160	24	210	31	220	31	220	29
Industrial Death Benefit	—	—	10	47	10	56	10	60	10	57
Industrial Injuries	40	6	130	30	140	32	130	30	120	30
Income Support	20	1	1,020	25	1,550	40	1,460	37	1,290	34
Jobseeker's Allowance	10	1	180	12	320	22	310	20	280	18
Pension Credit	20	—	1,320	29	1,990	44	1,930	42	1,850	41
State Pension	100	1	1,390	14	2,240	23	2,140	22	2,040	21
Severe Disablement Allowance	—	—	20	10	60	28	60	27	60	29
Widows Benefit	—	—	20	12	30	22	20	20	10	15
Total	230	1	5,260	19	7,910	30	7,590	28	7,230	27

Notes:
Information Directorate
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole percent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding..
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child Benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.
Source:
DWP.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many residents in Tamworth constituency have active post office card accounts; [220106]

(2) how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit paid to residents in Tamworth constituency was paid into post office card accounts in each of the last five years. [220107]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years.

	December 2003		*December 2004*		*December 2005*		*December 2006*		*December 2007*	
	Total	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*
Attendance Allowance	10	1	120	17	140	22	130	21	130	25
Bereavement Benefit	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	11	10	5
Disability Living Allowance	30	1	470	13	540	23	550	23	560	23
Incapacity Benefit	50	2	250	13	350	27	330	26	290	25
Carers Allowance	—	—	150	19	160	31	140	31	140	29
Industrial Death Benefit	—	—	—	—	10	56	10	60	10	57
Industrial Injuries	10	2	110	18	120	32	110	30	100	30
Income Support	170	7	420	17	590	40	580	37	530	34
Jobseekers Allowance	10	1	80	10	90	22	90	20	80	18
Pension Credit	20	1	920	24	1,300	44	1,280	42	1,240	41
State Pension	150	1	1,680	13	2,630	23	2,510	22	2,410	21
Severe Disablement Allowance	—	—	20	11	40	28	40	27	30	29
Widows Benefit	—	—	20	10	30	22	20	20	20	15
Total	460	2	4,250	15	5,980	30	5,780	28	5,520	27

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment as at December in each year, 2003 to 2007.
4. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and war pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:
DWP, Information Directorate

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit payable to residents in Wrexham constituency was paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [218773]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in Wrexham constituency in each of the last five years.

	December 2003		*December 2004*		*December 2005*		*December 2006*		*December 2007*	
	Total	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*
Attendance Allowance	10	2	120	17	140	21	140	23	130	23
Bereavement Benefit	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	—	—
Disability Living Allowance	20	1	680	18	810	22	820	22	810	21
Incapacity Benefit	—	—	360	16	510	22	470	21	420	20
Carers Allowance	—	—	130	18	160	21	180	24	160	21
Industrial Death Benefit	—	—	10	58	10	55	10	50	—	—
Industrial Injuries	—	—	130	27	130	27	110	24	110	24
Income Support	20	1	570	23	810	32	760	30	700	28
Jobseeker's Allowance	—	—	70	10	130	16	150	18	140	17
Pension Credit	—	—	950	27	1,500	42	1,500	42	1,460	41
State Pension	30	—	1,740	17	2,630	25	2,540	23	2,490	22
Severe Disablement Allowance	—	—	30	13	60	30	60	29	50	27
Widows Benefit	—	—	10	5	40	25	30	22	20	21

	December 2003		December 2004		December 2005		December 2006		December 2007	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total	80	—	4,790	19	6,910	27	6,760	26	6,490	25

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and war pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:
DWP, Information Directorate

Poverty

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* 55 to 59 year olds, *(b)* 60 to 64 year olds and *(c)* 65 to 69 year olds lived in households with below 60 per cent. of median income (i) before and (ii) after deducting household costs in each year since 1997. [207147]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Number and proportion of 55 to 59-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

			Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage	Year	Total number of 55 to 59 year olds (million)	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income
GB	1997-98	2.9	0.5	16	0.5	18
	1998-99	3.0	0.5	16	0.5	18
	1999-2000	3.1	0.5	15	0.5	17
	2000-01	3.1	0.5	16	0.6	18
	2001-02	3.3	0.5	16	0.6	18
UK	2002-03	3.7	0.6	15	0.6	17
	2003-04	3.9	0.6	16	0.7	18
	2004-05	3.8	0.6	15	0.6	16
	2005-06	3.9	0.6	15	0.6	17
	2006-07	3.9	0.7	17	0.7	18

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Table 1: Number and proportion of 60 to 649-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

			Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage	Year	Total number of 60 to 64year olds (million)	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income
GB	1997-98	2.7	0.5	19	0.6	22
	1998-99	2.7	0.5	19	0.6	21
	1999-2000	2.8	0.5	19	0.6	22
	2000-01	2.8	0.5	18	0.6	21
	2001-02	2.8	0.6	21	0.6	22
UK	2002-03	2.9	0.6	19	0.6	21
	2003-04	3.0	0.6	19	0.6	20
	2004-05	3.0	0.5	18	0.6	19
	2005-06	3.1	0.6	18	0.5	18
	2006-07	3.2	0.6	18	0.6	18

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Table 1: Number and proportion of 65 to 69-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

			Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage	Year	Total number of 65 to 69 year olds (million)	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income	Number below 60% of median income (million)	Percentage below 60% of median income
GB	1997-98	2.6	0.5	19	0.6	22
	1998-99	2.5	0.5	20	0.5	21

Table 1: Number nd proportion of 65 to 69-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

			Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage	*Year*	*Total number of 65 to 69 year olds (million)*	*Number below 60% of median income (million)*	*Percentage below 60% of median income*	*Number below 60% of median income (million)*	*Percentage below 60% of median income*
	1999-2000	2.5	0.5	19	0.6	22
	2000-01	2.5	0.5	20	0.5	21
	2001-02	2.5	0.4	18	0.5	20
UK	2002-03	2.5	0.5	19	0.5	20
	2003-04	2.5	0.5	18	0.4	18
	2004-05	2.6	0.4	17	0.4	16
	2005-06	2.7	0.5	18	0.4	16
	2006-07	2.6	0.5	18	0.4	16

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Data for Northern Ireland have only been collected since 2002-03, so the information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 to 2006-07, and for Great Britain for 1997-98 to 2001-02.
3. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
4. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown empioy the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
7. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
8. The Government's preferred measures of low income for pensioners are based on incomes measured after housing costs. Measuring income on an after housing costs basis is appropriate, as two thirds of pensioners own their property outright and so face lower housing costs to meet from their current income while still deriving value from their home. This is different to the current working age population and to the situation for pensioners in the past. Considering pensioners' incomes compared to others after deducting housing costs allows for more meaningful comparisons of income between working age people and pensioners, and between pensioners over time
9. As part of PSA Delivery Agreement 17 three indicators of low income poverty will be monitored: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.
10. Numbers of individuals in each age range have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 individuals, while proportions of individuals in each age range have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children were living in working households earning less than 60 per cent. of median income *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in each English region in each year since 1990. [217099]

Mr. Timms: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Available information has been placed in the Library.

Poverty: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in each London borough were living in poverty in each of the last 10 years, broken down by ethnicity. [219275]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the "Households Below Average Income" series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region. The "Households Below Average Income Series" cannot provide information below the level of Government office region.

Work is currently under way to develop an indicator of child poverty at the local level that will measure the proportion of children in families living in poverty in both out of work and in work families. It is intended that this indicator will be used as the local area agreement child poverty indicator from April 2009 onwards.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children who would be lifted out of poverty if there was 100 per cent. take-up of entitlement to *(a)* council tax benefit, *(b)* income support, *(c)* housing benefit and *(d)* jobseeker's allowance. [221689]

Mr. Timms: There are many possible measures of poverty. Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual National Statistics publication Households Below Average Income This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median household income before and after deducting housing costs.

If there were 100 per cent. take up of the main income-related benefits by everyone in the population entitled to claim them, it is estimated that the number of children below 60 per cent. of contemporary median

income would fall by around 200,000 before housing costs are taken into account and 100,000 on an after housing costs basis, based on 2008-09 benefit rates.

Poverty: Elderly

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of 60 to 64 year olds lived in households below 40 per cent. of median income *(a)* before and *(b)* after deducting household costs in each year since 1997. [207145]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Information covering 40 per cent. of median income is not presented in the Households Below Average Income series as it is an unreliable measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

It is also the case that the Institute for Fiscal Studies in their 'Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2008' report (June 2008) have said

"Levels of material deprivation generally fall as incomes rise, but children in households with less than 40 per cent. of median income—so-called 'severe' poverty—are, on average, less deprived than those in households with between 40 per cent. and 60 per cent. of median income. This reinforces existing concerns that households with the lowest recorded incomes in HBAI are not those with the lowest living standards."

Some types of minimal income households include:

Under-recording of very fragmented incomes. If a household draws on a high number of different income sources, some may be omitted from their survey responses.

Some households will have transitional periods of low income, being between (possibly well paid) jobs at the precise time of survey interview or being self-employed where incomes can vary greatly from year to year. Older households could be waiting to receive a private or company pension, awaiting the outcome of a benefits claim or be in probate after a partner has died.

There will also be some households who are drawing on savings to cope with perhaps a longer period of minimal incomes.

Finally, there will be some households who are genuinely having to cope on very low incomes, and perhaps be getting into debt to maintain levels of expenditure.

Only the final two categories are genuinely low-income, and evidence is that statistics covering below 40 per cent. of median income include a mix of all four categories.

The information given in the following table should therefore be treated with caution.

Table 1: Number and proportion of 60 to 64-year-olds in households below 40 per cent. of median income

		Before housing costs			*After housing costs*	
Coverage	*Year*	*Total number of 60 to 64-year-olds (million)*	*Number below 40 per cent. of median income (million)*	*Percentage below 40 per cent. of median income*	*Number below 40 per cent. of median income (million)*	*Percentage below 40 per cent. of median income*
GB	1997-98	2.7	0.1	5	0.2	6
	1998-99	2.7	0.2	5	0.2	6
	1999-2000	2.8	0.2	6	0.2	7
	2000-01	2.8	0.2	6	0.2	6
	2001-02	2.8	0.2	6	0.2	7
UK	2002-03	2.9	0.2	7	0.2	7
	2003-04	3.0	0.2	7	0.2	7
	2004-05	3.0	0.2	6	0.2	7
	2005-06	3.1	0.2	6	0.2	7
	2006-07	3.2	0.2	6	0.2	7

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Data for Northern Ireland have only been collected since 2002-03, so the information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 to 2006-07, and for Great Britain for 1997-98 to 2001-02.
3. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
4. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
5. This response includes a lower income threshold of 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income. The data for households with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median are not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households while having very low incomes would not be considered poor, but who do genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
7. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
8. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.

9. The Government's preferred measures of low income for pensioners are based on incomes measured after housing costs. Measuring income on an after housing costs basis is appropriate, as two thirds of pensioners own their property outright and so face lower housing costs to meet from their current income while still deriving value from their home. This is different to the current working age population and to the situation for pensioners in the past. Considering pensioners' incomes compared to others after deducting housing costs allows for more meaningful comparisons of income between working age people and pensioners, and between pensioners over time.
10. As part of PSA Delivery Agreement 17 three indicators of low income poverty will be monitored: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent. median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.
Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Numbers of 60 to 64-year-olds have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 individuals, while proportions of 60 to 64-year-olds have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of employees asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218394]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 and no data are available prior to that date. At that time the compulsory retirement age for the Department was 65 for those below the senior civil service grades. For the years ending September 2001, 2002 and 2003 the numbers of employees who were asked to retire at age 65 were 123, 125 and 131 respectively.

From October 2003 the Department introduced arrangements that allowed its employees below the senior civil service grades to remain in employment beyond the age of 65. This was formalised in October 2006 when the Department removed its retirement age altogether for employees below the senior civil service grades. Employees can retire if they wish, when they reach civil service minimum pension age. For most employees that is age 60, but they are not obliged to retire on reaching that age.

Until October 2006 the mandatory retirement age for senior civil servants was 60. After this date it was raised to 65, where it currently remains. No employees at senior civil service grades in the Department have been asked to retire on reaching age 65.

School Leaving: Further Education

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to school leavers who have been unemployed for *(a)* more than six months and *(b)* more than one year to help them take up (i) further education and (ii) life-long learning opportunities. [218811]

Mr. Timms: Young people are supported by Connexions, where the focus is upon keeping young people in education and learning rather than solely upon moving them into employment. The service is managed locally by Connexions Partnerships that bring together all the key youth support services and young people are actively involved in its design and delivery.

Jobcentre Plus provides a valuable service for 16 and 17 year-olds in financial hardship, such as those who have been in care or who are estranged from parents and are now living independently. Without jobseeker's allowance they would have no income if they were unemployed.

Changes were made to new deal from April this year to allow 18-year olds who had spent at least six months not in education, employment or training, by agreement with their personal adviser, to be fast tracked to the gateway of the new deal for young people on a voluntary basis. Following the introduction of the flexible new deal next year, this group of young job seekers will be fast tracked on a mandatory basis to the supported job search stage of the new programme.

Every participant in the new deals, regardless of their age, can call on the services of a personal adviser, who can help the claimant to look for a job or overcome their own personal barriers to finding work. The new deals allow those out of work to take a new look at their own personal situation and to take the skills and experience that they may have already and build on them to create better opportunities for work.

Jobcentre Plus signposts its customers to relevant non-Department for Work and Pensions contracted provision, ie; University for Industry (Ufl) learndirect, apprenticeship opportunities, career development loans, adult learning grant, Nextstep and IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) provision in Scotland and Wales.

The development and delivery of programmes to help unemployed people in Northern Ireland into work is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were received in (i) each Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) each region of the UK in each month since October 2003; and if he will make a statement. [219194]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Fund: Personation

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social fund loans were found to have been issued to people who had fraudulently used someone else's identity to apply for the loan in the most recent period for which figures are available. [219469]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no recorded outcomes for the current reporting year where social fund loans have been paid to individuals who have fraudulently used someone else's identity to apply for the loan.

Social Security

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much of the money allocated to each local authority to make *(a)* exceptional hardship

payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments was unspent in each year between 1991 and 2001; and if he will make a statement; [220086]

(2) whether the calculation of the amount allocated to local authorities for the payment of *(a)* exceptional hardship payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments takes account of average rental prices (i) nationally and (ii) in the relevant local authority; and if he will make a statement. [220087]

Mr. Plaskitt: There was no requirement for local authorities to return any unspent exceptional hardship payments. Therefore, the information requested is not available. Department for Work and Pensions allocated payments of exceptional hardship payments according to the local authority's case load and the number of cases restricted by the rent restriction rules.

Funding for exceptional circumstances payments was met from the local authority's own budget and not the Department for Work and Pensions.

Speech-Writing Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons Mr. Phil Collins left his post as his speechwriter. [217403]

James Purnell: Mr. Collins holds and has held no such post. My Department has a contract in place with Mr. Collins under which he can be paid for providing speech-writing services to the Department. The contract ends in March 2009.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218971]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since that date no staff have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days.

Equality Bill

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing the provisions of the draft Equality Bill; and if she will make a statement. [217538]

Barbara Follett: An initial regulatory impact assessment was published with the consultation on the proposals for the Bill last year. This is now in the process of being revised. A further impact assessment will be published before the Bill is introduced.

Refuges: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what services are available in Halifax constituency for women seeking refuge from domestic violence who have no access to public funds to assist them. [217218]

Barbara Follett: The services available to women seeking refuge from domestic violence who have no access to public funds in the constituency of Halifax differ, at present, depending on whether or not the woman concerned has children.

If she has, the services available to her and her children are coordinated under a protocol set up by the Calderdale Domestic Violence Forum in partnership with Calderdale council; Calderdale Women's Refuge and Calderdale Asian Women's Refuge—both of which are owned by Stonham Housing; Calderdale Women's Centre; Nashayman Housing Association and West Yorkshire police.

Under this protocol women and children with no safe alternative accommodation are referred to either the Calderdale Women's Refuge or Calderdale Asian Women's Refuge. Funding is supplied by Calderdale council and their Supporting People Team. Every effort is made to keep children in education and to rebuild the family's life outside the refuge. Legal advice is also given on the completion of applications of leave to remain in the UK.

Calderdale Domestic Violence Forum are now working to develop this protocol further so that support is in place for women without children, including pregnant women, who have no recourse to public funds. The Forum aim to have the full protocol in place by December 2008, with funding identified to assist single women as well as those with children.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1626-27W, on approved premises: planning applications, how many planning applications his Department and its agencies have submitted in the last 24 months in relation to converting residential premises into use as bail hostels; and in what local authority areas. [221285]

Mr. Hanson: None.

Bail

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine for failure to surrender to bail was in the last 12 months. [220267]

Mr. Straw: The following shows the average fine amount for those convicted of failing to surrender for bail in 2006.

2006

Number of persons—12,909

Average fine amount—£61.07

The proportion of those given various disposals for "failing to surrender to bail" at all courts are as follows, as well as guidance regarding the factors to be taken into account when sentencing for this offence:

Result	Percentage	Result	Percentage
Absolute discharge	2.3	Suspended sentence	1.3
Conditional discharge	6.3	Immediate custody	11.3
Fine	47.6	Otherwise dealt with	18.2
Community sentence	13.1	Total	100.0

Based on a first offence of deliberately failing to surrender to custody, giving no thought to the consequences

Principal features	Starting point	Aggravating factors	Mitigating factors
Substantial harm	Custodial sentence commensurate with degree of harm	length of time absconded	caring responsibilities
trial adjourned		previous relevant* convictions	genuine mistake
delay likely to impact on quality of evidence presented		deliberate attempt to seriously undermine the course of justice	early voluntary surrender
likely distress to victims and witnesses			
confidence in administration of justice undermined			
Significant harm	Custody threshold passed	length of time absconded	caring responsibilities
significant delay to administration of justice, including sentence		previous relevant* convictions	genuine mistake
delay to other cases		deliberate attempt to seriously undermine the course of justice	early voluntary surrender
repeated breach of court orders			
Negligible harm	Community order e.g. curfew, disqualification from driving	previous relevant* convictions	caring responsibilities
short delay		deliberate attempt to seriously undermine the course of justice	genuine mistake
wasted resources e.g. court time, prosecution time and public funds			early voluntary surrender

From the Sentencing Guidelines Council consultation on bail offences 2004.

Bail Accommodation and Support Scheme

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* defendants and *(b)* offenders have been placed in ClearSprings accommodation since the start of the Bail Accommodation and Support Scheme. [220273]

Mr. Straw: Up to 16 July, 827 defendants on bail and 639 prisoners released from prison on Home Detention Curfew had been placed in the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. Of these 776 defendants and 621 offenders were provided with housing.

Compensation: Vioxx

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will ask the Legal Services Commission to re-examine the case for granting legal aid for actions involving damages to health caused by taking the drug Vioxx; [219715]

(2) what steps he is taking to help those whose health has been damaged by the drug Vioxx to bring pressure on Merck and Co to settle appropriate compensation claims. [220368]

Maria Eagle: Decisions about legal funding in civil cases are entirely a matter for the Legal Services Commission (LSC), which is independent of the Government. It would be inappropriate for any Minister to intervene in, or comment on, decisions made about the grant of funding in an individual case. It is important that these decision are free from political and Government influence.

The LSC refused an application to pursue a multi-party action (MPA) against the manufacturers of Vioxx in 2005, and a subsequent appeal was dismissed. At that appeal the applicants' solicitors were invited to submit further information to have their appeal reconsidered, but they chose not to do this. No further application for an MPA associated with Vioxx has since been received. However, if new evidence has come to light, the individuals concerned are welcome to submit a new application for funding to the LSC via their solicitors.

Criminal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* black, *(b)* white and *(c)* Asian men have a criminal record, broken down by age. [221504]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not available.

Figures on the proportions of the population with a criminal history in England and Wales can be found in 'Criminal careers of those born between 1953 and 1978' at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb401.pdf

However, this publication does not provide figures for different ethnic groups as the court data from which these figures are derived do not include complete information on the ethnicity of offenders.

Custody: Social Workers

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of children's social workers practising in the penal establishment to children held in such custody was *(a)* overall and *(b)* in every establishment where children are kept. [220906]

Mr. Hanson: Information supplied by the Youth Justice Board indicates that the overall ratio of social workers to places in young offender institutions for under 18-year-olds is 1:164. The following table, also based on Youth Justice Board data, shows the ratio of social worker posts to places in each young offender institution in the secure estate for children and young people. To a large extent, the varying ratios reflect the differing sizes of establishments. Steps are being taken to fill five posts that are currently vacant.

YOI	*Ratio of social workers to trainees*
Ashfield	1:200
Brinsford	1:112
Castington	1:168
Cookham Wood	1:157
Downview	0:16
Eastwood Park	0:16
Feltham	1:120
Foston Hall	0:16
Hindley	1:96
Huntercombe	1:180
Lancaster Farms	1:120
New Hall	1:26
Pare	1:64
Stoke Heath	1:202
Warren Hill	1:222
Werrington	1:160
Wetherby	1:204
Overall ratio	1:164

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219595]

Maria Eagle: The Department records in its accounting system the total of spending on hospitality.

There is no departmental requirement to separately monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes and therefore no mechanism for this information to be recorded.

All expenditure, including that on hospitality, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

This is supplemented by an internal hospitality policy that applies to all staff which confirms that no alcohol is to be provided as part of in-house hospitality (e.g. conferences and away days).

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219945]

Maria Eagle: Where alcohol is provided for external hospitality purposes this would be met through either contracted catering providers or local purchasing arrangements.

My Department has an internal hospitality policy that applies to all staff which confirms that no alcohol is to be provided as part of in-house hospitality (e.g. conferences and away days).

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to prevent future losses of sensitive data by his Department; [220408]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to implement the new set of mandatory standards for Government Departments as outlined by the Cabinet Office's Data handling procedures in government review; [220409]

(3) how much has been allocated within his Department to ensure compliance with the new set of minimum mandatory standards, set out in the Cabinet Office's Data handling in government review; [221235]

(4) how many individuals his Department holds sensitive data on. [221393]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is determined to ensure that all personal information is managed in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government. The Ministry has set up a dedicated Information Assurance Programme to oversee implementation of the new set of minimum mandatory standards contained in the report. The Ministry expects to spend in the region of £630,000 to cover the costs of managing the programme. Any new development costs will be met from within existing Business Group budgets through re-prioritisation of expenditure.

The Ministry does not hold a central register of the total number of records it holds containing sensitive data. Such information may be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Each Business Group within the Ministry is required to manage its information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Government's Manual of Protective Security.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many freedom of information requests his Department resolved within *(a)* 20 days, *(b)* 40 and *(c)* 60 working days in the last 12 months; [220466]

(2) how many freedom of information requests answered by his Department in the last 12 months cited an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide all the requested information. [220472]

Mr. Wills: In the 12 months from April 2007 to March 2008 a total of 1,803 non-routine requests were received by the Ministry of Justice. Of these, 67 per cent. were answered within 20 days, in a further 17 per cent. of cases the 20 day time limit was extended for consideration of the public interest in releasing the information requested. Statistics on the number of requests not resolved within the 20 day time limit are not collected in the form requested.

The number of requests received by the Ministry of Justice during this period where the requested information was withheld, either in full or in part, under the Freedom of Information or Environmental Information Regulations was 182.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unanswered freedom of information requests there have been by his Department in the last 12 months. [1] [220474]

Mr. Wills: Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual report on freedom of information in central Government for 2007 show that of a total of 1,427 non-routine requests received by the Department. 88 (6 per cent.) had not received a substantive response within the 20 day time limit. The annual report can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of dealing with freedom of information requests to his Department in the last 12 months. [220477]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not calculate the cost of dealing with each freedom of information request and so the total cost is not available.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214719]

Mr. Wills: Since my Department was created in May 2007, the Ministry of Justice has spent the following on public information campaigns.

Ministry of Justice

£

		(a) internet and website design and hosting	*(b) print media design*	*(c) Broadcast media*
Her Majesty's Courts Service				
2005-06	Operation Payback—to persuade fine defaulters to pay up	Nil	Nil	[1]94,000
National Offender Management Service				
2007-08	Community Sentencing campaign—to increase confidence in the effectiveness of criminal justice	Nil	3,500	Nil
Office for Criminal Justice Reform				
2004-08	Inside Justice Week campaign—to make CJS more accessible through a themed week of public and media events	[2]48,000	20,600	Nil

[1] Radio
[2] 2006

Since the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) was created in April 2003, the Department spent the following on public information campaigns.

£

		(a) internet and website design and hosting	*(b) print media design*	*(c) Broadcast media*
DCA HQ				
2006-07	Domestic Violence campaign—to publicise remedies available to victims of domestic violence	Nil	485	Nil
2005-06	Voter Registration campaign (18-24)—to encourage young people to register to vote	3,000	12,000	[1]62,000
	Magistrates Awareness campaign—to publicise the role of magistrates within the criminal and civil justice system	[2]—	19,080	[1]107,000

1. *[Official Report, 10 September 2008, Vol. 479, c. 12MC.]*

£

		(a) internet and website design and hosting	(b) print media design	(c) Broadcast media
2002-05	Freedom of Information—to raise awareness of the Freedom of Information Act.	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
The Court Service				
2004-05	Operation Payback	Nil	Nil	[1]95,000
2003-04	Operation Payback	Nil	Nil	[1]79,000
Office of the Public Guardian				
2004-05	Powers of attorney campaign—to raise awareness of powers of attorney	Nil	2,512	Nil

[1] Radio
[2] Costs for hosting and design cannot be separated out
[3] A total of £387,000 was spent during the three years but available records do not show how this was broken down into broadcast media, print media design or website design and hosting

DCA's predecessor, Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) launched the Community Legal Service in 2000 to inform people where to go for civil legal advice, help and representation. A total of £1,347,000 was spent on advertising but a separate figure for broadcast media cannot be identified. Further details regarding spend on this campaign are not available.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what citizens' juries are planned in the next six months; [220413]

(2) on what policy areas citizens' juries are being held in the next six months. [220489]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has recently published a framework for greater citizen engagement which includes proposals to make greater use of citizens' juries and on which we are currently seeking views. However, the Ministry of Justice has no citizens' juries currently scheduled to take place over the next six months.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of citizens' juries held by his Department in the last 12 months was. [220483]

Mr. Wills: My Department has not held any citizens' juries over the last 12 months and has therefore incurred no costs.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have attended a *(a)* citizens' jury and *(b)* citizens' summit sponsored by his Department in the last 12 months. [220486]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not sponsored any citizens' juries or citizens' summits over the last 12 months. We have begun to engage the public in other ways, including through The 'Governance of Britain' website and regional events. We have also produced a discussion document, 'A national Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement', which sets out the circumstances in which citizens' juries and summits should be held and invites views on these proposals.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the development and running costs of his Department's digital dialogue programme are on promoting interaction between Government and the wider populace via ICT. [220487]

Mr. Wills: Since December 2005, the Digital Dialogues programme has encouraged Government Departments to explore the use of online technologies to engage the public in the development of policy. The programme cost £80,435 in 2006-07 and £54,000 in 2007-08. Digital Dialogues was designed to run in three phases. At the end of each phase, a report is produced analysing case studies and providing up-to-date good practice guidance. We expect the report from the third stage to be published by the end of summer 2008. More information is available at:

http://www.digitaldialogues.org.uk

I am currently considering whether to commission a new phase of Digital Dialogues.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he has allocated to citizens' juries planned to be held in the next six months. [220491]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is not scheduled to hold any citizens' juries in the next six months. We are currently considering the budgeting and procurement of the citizens' summit to consider issues around election day and for the development of a statement of values.

Domestic Violence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many programmes which work with the perpetrators of domestic violence are in operation in the criminal justice system; how many men have taken part in such programmes in each of the last 10 years; how many men are on waiting lists for such programmes; and what work has been done to develop national standards for perpetrator programmes outside the criminal justice system; [220399]

(2) how many prisoners have completed the Healthy Relationships programme; how many prisons operate the programme; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the programme. [220401]

Mr. Straw: There are three programmes which have been accredited by the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel specifically for use with perpetrators of domestic violence. The Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP) and the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) are used in the community, and the Healthy Relationships Programme (HRP) in prison. Other programmes have also been accredited by the panel that may be appropriate depending on particular risks and needs.

The following table sets out the number of new community orders or licences with a requirement to attend an accredited domestic violence programme, the number of offenders who have commenced a programme in the community or completed one in prison since the programmes were introduced.

	New orders or licences with a requirement to attend a domestic violence programme[1]	*CDVP/IDAP commencements*[1]	*HRP completions by prisoners*
2003-04	—	—	28
2004-05	—	—	30
2005-06	3,425	2,084	57
2006-07	6,200	3,635	60
2007-08	6,479	4,313	82
Total	16,104	10,032	257

[1] The data are based on information provided from probation areas and includes those who specifically receive a domestic violence programme, but not those who were convicted of a domestic violence offence who were sentenced to undertake another intervention.

The numbers awaiting to start a programme on a given day during the year will vary depending on the sentences received, the resources available in the area concerned, matching demand, the individual's circumstances e.g. further court appearance, their motivation, other domestic factors, and possibly an assessment as to whether the programme will meet their risks and needs. There can also be a lead in time while offenders prepare for the courses.

Offenders waiting for a place on a Domestic Violence programme are under the supervision of their offender manager from the day of sentence. The offender manager will monitor the risk posed by the offender and actively manage it.

The Home Office has funded a project to ensure perpetrator programmes delivered outside the criminal justice system will also be subject to agreed national standards.

The Healthy Relationships Programme is now delivered in six establishments. Garth prison has just started delivering the programme. There is an ongoing assessment of prisoners' participation in the programme. As the numbers completing the programme increase further, analysis will be undertaken.

A process study has been commissioned to look at the delivery of the Healthy Relationships Programme and the Community Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Abuse Programmes which will include an examination of the data collected and interviews with staff and programme participants.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for ketamine *(a)* use and *(b)* dealing there have been (i) in Forest of Dean constituency, (ii) in Gloucestershire and (iii) nationally in the last three years. [220307]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to supply of or possession with intent to supply ketamine in Gloucestershire police force area and England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

There is no offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 for the use of ketamine. It is not possible to identify defendants in the Forest of Dean, convicted for dealing in ketamine as location of offence information is not collected centrally as part of court data.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants found guilty at magistrates' courts for offences relating to supply of or possession with intent to supply ketamine in Gloucestershire police force area and England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Gloucestershire police force area	*England and Wales*
2004	—	—
2005	—	—
2006	—	4

1 These data are on the principal offence basis.
2 Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.4(2)(a), 4(2)(b), 4(3)(c)
Supply Ketamine—class C controlled drug
Offer to supply Ketamine—class C controlled drug
Being concerned in the supply of Ketamine—class C controlled drug
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(3)
Possess Ketamine with intent to supply - class C controlled drug
3 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Electoral Commission: Public Appointments

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to carry out a consultation on the proposal to appoint electoral commissioners who have recent party political experience. [220475]

Bridget Prentice: The Government White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom" (CM7329), committed the Government to implement the Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendation to allow the appointment of a minority of Commissioners with recent experience of political

life. The Committee's report took into account research and evidence from interested parties, including the Electoral Commission themselves.

Sir Hayden Phillips' "Review of the Funding of Political Parties" and the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee also endorsed this recommendation, which the Government intend to implement through the Political Parties and Elections Bill which was introduced to Parliament on 17 July. The passage of the Bill through Parliament will present a further opportunity for Members to consider this proposal.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to appoint electoral commissioners with recent party political experience. [220478]

Bridget Prentice: The White Paper "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom" (CM7329) committed to legislating to implement the Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendation to allow the appointment of a minority of Commissioners with recent experience of political life. The Political Parties and Elections Bill, introduced on 17 July, includes a measure to give effect to this commitment.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to how many *(a)* community and *(b)* custodial sentences a victim's surcharge was applied in 2006-07. [221686]

Maria Eagle: None. Powers to levy a surcharge on all criminal sentences and on certain fixed penalty notices were provided in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, the money to be ring-fenced to fund non-financial support services for victims and witnesses. As of 1 April 2007, the victims surcharge has been levied on sentences which include a fine, at a fixed rate of £15. We intend to extend its application to other disposals when that becomes feasible.

Fish Supplies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217900]

Maria Eagle: As the only procurer of food within the Ministry of Justice estate, the only data available are from Her Majesty's Prison Service/National Offender Management Service (NOMS). This is shown in the following tables.

Price and spend data are commercially in confidence and so will not be released.

Fish is procured by NOMS supply chain from a variety of sources and figures relating to Marine Stewardship Council Standard are based on available data and cannot be guaranteed.

Catering services to meet other parts of the Ministry of Justice requirements are contracted out and provided by commercial suppliers. Such data are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HMPS/NOMS procurement of fish by volume and varieties

	Volume bought (kg)				
Fish species	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*
Cod	5,630	12,797	8,543	12,542	14,072
Coley and Hake	570	—	2,567	2,594	1,311
Haddock	7,084	6,481	13,870	23,947	8,478
Smoked Fish	13,997	16,559	12,773	16,496	13,651
Hoki	73,501	65,633	53,036	39,196	65,559
Whole Fish and Other (incl. snapper, trout and tuna)	20,355	19,871	13,873	4,405	11,462
Plaice	645	2,339	95	150	459
Salmon	7,748	5,116	2,997	3,531	3,721
Lemon Sole	14	407	877	195	41
Breaded and Battered Fish	172,439	164,082	158,152	177,669	126,440
Prawns and Shellfish	7,726	5,687	8,486	2,838j	2,219
Total	311,715	300,978	277,273	285,567	249,414

Volume meeting Marine Stewardship Council standard

	MSC (percentage that met MSC standard)				
Fish species	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*
Cod	0	0	0	0	0
Coley and Hake	0	0	0	0	0
Haddock	0	0	0	0	0
Smoked Fish	0	0	0	0	0
Hoki	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Whole Fish and Other (incl. snapper, trout and tuna)	[1]50	[1]50	[1]50	[1]50	[1]50
Plaice	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0
Lemon Sole	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Breaded and Battered Fish	0	0	0	0	0
Prawns and Shellfish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = data not available. Data are only available for 40 per cent. of the total amount offish ordered by value.
[1] Estimate

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* fined and *(c)* cautioned for offences related to underage gambling in each of the last 10 years. [219684]

Maria Eagle: Information held by the Ministry of Justice on prosecutions, convictions, defendants sentenced to a fine and offenders cautioned by the police for offences related to under-age gambling between the years of 1997 and 2006 (latest available) are provided in the following table.

The figures provided relate to persons for whom the offence was the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Information for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced to a fine at all courts and offenders cautioned by the police for offences related to under-age gambling[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Fined*	*Cautioned*
1997	—	—	—	—
1998	—	—	—	2
1999	—	—	—	1
2000	1	—	—	3
2001	1	1	1	—
2002	—	—	—	—
2003	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—
2005	—	—	—	—
2006	—	—	—	—

[1] Includes offences of under-age gambling, allowing under-age gambling and illegal participation in lotteries by persons aged under 18 under the Gaming Act 1968, the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 and the Gambling Act 2005.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Google: Data Protection

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the likely implications for individuals' right to privacy of the proposal by Google to publish photographs of UK addresses on its Streetview website. [220297]

Mr. Wills: The ICO have been in discussions with Google over Street view and recognises that privacy safeguards have been put in place. The ICO will continue to monitor developments and work with Google as necessary.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent body created by statute. Its responsibilities include compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.

Human Rights

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training has been provided to civil servants on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* the Convention on the Rights of the Child in each of the last five years. [220216]

Mr. Wills: Responsibility for training of civil servants lies with individual Departments. Since 2000, the Ministry of Justice, and before it the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Lord Chancellor's Department, have provided guidance on human rights and the Human Rights Act to other Departments to inform the training they give to their officials. "Raising Awareness of Human Rights", an electronic training package for public officials is also available to all civil servants via the website of the National School for Government. There is no specific programme of training for civil servants on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Information Commissioner: Secondment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 64-65W, on the Information Commissioner, what safeguards apply to secondees from Government departments to the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure they may not handle appeals relating to their departments. [220533]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent body created by statute. Its responsibilities include handling complaints made under the Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

There is a clear process in place at the ICO for ensuring that individuals seconded to the ICO will not handle complaints from their own Department. A line manager who works for the ICO will allocate freedom of information complaints to the secondees from Government Departments who will be working at the ICO. The line manager will ensure that the secondees do not handle complaints involving their home Department. A permanent member of the ICO's staff will oversee the work of secondees and in conjunction with the ICO policy team will ensure consistency. Secondees will not be authorised to sign decision notices. Only senior established ICO employees can sign notices.

International Law

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Ministers have represented the UK in state party examinations by UN treaty monitoring bodies in each of the last five years. [220102]

Mr. Wills: The only occasion in the last five years on which a Minister has represented the United Kingdom at an examination by a UN treaty monitoring body was on 10 July 2008, when my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Women and Equality (Barbara Follett) led the UK delegation for the examination by the Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. On all other occasions the United Kingdom has been represented by a senior official.

Juries: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the consultation on bilingual juries in Wales. [211285]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice will make a statement on bilingual juries shortly.

Magistrates: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of magistrates in England and Wales were from an ethnic minority background in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [220875]

Mr. Straw: In *(a)* 2007, 2,065 magistrates (6.9 per cent.) out of a total of 29,816 magistrates were from an ethnic minority background at the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

Figures for 1997 are not available.

Magistrates: Females

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of magistrates in England and Wales were women in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [220876]

Mr. Straw: The information is as follows:

In *(a)* 2007, 14,809 magistrates (49.7 per cent.) out of a total of 29,816 were women at the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

In *(b)* 1997, 14,516 magistrates (47.8 per cent.) out of a total of 30,374 were women at the calendar year ending 31 December 1997.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that a person subjected to a hospital order is not moved to a hospital near to his or her victims without there being *(a)* consultation with and *(b)* notification to those victims or their families. [220579]

Maria Eagle: We have enhanced the rights of victims to information, where the offender is sentenced by way of a restricted hospital order, in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Those rights will be extended to cases where the offender receives an unrestricted hospital order by amendments in the Mental Health Act 2007, due to be implemented in November.

The statutory rights do not extend explicitly to transfers of offenders between hospitals. However, where the offender is restricted, officials in the National Offender Management Service will usually exercise the Secretary of State's delegated powers to give victims basic information, to reassure them of steps being taken for their protection, and will seek to avoid transfers to hospitals where victims may be adversely affected.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the rights of victims and their families to be consulted prior to a person who has been convicted of an offence and made subject to a hospital order being moved to another institution. [220581]

Maria Eagle: We have enhanced the rights of victims to information, where the offender is sentenced by way of a restricted hospital order, in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Those rights will be extended to cases where the offender receives an unrestricted hospital order by amendments in the Mental Health Act 2007, due to be implemented in November.

There is no explicit right for victims to be consulted before a detained patient is moved between hospitals. But victim liaison officers will work with victims who wish to be kept informed, and will ensure that they are given information necessary to reassure them about measures taken for their protection.

National Identity

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the planned timetable for the development of a British statement of values is; [220411]

(2) what progress has been made in the development of a framework for a public engagement process to develop a British statement of values. [220412]

Mr. Wills: We are currently finalising a process of engagement to inform the debate on the statement of values. This will involve a series of events around the country, a programme of online engagement and a range of discussion pieces. The process will culminate in a citizens' summit—a broadly representative sample of the British people who will be asked to develop the framework for the statement of values and make recommendations on its uses. We expect to make an announcement in the autumn.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on consultative exercises and initiatives in relation to the development of a British statement of values, broken down by event. [220488]

Mr. Wills: A series of events to support The Governance of Britain programme, including discussion on national identity and the statement of values, is currently under way. Final costs will be available once the events are complete. We have also undertaken some work with consultants to support development of the engagement process on the statement of values. This has been provided at a cost of £5,000.

Offenders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of how many defendants remanded in custody on indictable-only matters had proceedings been terminated prior to arraignment or no evidence offered in each of the last five years; and how long on average each such defendant was detained in custody. [220055]

Maria Eagle: In order to answer this question, it will be necessary to undertake a detailed analysis of historic Crown court case data. It will not be possible to complete this work before the start of the summer recess. However, I will write to the hon. Lady with the relevant information as soon as it is available.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years were convicted of possession of a knife in each of the last 10 years; what percentage received custodial sentences; and what the average length of a custodial sentence was in each year. [220830]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is contained in the following tables.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons sentenced[1], given immediate custody and average custodial sentence length[2] for possession of a knife or an offensive weapon[3], all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

		Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)			
Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length[2]*
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1997	159	4	2.5	2.2
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		153	1	0.7	3.0
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		3	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		1	—	—	—
Total all above offences		316	5	1.6	2.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1998	203	3	1.5	3.1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		184	3	1.6	5.7
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		5	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		5	—	—	—
Total all above offences		397	6	1.5	4.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1999	202	5	2.5	2.6
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		184	5	2.7	3.2
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		3	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		9	—	—	—
Total all above offences		398	10	2.5	2.9
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2000	288	7	2.4	6.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		264	7	2.7	3.7
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		10	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		3	—	—	—
Total all above offences		565	14	2.5	4.9
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2001	365	14	3.8	4.3
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		328	10	3.0	5.0
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		10	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		9	—	—	—
Total all above offences		712	24	3.4	4.6
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2002	303	17	5.6	7.2
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		345	13	3.8	5.1
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		15	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		9	1	11.1	6.0

Number of persons sentenced[1], given immediate custody and average custodial sentence length[2] for possession of a knife or an offensive weapon[3], all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length[2]*
Total all above offences		672	31	4.6	6.3
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2003	299	12	4.0	4.5
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		304	13	4.3	5.7
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		19	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	—	—	—
Total all above offences		628	25	4.0	5.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2004	348	14	4.0	6.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		374	8	2.1	5.0
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		26	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		14	—	—	—
Total all above offences		762	22	2.9	5.6
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2005	311	11	3.5	4.5
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		396	15	3.8	5.5
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		22	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		19	—	—	—
Total all above offences		748	26	3.5	5.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2006	373	14	3.8	6.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		450	18	4.0	5.0
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		27	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		27	—	—	—
Total all above offences		877	32	3.6	5.4

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)

Aged 16-18

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length[2]*
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1997	801	40	5.0	2.7
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		561	37	6.6	2.5
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		4	1	25.0	2.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		3	2	66.7	25.0
Total all above offences		1,369	80	5.8	3.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1998	829	60	7.2	2.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		596	49	8.2	2.5

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)
Aged 16-18

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length*[2]
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		4	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		4	1	25.0	3.0
Total all above offences		1,433	110	7.7	2.7
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1999	817	74	9.1	3.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		580	48	8.3	2.7
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		4	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		—	—	—	—
Total all above offences		1,401	122	8.7	3.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2000	863	72	8.3	4.4
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		634	45	7.1	3.3
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		11	2	18.2	13.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		3	—	—	—
Total all above offences		1,511	119	7.9	4.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2001	1,136	93	8.2	4.4
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		932	57	6.1	3.5
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		18	1	5.6	6.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		4	—	—	—
Total all above offences		2,090	151	7.2	4.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2002	1,172	107	9.1	5.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		955	65	6.8	4.2
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		12	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	1	16.7	4.0
Total all above offences		2,145	173	8.1	4.7
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2003	1,074	77	7.2	5.4
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		906	60	6.6	4.1
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		15	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		4	—	—	—
Total all above offences		1,999	137	6.9	4.8
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2004	1,258	71	5.6	4.5
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		978	74	7.6	3.8

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)
Aged 16-18

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length*[2]
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		25	4	16.0	2.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	2	33.3	4.0
Total all above offences		2,267	151	6.7	4.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2005	1,268	113	8.9	4.9
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		1,021	78	7.6	4.0
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		12	1	8.3	3.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	—	—	—
Total all above offences		2,307	192	8.3	4.5
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2006	1,257	100	8.0	4.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		1,131	93	8.2	4.5
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		7	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	—	—	—
Total all above offences		2,401	193	8.0	4.6

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)
Aged over 18

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length*[2]
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1997	3,170	465	14.7	4.3
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		2,627	334	12.7	2.4
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		12	2	16.7	2.5
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		15	2	13.3	2.5
Total all above offences		5,824	803	13.8	3.5
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1998	3,343	522	15.6	3.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		3,008	498	16.6	2.6
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		7	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		11	4	36.4	8.2
Total all above offences		6,369	1,024	16.1	3.3
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1999	3,116	475	15.2	4.1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		2,784	481	17.3	2.6
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		9	2	22.2	2.2
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		11	3	27.3	19.0
Total all above offences		5,920	961	16.2	3.4

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)
Aged over 18

Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length*[1]
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2000	2,957	516	17.5	3.9
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		2,620	447	17.1	2.6
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		23	5	21.7	2.7
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		12	6	50.0	6.8
Total all above offences		5,612	974	17.4	3.3
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2001	3,372	527	15.6	3.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		3,043	522	17.2	2.6
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		33	2	6.1	4.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	3	50.0	3.3
Total all above offences		6,454	1,054	16.3	3.2
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2002	3,966	663	16.7	4.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		3,969	688	17.3	2.8
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		30	7	23.3	2.1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		6	3	50.0	6.0
Total all above offences		7,971	1,361	17.1	3.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2003	4,021	671	16.7	4.3
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		4,101	682	16.6	2.8
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		54	6	11.1	2.9
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		11	4	36.4	12.0
Total all above offences		8,187	1,363	16.6	3.6
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2004	4,152	732	17.6	4.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		4,450	721	16.2	2.9
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		55	8	14.5	2.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		13	2	15.4	9.0
Total all above offences		8,670	1,463	16.9	3.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2005	4,110	705	17.2	4.3
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		4,540	872	19.2	3.1
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		11	4	36.4	5.8
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		5	3	60.0	5.0
Total all above offences		8,666	1,584	18.3	3.7
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2006	4,000	674	16.9	5.0

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)

		Aged over 18			
Offence description	*Year*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Percentage total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length*[2]
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		4,703	959	20.4	7.6
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises		16	5	31.3	5.3
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises		7	3	42.9	
Total all above offences		8,726	1,641	18.8	4.0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Months. Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[3] Will include knives, but information collected centrally does not provide a distinction between them and other offensive weapons.
Notes:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years who were convicted of possession of a knife in each of the last 10 years received a fine; and what the (i) average, (ii) smallest and (iii) largest fine in each year was. [220831]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008. In 2006, around 11 per cent. received a fine, 47 per cent. community order and 17 per cent. custody.

				Under 16			*Aged 16 to 18*			*Aged 18 and over*		
	Number sentenced	*Number fined*	*Proportion fined (%)*	*Average (£)*	*Smallest (£)*	*Largest (£)*	*Average (£)*	*Smallest (£)*	*Largest (£)*	*Average (£)*	*Smallest (£)*	*Largest (£)*
1997	3,360	1,181	35	45	10	100	85	10	500	109	10	1,000
1998	3,804	1,187	31	38	10	75	97	10	500	110	10	1,500
1999	3,564	1,032	29	28	10	50	83	5	700	114	10	1,000
2000	3,562	996	28	50	10	100	83	10	500	112	10	600
2001	4,364	1,164	27	47	10	200	84	10	600	116	10	3,100
2002	5,326	1,356	25	48	10	150	85	1	500	114	10	1,000
2003	5,399	1,289	24	55	10	150	90	20	250	128	10	2,500
2004	5,908	1,148	19	40	10	100	92	20	300	138	1	1,250
2005	6,002	953	16	37	20	50	93	20	350	138	10	1,500
2006	6,334	691	11	57	5	100	123	10	750	153	20	3,500

The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council's Magistrates Court Sentencing Guidelines for possession of a bladed article (to be implemented on 4 August 2008) states that if the bladed weapon is not used to threaten or cause fear the recommended starting point is a high level community order. If there are mitigating or aggravating circumstances, the guideline suggests a range of a Band C fine (125 to 175 per cent. of weekly income) to 12 weeks custody. Where the weapon was not used to threaten or cause fear but the offence was committed in dangerous circumstances, the suggested starting point is six weeks custody, with a range of a high level community order to referral to the Crown Court. Where the weapon was used to threaten or cause fear and the offence was committed in dangerous circumstances the guideline states that the case should be allocated to the Crown Court.

Offensive Weapons: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average sentence was imposed for knife crimes in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [219506]

Mr. Straw: Information on the numbers given an immediate custodial sentence and the average custodial sentence length in North Yorkshire for possession of a knife or possession of an offensive weapon (which may include knives) is shown in the following table.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for possession of a knife or offensive weapon, all courts, North Yorkshire, 2002-06

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)[2]

Offence description	*Year*	*Immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length*
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2002	6	4.1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		4	4.0

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for possession of a knife or offensive weapon, all courts, North Yorkshire, 2002-06

Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)[2]

Offence description	Year	Immediate custody	Average custodial sentence length
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2003	9	4.5
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		3	2.0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2004	4	4.8
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		6	3.5
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2005	3	7.5
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		8	4.8
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2006	4	16.0
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		9	6.3

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[2] These average values are based on a very small number of cases.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services

The Courts Proceedings Database from which this information is drawn does not identify separately the circumstances of an offence in which a knife was used. These offences are included in other offences of violence against the person (e.g. grievous bodily harm).

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for knife crimes in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [219507]

Mr. Straw: Information on convictions for knife possession offences covering the years 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

There will have been other offences such as grievous or actual bodily harm or violent disorder where knives were used. However, the information held by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for 'knife possession offences'[1] in North Yorkshire police force area, 2002-06[2,3]

	Found guilty
2002	52
2003	50
2004	69
2005	66
2006	57

[1] Includes the offences of—Possession of a knife or bladed article in a public place and Possession of a knife or bladed article on school premises.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings database—Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Official Secrets: Photography

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for the offence of photography contrary to section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 in the latest period for which figures are available. [219424]

Maria Eagle: Information on court proceedings held by the Ministry of Justice for the period 2002 to 2006 (latest available) shows that there was one prosecution and one conviction under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 in 2002. The information reported to the Ministry of Justice does not include the individual circumstances of offences, therefore it is not possible to identify whether the photography was involved in the offences committed.

The figures relate to persons for whom the offence was the principal offence for which each person was dealt with. When a defendant has been proceeded against for two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Parole Board

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of cases the Parole Board will deal with in each of the next 10 years. [220764]

Mr. Hanson: The Parole Board's caseload projections for the period 2008-09 to 2009-10 are listed in the following table. Longer term projections are the subject of review following the implementation of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 which will impact on the number of cases referred to the Parole Board.

Type of case	2008-09	2009-10
Determinate sentence prisoners	4,700	3,350
Indeterminate sentence prisoners	4,050	5,500
Determinate recalls (paper)	13,400	13,300
Determinate recalls (oral)	1,200	[1]1,000
Total	27,400	23,150

[1] Estimated until impact of Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 is known.

Parole Board: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many caseworkers were employed by the Parole Board in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District to deal with (i) oral and (ii) written hearings in each year since 1997. [220770]

Maria Eagle: I am advised by the Parole Board that they do not employ any caseworkers in Leeds. All caseworkers are based at the board's London office apart from one who is based in Nottingham. Information on the number of caseworkers employed to deal with oral and paper hearings is contained in the following tables.

(i) Number of caseworkers on oral hearings

	Permanent	Temp/Agency
2004-05	23	2
2005-06	27	4
2006-07	29	1
2007-08	29	5
2008-09	24	7

(ii) Number of caseworkers on paper hearings

	Permanent	Temp/Agency
2004-05	16	1
2005-06	13	5
2006-07	11	8
2007-08	15	6
2008-09	13	4

Police Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held in police cells; at what cost; and how many have been so held in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [219155]

Mr. Straw: Prison population figures are published every Friday. The total prison population for England and Wales on Friday 18 July was 83,610 which included 47 prisoners held in police accommodation under Operation Safeguard. The estimated average cost of a place in a police cell under Operation Safeguard is about £385 per night.

The average number of prisoners held each night under Operation Safeguard in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (January to June) based on end month figures was 23,181 and 93 respectively.

Operation Safeguard was activated between 12 October and 22 December 2006 and again from 16 January 2007 to date. The following table covers these periods up to the night of Thursday/Friday 10-11 July and gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used during each year shown. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover.

Aggregate number of prisoner nights in police cells

Police force	2006	2007	2008[1]
Avon and Somerset	0	132	35
Bedfordshire	0	414	82
Cambridgeshire	212	1,262	330
Cheshire	103	4,437	1,153
Cleveland	0	4	0
Cumbria	0	351	89
Derbyshire	113	454	189
Devon and Cornwall	38	1,995	432
Dorset	71	379	75
Durham	42	1,226	284
Dyfed Powys	1	682	0
Essex	1,009	4,387	483
Gloucestershire	0	17	1
Greater Manchester	15	3,086	611
Gwent	0	962	0
Hampshire	65	1,555	337
Hertfordshire	40	1,216	317
Humberside	0	81	30
Kent	335	3,654	961
Lancashire	0	1,802	174
Leicestershire	0	2,970	504
Lincolnshire	165	1,569	2
Merseyside	196	170	43
Metropolitan	333	10,740	3,472
Norfolk	0	20	12
North Wales	14	1,785	376
North Yorkshire	0	39	20
Northamptonshire	219	1,232	43
Northumbria	0	1,242	0
Nottinghamshire	0	187	34
South Wales	81	1,401	486
South Yorkshire	0	1,015	179
Staffordshire	0	2	58
Suffolk	83	1,171	279
Surrey	0	107	9
Sussex	338	262	83
Thames Valley	433	2,727	594
Warwickshire	93	1,191	535
West Mercia	0	63	0
West Midlands	570	6,959	671
West Yorkshire	45	3,672	740
Wiltshire	0	91	6
Total	4,614	66,711	13,729

[1] To 10-11 July.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are serving indeterminate sentences for public protection. [220912]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of May 2008 there were 4,350 prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales serving indeterminate sentences for public protection.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and so the number has been rounded.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders serving indeterminate sentences for public protection are being held beyond the expiry of their tariff. [220800]

Mr. Straw: The database created to support the management of offenders serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection indicated on 15 July 2008 that, for those where there is a confirmed recorded tariff date, 794 had tariffs which have expired.

The database is necessarily a large administrative system tracking a changing and moving population and therefore may not be 100 per cent. accurate. It is updated at intervals rather than being a real time record.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released on temporary licence in each of the last 10 years. [220910]

Mr. Hanson: Records are not held of the number of prisoners granted temporary release. The number of temporary release licences issued in each year since 1997 from all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table:

	Number of temporary release licences issued
1997	227,078
1998	255,886
1999	256,179
2000	256,838
2001	270,122
2002	287,732
2003	328,777
2004	389,548
2005	405,259
2006	400,238

These figures are taken from table 10.6 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006 copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. The data above are the total of all individual licences issued. Some prisoners will be granted temporary release on a number of occasions and so will be issued with multiple licences over the course of a year.

Release on temporary licence is the mechanism that enables prisoners to participate in necessary activities, outside of the prison establishment, that directly contribute to their resettlement into the community and their development of a purposeful law abiding life. Prisoners are not granted temporary release unless they meet the eligibility criteria and pass a stringent risk assessment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release: Employment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what schemes are in place in Leeds to assist prisoners in getting employment upon release; and if he will make a statement. [220711]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is committed to increasing job opportunities and employment for prisoners on release. There are a currently a number of such schemes in Leeds including services provided by the West Yorkshire Probation Area and Department for Work and Pensions. At HMP Leeds itself a range of schemes are available to help prisoners into work including Jobcentre plus, a job club, a job link—to help retain employment for offenders with short sentences; annual job fairs and a range of vocational qualifications and preparation for work training programmes.

Prisoners: Childbirth

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women gave birth to children while serving a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age of the mother and *(b)* prison establishment. [221507]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has only routinely kept information centrally on births in custody since April 2005. Figures prior to this date are not available.

The number of women that have given birth to children while serving a custodial sentence since April 2005 are as follows:

April 2005 to March 2006[1]

Establishment	*Age of Prisoners*														
	18	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
HMP Brockhill	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	3	2	4	—	—	—	2
HMP Bullwood Hall	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
HMP Holloway	1	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	2	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

April 2005 to March 2006[1]

	Age of Prisoners														
Establishment	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—

	Age of Prisoners														
Establishment	*33*	*34*	*35*	*36*	*37*	*38*	*39*	*40*	*41*	*42*	*43*	*44*	*45*	*46*	*47*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Brockhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Holloway	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	2	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Total of 106 women gave birth.
Note:
Age of three mothers were not recorded at HMP Styal.

April 2006 to March 2007[1]

	Age of Prisoners														
Establishment	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
HMP Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—

	Age of Prisoners														
Establishment	*33*	*34*	*35*	*36*	*37*	*38*	*39*	*40*	*41*	*42*	*43*	*44*	*45*	*46*	*47*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Downview	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Total of 26 women gave birth.
Note:
Age of five mothers were not recorded at HMP Styal.

April 2007 to March 2008[1]

	Age of Prisoners														
Establishment	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	1	1	2	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	4	1	2
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	2	1	2	6	—	3	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	3	1
HMP Holloway	1	1	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	3	2
HMP New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	1

April 2007 to March 2008[1]

Establishment	Age of Prisoners														
	18	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP Styal	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	3

Establishment	Age of Prisoners														
	33	*34*	*35*	*36*	*37*	*38*	*39*	*40*	*41*	*42*	*43*	*44*	*45*	*46*	*47*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Brockhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Holloway	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Total of 99 women gave birth.

April 2008 to3 July 2008[1]

Establishment	Age of Prisoners														
	18	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*	*32*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
HMP Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Holloway	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
HMP Styal	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—

Establishment	Age of Prisoners														
	33	*34*	*35*	*36*	*37*	*38*	*39*	*40*	*41*	*42*	*43*	*44*	*45*	*46*	*47*
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Foston Hall	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Holloway	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP New Hall	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Peterborough	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Styal	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Total of 49 women gave birth.

Prisoners: HIV Infection

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of conducting the most recent Public Health Laboratory Service survey into HIV and hepatitis rates in prisons. [220457]

Maria Eagle: The last Public Health Laboratory Service study of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales was conducted in 1997 and 1998. The cost to the Home Office at that time is not available.

Prisoners: Restraint Techniques

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* injuries requiring hospital treatment and *(b)* other injuries have been sustained as a result of the use of control and restraint techniques in each of the last five years, broken down by prison establishment; [221505]

(2) how many times control and restraint techniques have been used on adult prisoners in each of the last five years, broken down by prison establishment. [221506]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and is not available centrally.

Prisons: Capacity

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what spare capacity was in prisons at the most recently available date; and if he will make a statement. [220014]

Mr. Straw: I have responsibility for prisons in England and Wales. Prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Prison population figures are published every Friday. The total prison population for England and Wales on Friday 18 July was 83,610. This included 47 prisoners held in police accommodation under Operation Safeguard. The total useable operational capacity for England and Wales on 18 July was 83,870 including 400 places through Operation Safeguard. Useable operational capacity is the total number of prisoners that the estate can readily be expected to hold. It assumes an operating margin of 2,000 places to ensure prisoners can be managed by sex, risk category, conviction status, individual needs assessments and geographical distribution.

Prison capacity continues to expand as new places are brought into use.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have a specialist mental health facility; and if he will make a statement. [220712]

Maria Eagle: 102 prisons have in-reach teams that provide a range of services to meet the assessed needs of prisoners. PCTs are responsible for commissioning these services. Information about the facilities in which these services are provided is not held centrally. Prisoners who are severely mentally ill are transferred to appropriate hospital accommodation under the Mental Health Act. Treatment under the Mental Health Act cannot take place in prisons.

There is provision for the treatment of Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) in DSPD high secure units at HMP Frankland, HMP Whitemoor, and HMP Low Newton; and particular emotional or psychological needs in Therapeutic Communities at HMP Blundeston, HMP Dovegate, HMP Gartree, HMP Grendon and HMP Send.

Prisons: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce proposals to amend the target regime affecting the Prison Service to incentivise *(a)* the prevention of knives and offensive weapons entering prison premises and *(b)* the identification and confiscation of any knives and offensive weapons found on prison premises during searches. [219441]

Mr. Straw: Establishments deploy a comprehensive range of robust searching techniques and security measures to detect both weapons being smuggled into prisons and those that may already be concealed in the establishment. Such measures include the rub down and full searching of prisoners, staff and visitors, as appropriate; the use of technical devices, such as metal detectors and x-ray machines; CCTV surveillance and, more recently, use of the bodily orifice security scanner. Routine and intelligence-led searching of living accommodation and communal areas is also widely deployed.

Weapons found within prisons will be seized. A prisoner found in possession of a weapon will be subject to internal disciplinary proceedings and possible prosecution. The conveying of an offensive weapon into or out of a prison, or the passing of a weapon to a prisoner, is a criminal offence which can attract a sentence of up to 10 years and/or an unlimited fine.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are in cells intended for *(a)* one and *(b)* two fewer people than are in the cell. [220911]

Mr. Straw: During 2007-08, 19,321 prisoners were doubled in cells certified to hold one person and 1,161 prisoners were held three to a cell certified for two people.

Prisons: Telephone Services

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to conduct a review of the cost of telephone calls from prisons. [220097]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no plans to conduct a review of the cost of telephones calls made from prisons. The National Offender Management Service continues to discuss the cost of calls with the providers but they are not contractually obliged to reduce the cost. To do this without their agreement would require a large subsidy from the taxpayer. The current contract is in place until 2011 and the re-tendering project will commence this year. Reasonable call prices for prisoners will form part of the requirements of the new contract. However, we are implementing reductions for some international calls as part of an extension to a contract with a third party supplier.

Prisons: Waste Management

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he provides to prisons on reducing waste from the meals they provide. [219845]

Maria Eagle: It is the policy of the National Offender Management Service not to waste food.

Prison Service Order 5000 (Prison Catering Services) provides staff with guidance on food waste including a number of practical measures and management actions necessary to keep waste to a minimum. These include the use of pre-select menus and portion control.

Rape: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of reported rape cases in Leeds resulted in convictions in each of the last 10 years. [220779]

Maria Eagle: The Home Office collects crime statistics on the number of rape offences recorded by the police in the Leeds crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area. Rape data at CDRP level are only available from 2001-02 and are shown in table 1.

Police recorded crime (notifiable) data and court proceedings data are not directly comparable. Recorded crime data, published on a financial year basis, concentrates on the number of offences and detections, whereas

court proceedings data are published on a calendar year basis and concentrates on defendants.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape offences in West Yorkshire police force area for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in table 2.

From the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice, it is not possible to identify the location of offences, as the data are not collected at this level of detail. Thus West Yorkshire police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Recorded rapes in the Leeds crime and disorder reduction partnership area

Financial year	*Number of offences*
2001-02	178
2002-03	177
2003-04	227
2004-05	181
2005-06	225
2006-07	237
2007-08	224

Source:
Recorded Crime Section, Home Office.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape offences in West Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Found guilty
1997	23
1998	43
1999	41
2000	38
2001	21
2002	15
2003	30
2004	48
2005	48
2006	37

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.1
Rape
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged 16 or over
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Reoffenders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of defendants released early under the end of custody licence scheme have re-offended during their additional early release period. [220051]

Mr. Straw: All defendants released under the end of custody scheme are sentenced offenders.

The available information on numbers of offenders released on ECL and those recalled because of alleged re-offending is published monthly, in the statistical bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

(The same publication includes details of the eligibility criteria for offenders released under the scheme).

There were 402 individuals alleged to have committed offences during their period of ECL, notified to NOMS Public Protection Unit, for the period 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008. This represents 1 per cent. of the total number of offenders released under the scheme for the same period, 28,879.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were convicted of offences in England and Wales under sections (i) 14(3), (ii) 15(2) and (iii) 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1998 in (A) 2005 and (B) 2006; [219569]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 17 to 24, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 31 to 35, (iv) 36 to 40 and (v) over 40 years were (A) prosecuted and (B) convicted of (1) failing to comply with a road sign, (2) offences under sections (x) 14(3), (y) 15(2) and (z) 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1998, (3) failing to provide a breath specimen for analysis, (4) failing to stop for a police constable and (5) disobeying a police constable stopping traffic in (aa) Essex Police area and (bb) Southend Police area in (AA) 2005 and (BB) 2006. [219570]

Maria Eagle: Available data for Essex police force area and England and Wales for the offences requested, for 2005 and 2006 are contained in tables which have been placed in the Library. It is not possible to identify convictions in Southend Police area as the data are not collected at this level of detail by the Ministry of Justice.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the

principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the review of restraint in juvenile secure settings. [219702]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 367W.

The Government are giving careful consideration to the recommendations of the chairs of the independent review of restraint in juvenile secure settings, Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge. We intend to publish the chairs' full report alongside our response to its recommendations by the end of October.

Supreme Court

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* original and *(b)* current expected opening date of the new Supreme Court building is. [220610]

Mr. Straw: The initial planned opening date for the Supreme Court was October 2008. This was reviewed once detailed survey work and planning conditions were finalised. The amount of work required and the quality of refurbishment necessary would not have been possible in that time-frame. It was announced in March 2006 that the Supreme Court would therefore open in October 2009 to ensure there would be no encroachment into judicial hearing time.

The revised schedule of works allows sufficient time to complete a high-quality refurbishment of a historic listed building and deliver a world-class organisation that properly meets the expectations of the public, the Law Lords, the legal profession and court users. The programme is on target to deliver this in October 2009.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* annual running costs of the Supreme Court. [220768]

Mr. Straw: Following my announcement of 3 July on unforeseen building repair costs, the estimated cost of delivering a Supreme Court for the United Kingdom will be approximately £60 million. The programme is running on time to open the court in October 2009. The establishment of the Supreme Court will see the highest Court of Appeal for the United Kingdom being visibly independent from Parliament. It will be the final court of appeal for all nations of the United Kingdom. We estimate that annual running costs for the Supreme Court will be £12.3 million, based on 2010-11 expected prices.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he plans to answer Question 172523, on the Operation of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, tabled on 4th December 2007 by the hon. Member for Southend West; what the reason for the delay in replying is; what steps he has (a) taken and (b) plans to take to answer written Parliamentary Questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if he will make a statement. [222358]

Maria Eagle: The question was transferred to the Solicitor General on 6 December 2007. The Ministry of Justice's Parliamentary Branch wrote to the Honourable Member on that day informing him of the transfer.

Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders there are in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes, broken down by age. [221500]

Mr. Hanson: The following table, which contains information provided by the Youth Justice Board, shows the number of sentenced or remanded children and young people held in young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes, broken down by age, as at 30 June 2008.

	Age					
Establishment type	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
YOI	0	0	0	295	772	1,543
STC	0	2	68	82	77	30
SCH	4	30	81	58	34	6
Total	4	32	149	435	883	1,579

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young offenders who breached the terms of a community order received a custodial sentence as a result in the last three years. [219440]

Mr. Hanson: This question cannot be answered at this time due to issues of data quality regarding the breach data on the court proceedings database. Data quality checks have shown large variations in the provisions of breach data from the police forces and the courts, rendering the data unsuitable for publication, as such, it was withdrawn from publication in 2004. The sentencing statistics team will not publish statistics on breaches until significant improvements have been made to the submission of data to the Ministry of Justice. At present data quality work is underway to look at improving the data to a standard fit for publication.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the average length of time taken to transfer money between young offender institutions when young people are transferred; and if he will make a statement. [220587]

Mr. Hanson: While no specific assessment has been made of the length of time taken to transfer money between young offender institutions, the timings are dependant on where the offender is transferring to and from. For example, if the money being transferred is between public prisons, then it is processed as an electronic transfer and will be actioned overnight. When a transfer takes place to other types of establishments such as contracted-out prisons or immigration detention centres (for those over 18), the money would be transferred by cheque which would be subject to the normal cheque clearing process operated by the banking system.

Young Offenders: Housing

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy that every child leaving custody receives effective support, including the provision of appropriate housing. [220905]

Mr. Hanson: We are clear that all young people leaving custody should receive the support they need to stop them from re-offending. The Youth Crime Action Plan, which we published on 15 July, sets out proposals to develop a comprehensive package of support for children leaving custody which we will develop through consultation. This includes ensuring that young people have access to appropriate education, health and housing.

We will also finance an expansion of the Youth Justice Board's resettlement and aftercare provision which has already been rolled out in 59 Youth Offending Teams. This programme provides intensive support for over 2,000 young people in the youth justice system. This includes access to substance misuse and mental health treatment programmes and planned activities to address offending behaviour. It also provides practical support including assistance to access accommodation.

Young Offenders: Legal Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy for all children in contact with the criminal justice system to be entitled to free legal advice and representation in relation to such contact. [220904]

Maria Eagle: Legal aid is widely available to children and young people when they come into contact with the criminal justice system. All those interviewed by police must be informed of their right to non-means-tested legal advice. A young person under 17 must also have an 'appropriate adult' with them when interviewed by the police; this could be a parent, guardian, social or health care professional.

If a youth appears before court, legal representation is provided free of charge subject to the youth passing the 'Interests of Justice' test. If a youth does not have their own solicitor, the court duty solicitor can provide free advice and, if appropriate, representation.

While in the vast majority of cases, youths are properly represented at court, the Government are currently exploring how youth defendants can be made better aware of their rights to advice and representation. It is also carrying out additional research to assess whether there are any vulnerable youths going without representation, and if so, to identify appropriate remedies.

Young Offenders: Local Authorities

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with local government representatives proposals to transfer child detention budgets to local authorities. [219438]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

There are no current proposals to transfer child detention budgets to local authorities. The youth crime action plan sets out proposals to make local authorities responsible for the full cost of court-ordered secure remand. They are already responsible for the placement and for one third of the costs where the secure estate is used and the full cost where alternative provision is used. We are consulting on this proposal and will have further discussions with local government representatives as part of that process and prior to any final decisions.

Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to involve the families of young offenders in their rehabilitation following a period of detention. [219439]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The youth crime action plan sets out the Government's intention to develop a comprehensive package of support for children leaving custody. This would include conducting on ongoing assessments of a young person's risk of re-offending and their underlying needs—including family factors—to shape the provision they receive.

Through the family pathfinders work we will also explore if a family needs assessment framework can be developed to include regular reviews with the family (including young people where appropriate) and other agencies.

We also signalled our intention to ensure that all assessments of children in custody consider the family need and the support required to enable the child to return to their family on release.

Youth Citizenship Commission: Operating Costs

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual running costs were of the Youth Citizenship Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [220480]

Bridget Prentice: The Youth Citizenship Commission is scheduled to report in spring 2009. The staff costs, and travel and subsistence costs for staff and commissioners, are expected to total up to £135,500 for the life of the Commission.

In addition, the commission will incur the costs of funding research; engagement events around the UK; and a website; and will have publishing costs. We have not yet finalised the contracts relating to these elements, so I cannot provide precise figures at this stage. I will however write to you with more information in the autumn once contracts are in place.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on 10 Downing street: manpower, what the job titles and specifications are of each of the 10 staff in the house management team. [217335]

Mr. Watson: Information about the contractual terms of individual members of staff is personal information between the employer and employee and therefore not disclosed. The cost and number of No. 10 staff are published annually.

Admiralty House

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Admiralty House, whether the Deputy Prime Minister's Office provided *(a)* linen and laundry services, *(b)* porters, *(c)* internal plants, *(d)* catering services, *(e)* telephones, *(f)* cable or satellite television and *(g)* internet access, to the right hon. Member for Kingston-upon-Hull (i) at public expense and (ii) billed to the resident in each case. [211865]

Phil Hope: No internal plants or linen and laundry service were provided to the flat. The charge paid by occupying Departments to the Cabinet Office includes the provision of in-hours portering services. Catering services can be provided by the Cabinet Office's facilities management provider on a re-charge basis. The Deputy Prime Minister's Office provided telephone lines, internet access and cable television.

Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many deaths from cancer in England there were in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007; [220572]

(2) how many deaths from cardiovascular disease in England there were in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007. [220573]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (1) how many deaths from cancer in England there were in (a) 2005 and (b) 2007; and (2) how many deaths from cardiovascular disease in England there were in (a) 2005 and (b) 2007. (220572, 220573)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths in England where (1) cancer and (2) cardiovascular disease was the underlying cause of death, in (a) 2005 and (b) 2007.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of (1) cancer and (2) cardiovascular disease[1], England, 2005 and 2007[2]

		Deaths (persons)
Cause of death	*2005*	*2007*
Cancer	126,274	127,759
Cardiovascular disease	171,040	158,604

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for cancer, and 100-199 for cardiovascular disease.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Civil Servants: Holiday Leave

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether privilege day holidays for civil servants are the same for all Government Departments. [217367]

Mr. Watson: The civil service management Code grants Departments authority to determine their own arrangements for privilege holidays provided the day for the Queen's official birthday is on either the Friday preceding or the Tuesday after the spring bank holiday.

The civil service management code can be found at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Civil Servants: Pensions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme has made investments in the last two years in financial vehicles that bundle debt together. [216275]

Mr. Watson: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme makes no investments of any description since it is an unfunded pension scheme.

Death: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of *(a)* the overall mortality rate and *(b)* the cigarette smoking-related mortality rate in Darlington constituency in each of the last five years. [219625]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of (a) the overall mortality rate and (b) the cigarette smoking-related mortality rate in Darlington constituency in each of the last five years. (219625)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate for Darlington parliamentary constituency, for 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Deaths related to cigarette smoking cannot be directly estimated, as smoking status is not included on the death certificate. However, research published by the then Health Development Agency in 2004 suggested that, in the period 1998-2002, some 17 per cent. of all deaths in England were attributable to smoking.[1]

[1] Twigg L, Moon G, Walker S (2004) 'The smoking epidemic in England'. London; Health Development Agency

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] all-cause mortality, Darlington parliamentary constituency, 2001-05[2,3]

	Rate per 100,000
2001	773
2002	749
2003	734
2004	786
2005	683

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average cost per hour to his Department was of a management consultant working in the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months. [217352]

Mr. Watson: The information is not held in the format requested and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what IT contracts his Departments and its agency have entered into in the last two years. [215165]

Mr. Watson: The information is not available centrally in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Major IT contracts awarded by the Cabinet Office and Central Office of Information in 2006-07 and 2007-08 include:

Nature of supply	*Supplier*
Cabinet Office	
Secure office system	LogicaCMG UK Limited
IT and telecommunications equipment software, services, application development and training	Fujitsu Services Limited
Management of secure web-based system for public access to Government on-line services	Atos Origin
Secure information system	IBM United Kingdom Limited
Central Office of Information	
Hardware and software maintenance for asset management system	Autonomy
Server maintenance	Probrand/CCE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many receptions he has hosted and funded in his capacity as Minister for the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception; [203839]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1682W, on departmental official hospitality, when annual lists providing information relating to official receptions will be published by the Cabinet Office; and whether this information will include the names of the individuals and organisations who *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception hosted by the Office of the Leader of the House. [207326]

Edward Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my statement of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 52WS.

My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House hosted the traditional annual Leader's Christmas reception in December 2007 to thank Members of Parliament, House of Commons officials and colleagues across Government for their contribution to the work of the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons. The total cost for the reception was £4,287.63.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220738]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. All paper used for photocopying is 100 per cent. recycled with a post-consumer waste content of 100 per cent. The vast majority of paper supplied for printed publications is 100 per cent. recycled with a post-consumer waste content of 75 per cent.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220441]

Phil Hope: The Department does not request discounts from suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices.

Departmental Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a list of the residential properties owned by the Duchy of Lancaster. [211643]

Edward Miliband: Due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information, I am unable to place a list of the properties held by the Duchy of Lancaster in the Library of the House.

The Duchy does not own any assets within the Bromley and Chislehurst constituency.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many days of sick leave were taken by employees of the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997. [216701]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

Details of the absence rates for the Cabinet Office for the period 1997 to March 2008 are published on the Cabinet Office Website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

The absence statistics for the Cabinet Office are also published as part of the annual civil service absence statistics online for the period 2004 to 31 March 2007 at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1093W, how many away days were located outside his Department's premises in each of the last five years. [219489]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and other HM Treasury guidance.

Disadvantaged: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the percentage of the population in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District which is economically inactive. [220781]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is of the percentage of the population in (a) Leeds West constituency and (b) Leeds Metropolitan District which is economically inactive. [220781]

The Office for National Statistics compiles estimates of inactivity for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 contains estimates of the percentage of persons aged 16 or more who were resident in the Leeds West constituency and the Leeds Metropolitan District and economically inactive for the 12 month period ending December 2007 from the APS. These differ from the published estimates which are for persons of working age (Males age 16-64, females age 16-59), which have also been included in the table.

As this estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, it is based on a very small sample size, and is therefore subject to a large margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Percentage of persons economically inactive resident in Leeds West Parliamentary Constituency and Leeds Metropolitan District

Percentage

Year ending December 2007	*Age 16+*	*Working Age[1]*
Leeds West	34	24
Leeds Metropolitan District	35	22

[1] Males age 16-64, Females age 16-59

Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey

Electoral Register

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which local authority areas voter registration levels have declined over the last 10 year period for which figures are available. [218825]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking in which local authority areas voter registration levels have declined over the last 10 year period for which figures are available. (218825)

The following list details the local authorities within the UK that have a decline in the local government electorate between 1997 and 2007.

Local authorities showing a decline in the number of people registered to vote in local/European elections between 1997 and 2007, for the United Kingdom

Aberdeen City
Allerdale
Alnwick
Angus
Antrim
Ards
Argyll and Bute
Ballymena
Barrow in Furness
Belfast
Birmingham
Blackpool
Blaenau Gwent
Bradford
Brentwood
Broxtowe
Burnley
Calderdale
Cambridge
Carmarthenshire
Carrickfergus
Castle Morpeth
Castlereagh
Chester
Chester le Street
Chiltern
Coleraine
Coventry
Derry
Doncaster
Dundee City
Durham
East Ayrshire
East Dunbartonshire
Edinburgh, City of
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Gateshead
Gedling
Glasgow City
Gwynedd
Halton
Hyndburn
Inverclyde
Isle of Anglesey
Kingston upon Hull, City of
Larne

Lisburn
Liverpool
Malvern Hills
Merthyr Tydfil
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newtownabbey
North Down
North East Lincolnshire
North Lanarkshire
Nottingham
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Redcar and Cleveland
Renfrewshire
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff
Rotherham
Runnymede
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Shrewsbury and Atcham
Solihull
South Ayrshire
South Tyneside
Southend on Sea
St. Helens
Stirling
Stockport
Stoke on Trent
Strabane
Sunderland
Tameside
Thanet
Walsall
Wansbeck
West Dunbartonshire
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wolverhampton

Note:

Different names may have been used for the same geographic areas in the past.

Source: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest percentage of voter registration in local authority areas in England was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [218826]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest percentage of voter registration in local authority areas in England is for the most recent period for which figures are available. (218826)

The closest available approximation to the percentage of voter registration is the number of people who are registered to vote in the local/European elections as a percent of the estimated usually resident population age 18 and over.

The proxy percentages should not be interpreted as the percentage of the eligible population who are registered to vote. They may be an under estimates in some areas because not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote, for example foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth are not eligible.

Conversely, for other areas rates exceed one hundred per cent as figures for the registered electorate may be inflated. People who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died.

Bearing these caveats in mind the highest, average and lowest percentage of voter registration in local authority areas in England, for 2006, are 101.9%, 96.5% and 68.6% respectively. 2006 is the most recent year that estimates of the usually resident population are available.

Employment: North East

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Darlington constituency, (ii) County Durham and (iii) the north east in each year since 1997. [219626]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many (a) part-time and (b) full-time jobs there were in (i) Darlington constituency, (ii) County Durham and (iii) the North East in each year since 1997. (219626).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is the preferred source for estimates at the detailed level requested although the estimates refer to the number of people in employment rather than the number of jobs.

The attached table provides estimates of the number of people aged 16 and over, in full and part-time employment, resident in Darlington, County Durham and the North East.

As some of these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part time[1] employment, resident in Darlington parliamentary constituency[2], County Durham[3] and the North East[4], 1998-2007

Thousand

	Darlington[2]			County Durham[3]			North East[4]		
12 months ending:	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*
February 1998[5]	28	11	39	163	49	211	779	281	1,060
February 1999[5]	29	11	40	165	45	210	780	273	1,053

Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part time[1] employment, resident in Darlington parliamentary constituency[2], County Durham[3] and the North East[4], 1998-2007

Thousand

	Darlington[2]			County Durham[3]			North East[4]		
12 months ending	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*
February 2000[5]	26	11	37	169	51	219	761	287	1,048
February 2001[5]	31	10	41	166	49	215	794	280	1,074
February 2002[5]	31	10	41	160	52	212	796	279	1,075
February 2003[5]	29	10	40	149	46	196	802	280	1,082
February 2004[5]	30	10	40	152	44	196	809	282	1,091
March 2005[6]	30	10	40	169	49	219	835	289	1,124
March 2006[6]	29	10	38	168	50	218	850	286	1,136
March 2007[6]	29	11	40	175	58	233	860	294	1,153

[1] Includes those full-time and part-time on new deal.
[2] 1995 parliamentary constituency boundary to February 2004, 2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision thereafter.
[3] Local authority district.
[4] Government office region.
[5] Based on annual Labour Force Survey (LFS).
[6] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS).
Notes:
1. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
2. Totals may not sum because of rounding.
3. Figures are based on the most recent population estimates published in 2007.
Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

Food: Prices

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated average *(a)* monthly and *(b)* annual food bills for families in (i) England and Wales and (ii) in each region were in each of the last three years. [220593]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the estimated average *(a)* monthly and *(b)* annual food bills for families in England and Wales were in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region (220593).

Estimates of household expenditure appear in the annual ONS publication Family Spending. The following table shows the estimates of household spending on food and non-alcoholic drink for England, English regions and for Wales, as they have appeared in the last three editions of Family Spending. These estimates exclude spending on food and drink in cafes, restaurants, and pubs, as well as take away food and snack food which are all classified as catering services.

The estimates published in Family Spending are based on data collected through the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), which is a sample survey, covering approximately 6,000 households in the United Kingdom. Estimates for regions are normally based on data collected over three years, and estimates based on data for the periods 2002-03 to 2004-05, and 2003-04 to 2005-06 have been provided in the following table. Starting with the most recent edition of Family Spending, Family Spending 2007, which published data for 2006, estimates are now published for calendar years, and rather than calculate an average of data from financial and calendar years, regional estimates in Family Spending 2007 were based solely on data collected in 2006.

Household expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drink by region: England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006[1]

£

	2002-03 to 2004-05	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2006*
Expenditure per month[2]			
England	190	190	200
North East	170	170	170
North West	190	190	190
Yorkshire and the Humber	170	170	200
East Midlands	190	190	210
West Midlands	180	180	200
Eastern	200	210	210
London	190	200	220
South East	200	200	210
South West	190	190	200
Wales	180	190	180
Expenditure per year[2]			
England	2,270	2,230	2,440
North East	2,080	2,070	2,090
North West	2,220	2,240	2,230
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,060	2,090	2,410
East Midlands	2,290	2,330	2,500
West Midlands	2,190	2,210	2,450
Eastern	2,400	2,500	2,510
London	2,330	2,420	2,620
South East	2,410	2,440	2,560
South West	2,290	2,330	2,370
Wales	2,170	2,250	2,200

[1] Estimates for regions are normally based on data collected over three years. Starting with the most recent edition of family spending, Family Spending 2007, which published data for 2006, estimates are now published for calendar years, and rather than average data from financial and calendar years, regional estimates in Family Spending 2007 were based solely on data collected in 2006.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Family spending, ONS

Government Departments: Heating

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to adopt a target for the sourcing of heat and cooling supply on the Government estate from combined heat and power generation. [220788]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate include one on combined heat and power. The target which runs until 2010 is that Departments seek to source at least 15 per cent. of electricity from combined heat and power.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths from hospital-acquired infections there were in Wales in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* hospital and *(b)* local health board area. [219709]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from hospital-acquired infections there were in Wales in each year since 1997, broken down by (a) hospital and (b) local health board area. (219709)

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the hospital or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments and may have acquired infections in a different place from where they died.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not receive information on 'hospital-acquired infections' but special analyses of deaths involving two infections that are often associated with healthcare, MRSA and Clostridium difficile, are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. The most recent figures were published in reports in Health Statistics Quarterly 37 in February of this year. This publication is available in the House of Commons library.

Additionally, a report on deaths involving MRSA and Clostridium difficile by individual communal establishment (including hospitals) where the person died was published for the first time in Health Statistics Quarterly 38 in May this year. Tables that supplement this release can be found on the National Statistics Website.[1,2]

[1] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/C_Diff_establishments_2001_06.xls

[2] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/MRSA_establishments_2001_06.xls

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of people migrating to the UK were from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* other countries since 2004. [221205]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question of how many and what proportion of people migrating to the UK were from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* other countries since 2004. (221205)

Total international migration to the UK between 2004 and 2006 by country of last residence is shown in the following table:

Total international immigration to the UK by country of last residence, 2004 to 2006

	Number (thousand)			Percentage	
	All countries	European Union 25	Other countries	European Union 25	Other countries
2004	586	150	436	26	74
2005	563	182	381	32	68
2006	591	205	386	35	65

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for which non-EEA countries there was *(a)* an excess of emigration from the UK over immigration to the UK and *(b)* an excess of immigration to the UK over emigration (i) in 1987 to 1997 and (ii) since 1997; and what the size of the excess was in each case. [221210]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question for which non-EEA countries there was (a) an excess of emigration from the UK over immigration to the UK and (b) an excess of immigration to the UK over emigration (i) in 1987 to 1997 and (ii) since 1997; and what the size of the excess was in each case. (221210)

Table 1, attached, provides the top three non-EEA countries with net immigration and with net emigration figures for 1987 to 2006. Only the top three are provided to ensure that the estimates are reliable. Data are grouped by year because they are readily available in this format. The figures are based on the International Passenger Survey and care should be taken when interpreting net migration estimates since a small net migration figure may mask large immigration and emigration flows.

Table 1: Migration estimates by non-EEA country of last or next residence, 1987 to 2006—top three countries

United Kingdom (thousand)

	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
1987-1991			
Pakistan	49	15	+34
New Zealand	64	34	+30
Bangladesh	31	6	+26
Canada	32	56	-25
United States of America	135	170	-35
Australia	119	198	-79
1992-1997			
India	42	12	+30
Pakistan	39	11	+28
South Africa	48	30	+19
New Zealand	50	64	-14
United States of America	148	178	-30
Australia	121	174	-53

Table 1: Migration estimates by non-EEA country of last or next residence, 1987 to 2006—top three countries

	United Kingdom (thousand)		
	Immigration	*Emigration*	*Net migration*
1998-2002			
South Africa	113	36	+77
China	73	10	+63
India	70	14	+56
Switzerland	14	20	-6
United States of America	142	151	-9
Australia	200	219	-19
2003-2006			
India	176	25	+152
Pakistan	91	13	+77
China	105	37	+68
Canada	31	42	-11
New Zealand	51	84	-33
Australia	149	230	-81

+ Denotes a net inflow figure
- Denotes a net outflow figure
Notes:
1. Based on data from the International Passenger Survey. Excludes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
2. Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.
Source:
International Passenger Survey

Infant Mortality

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many babies *(a)* were stillborn and *(b)* died within one year of birth in each year since 1979. [219714]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many babies (a) were stillborn and (b) died within one year of birth in each year since 1979. (219714)

The number of stillbirths and infant deaths in England and Wales for 1979 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available) can be found in the attached table.

Stillbirths[1] and infant deaths[2], England and Wales, 1979-2006

	Number of stillbirths	*Number of infant deaths*
1979	5,125	8,178
1980	4,773	7,899
1981	4,207	7,021
1982	3,939	6,775
1983	3,631	6,381
1984	3,643	6,037
1985	3,645	6,141
1986	3,549	6,313
1987	3,423	6,272
1988	3,382	6,270
1989	3,236	5,808
1990	3,256	5,564
1991	3,254	5,158
1992	2,944	4,539
1993	3,855	4,242
1994	3,813	4,120
1995	3,600	3,982
1996	3,539	3,959
1997	3,439	3,799
1998	3,417	3,625
1999	3,305	3,621
2000	3,203	3,377
2001	3,159	3,240
2002	3,372	3,127
2003	3,612	3,306
2004	3,686	3,218
2005	3,483	3,259
2006[3]	3,602	3,368

[1] From 1979 to 30 September 1992 stillbirths relate to foetal deaths at or over 28 weeks gestation, and from 1 October 1992 at or over 24 weeks gestation.
[2] Deaths under age one, number of deaths are based on annual occurrences for years 1993-2005 and annual registrations for all other years.
[3] Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median wage for (i) men and (ii) women has been in each year since 2003. [220126]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) mean and (b) median wage for (i) men and (ii)) women has been in each year since 2003. (220126)

Levels of earnings, including mean and medians, are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results for each year since 2003 can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

Smoking: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of *(a)* the overall mortality rate and *(b)* the rate of mortality related to cigarette smoking in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [220394]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of (a) the overall mortality rate and (b) the rate of mortality related to cigarette smoking in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. (220394)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate for the London borough of Bexley, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Deaths related to cigarette smoking cannot be directly estimated, as smoking status is not included on the death certificate. However, research published by the then Health Development Agency in 2004 suggested that, in the period 1998-2002, some 17 per cent of all deaths in England were attributable to smoking[1].

[1] Twigg L, Moon G, Walker S (2004) The smoking epidemic in England. London; Health Development Agency

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] all-cause mortality, London borough of Bexley, 2002-06[2, 3]

	Rate per 100,000
2002	630
2003	628
2004	572
2005	549
2006	553

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Taxation

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the estimated average cost to families in England and Wales was of *(a)* direct taxation and *(b)* indirect taxation in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; [220590]

(2) what the estimated average cost to families in England and Wales was of VAT charges in each of the last three years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region. [220592]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what the estimated average cost to families in England and Wales was of (a) direct taxation and (b) indirect taxation in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region (220590); and secondly what the estimated average cost to families in England and Wales was of VAT charges in each of the last three years (a) in total and (b) broken down by region (220592).

Estimates of the payment of both direct and indirect taxes by UK households appear in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2006-07 was published on the National Statistics website on 25th June 2008 at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits

The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 6,000 households in the UK.

The two tables below, which are based on the same data, show the average annual payments of these taxes for households in England, Wales and each region of England. These estimates are based on a household survey, and so some of the year to year variation in estimates is due to sampling error.

Table 1: Average direct and indirect taxes for households in England and Wales[1, 2, 3] 2004-05 to 2006-07

	2004-05	2005-06	£ per year 2006-07
England			
VAT	2,030	2,060	2,100
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,810	4,760	4,950
Direct taxes	6,800	6,960	7,480
Total taxes	11,600	11,720	12,420
Wales			
VAT	1,730	1,840	1,980
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,300	4,560	4,820
Direct taxes	4,570	4,700	6,020
Total taxes	8,870	9,270	10,840

[1] Indirect taxes include VAT, duty on tobacco, alcohol, hydrocarbon oils, televisions licences, air passenger duty, Stamp duty, as well as other taxes on final goods and services and intermediate taxes.
[2] Direct taxes consist of income tax (after deducting tax credits and tax relief at source on life assurance premiums), national insurance contributions, and council tax but after deducting discounts and council tax benefits.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Average direct and indirect taxes for households in English regions[1, 2, 3] 2004-05 to 2006-07

	2004-05	2005-06	£ per year 2006-07
North East			
VAT	1,720	1,750	2,030
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,090	4,170	4,660
Direct taxes	4,550	4,680	5,520
Total taxes	8,640	8,860	10,180
North West and Merseyside			
VAT	2,090	1,880	1,920
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,980	4,330	4,640
Direct taxes	5,830	5,510	5,980
Total taxes	10,810	9,840	10,620
Yorkshire and the Humber			
VAT	2,060	1,920	2,100
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,910	4,330	4,740
Direct taxes	5,570	5,160	5,660
Total taxes	10,480	9,490	10,400
East Midlands			
VAT	2,060	1,980	1,980
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,780	4,630	4,710
Direct taxes	6,140	6,180	6,490
Total taxes	10,910	10,810	11,200
West Midlands			
VAT	1,780	2,010	1,990
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,330	4,640	4,750
Direct taxes	5,490	6,760	6,360
Total taxes	9,820	11,400	11,120
Eastern			
VAT	2,130	2,300	2,270
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,970	5,280	5,240
Direct taxes	7,690	7,450	7,550
Total taxes	12,650	12,740	12,790
London			
VAT	2,040	2,090	2,070
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,900	4,950	4,900
Direct taxes	8,910	8,180	9,420
Total taxes	13,810	13,140	14,320
South East			
VAT	2,300	2,100	2,340
Indirect taxes (including vat)	5,210	5,110	5,380
Direct taxes	8,560	10,570	9,320

Table 2: Average direct and indirect taxes for households in English regions[1, 2, 3] 2004-05 to 2006-07

			£ per year
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total taxes	13,770	15,680	14,700
South West			
VAT	2,080	2,100	2,030
Indirect taxes (including vat)	4,810	4,790	4,810
Direct taxes	5,960	6,330	6,670
Total taxes	10,770	11,120	11,480

[1] Indirect taxes include VAT, duty on tobacco, alcohol, hydrocarbon oils, televisions licences, air passenger duty, Stamp duty, as well as other taxes on final goods and services and intermediate taxes.
[2] Direct taxes consist of income tax after deducting tax credits and tax relief at source on life assurance premiums), national insurance contributions, and council tax but after deducting discounts and council tax benefits.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Unemployment: Hyndburn

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the working-age population in Hyndburn constituency is economically inactive. [218288]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of the working-age population in Hyndburn constituency are economically inactive. (218288)

The Office for National Statistics compiles estimates of inactivity for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The estimate of 28% for people of working age (Males aged 16-64, Females aged 16-59) for Hyndburn Constituency was obtained from the APS for the 12 months ending in December 2007, which is the latest period for which estimates are available.

As this estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, it is based on a very small sample size, and is therefore subject to a large margin of uncertainty.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what youth unemployment was in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire, *(c)* the west midlands and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2005. [220128]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of youth unemployment has been in (a) Tamworth constituency, (b) Staffordshire, (c) the West Midlands and (d) the UK in each year since 2005. (220128)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The Annual Population Survey classifies as unemployed people who are without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their APS interview and who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or are waiting to start a job already obtained.

Table 1, attached, shows the level of youth unemployment defined as persons age 16-24 resident in (a) Tamworth constituency, (b) Staffordshire, (c) the West Midlands and (d) the UK for the 12 month periods ending December, for 2005-2007, from the APS, which is the most recent period for which estimates are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

The data are also published on the Office for National Statistics's Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged 16 to 24, resident in (a) Tamworth constituency, (b) Staffordshire, (c) the West Midlands and (d) the UK in each year since 2005

Thousand

12 months ending	*December 2005*	*December 2006*	*December 2007*
Tamworth constituency	1	[1]—	1
Staffordshire	6	4	7
West Midlands	58	61	64
United Kingdom	610	662	660

[1] Disclosive or data is unavailable.
Note:
The estimates for local areas are based on very small sample sizes and are subject to a very high degree of sampling variability. Changes from year to year, especially, should be treated with caution.
Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged between 18 and 25 years were unemployed *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [220147]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people aged between 18 and 25 years who were unemployed (a) in 1997 and (b) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [220147]

In the UK, for the three month period ending March 1997, there were an estimated 552 thousand people aged 18 to 25 inclusive who were unemployed. The corresponding estimate for the three months ending March 2008 was 533 thousand.

The estimates of unemployment use the definition agreed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), i.e. people are unemployed if they are without a job, want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks, or if they are out of work, have found a job and are going to start it in the next two weeks.

Each month the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes Labour Force Survey (LFS) unemployment estimates by age in the Labour Market Statistics First Release. Historical information can be found via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children Act 2004

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he has given to extending the provisions of section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to the armed forces. [220691]

Kevin Brennan: We currently have no plans to extend the provisions of section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to the armed forces. Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2006) provides statutory guidance on how to help safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including young people under the age of 16 who are in the armed forces as recruits or trainees, or who may be dependents of a service family, whether based in the UK or overseas. The armed forces are fully committed to co-operating with statutory and other agencies in supporting families and have procedures to help safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In addition, the Department for Children, Schools and Families continues to work closely with the Ministry of Defence and offers advice on safeguarding children and young people attached to garrisons abroad.

Children in Care: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were absent from school without authorisation in each of the last 10 years. [219483]

Jim Knight: Information is not collected in the format requested. However, figures on the number of looked after children who missed at least 25 days of school are shown in the table.

Number and percentage of looked after children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months and who missed at least 25 days of school[1] – 12 months ending 30 September 2000-07, England

	Looked after children	
	Number[2]	Percentage
2000	4,000	12.0
2001	4,100	12.2
2002	4,100	12.0
2003	4,400	12.4
2004	4,300	12.3
2005	4,400	12.6
2006	4,600	13.4
2007	4,400	13.0

[1] Includes authorised and unauthorised absence.
[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many holiday club places were provided by his Department for school-age children in each of the last five years; what proportion provided services for *(a)* six hours or less, *(b)* between six and eight hours, *(c)* between eight and 10 hours and *(d)* more than 10 hours each day; and what information he holds on the average cost to parents of taking up such places. [220029]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information about holiday clubs that were registered with Ofsted, these are facilities that provide day care for children under eight They may also provide care for children up to 14 years old, and up to 16 years old for children with special needs.

Table 1 shows the total number of Ofsted registered places for children under eight in holiday clubs for each year available.

Table 1

	Total number of places
2003	121,700
2006	263,900

Table 2 shows the proportion of holiday clubs by the number of hours they were open each day during the school holidays in 2006. Figures are not available for previous years.

Table 2

	Percentage of providers
1-2 hours	1
3-4 hours	8
5-6 hours	14
7-8 hours	14
9-10 hours	53
11 hours or more	10
Mean number of hours open	8.3

In 2006 the average hourly fee charged by holiday clubs was £1.70[1]. Figures are not available for previous years.

[1] Caution should be taken with the data on fees; this figure has been derived from a number of variables and is prone to distortion.

Children: Disadvantaged

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the St Albans constituency were eligible for free school meals in each year since 1997. [221412]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is given in the table.

Nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: Position in January each year 1997 to 2008, St. Albans parliamentary constituency

	Maintained Nursery and Primary Schools			Maintained Secondary Schools		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
1997[2]	8,064	1,500	18.6	7,670	642	8.4
1998[2]	8,138	732	9.0	7,951	635	8.0
1999[2]	8,221	738	9.0	8,119	625	7.7
2000[2]	8,213	722	8.8	8,397	624	7.4
2001[2]	8,372	684	8.2	8,588	629	7.3
2002[2]	8,439	663	7.9	8,871	574	6.5
2003[3]	8,498	597	7.0	9,083	624	6.9
2004[3]	8,455	667	7.9	9,141	602	6.6
2005[3]	8,389	629	7.5	9,141	604	6.6

Nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: Position in January each year 1997 to 2008, St. Albans parliamentary constituency

	Maintained Nursery and Primary Schools			*Maintained Secondary Schools*		
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number on roll*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
2006[3]	8,314	542	6.6	9,194	601	6.5
2007[3]	8,454	516	6.2	9,114	595	6.5
2008[3]	8,662	527	6.2	9,023	505	5.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Also includes CTCs and academies (although none of these school types in St Albans).
[2] Includes dually registered pupils, excludes boarding pupils.
[3] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
Source:
School Census.

Children: Employment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress he has made in updating regulations and guidance on child employment; and if he will make a statement. [219965]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We do not have plans to amend regulations relating to the employment of children, but we are considering whether amendments need to be made to those relating to children's participation in entertainment. We recognise that there is a need for guidance on both child employment and performance and we are planning to produce this in the near future.

Children: Protection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people resident in Stroud constituency are on List 99. [220281]

Kevin Brennan: The identification of the number of individuals registered on List 99 who have home addresses in Stroud would require each of the case records to be checked. This could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost and would only provide historical information correct at the time at which the individuals concerned were registered.

Once an individual is on List 99, a standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure will reveal the barred status of that individual to an employer together with details of any criminal convictions. Information on an individual's address at the time of listing is not necessary in order to check whether that person is barred.

Children: Restraint Techniques

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times oxygen has been administered to a child following restraint in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres, *(c)* local authority secure children's homes, *(d)* immigration removal centres, *(e)* maintained residential special schools, *(f)* NHS psychiatric hospitals and *(g)* local authority children's homes in each of the last five years. [220171]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The data is not collected centrally. Enquiries would need to be made to each of the establishments involved and they, in turn, would need to review their records. As in some cases this would involve a manual search, it is not possible to provide the information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Children: Wheelchairs

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in improving the provision of wheelchair services for children and young people since the publication of the Aiming High for Disabled Children document in May 2007. [220201]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme was set up on 2006 to design a radical new model for delivery of both community equipment and wheelchairs in England. The remit of the programme was to place service users and carers at the heart of any new service model and build on the strengths of the third and private sector. The overall aim was to develop a new high quality system for delivering equipment which would give those supported by the state the sort of choice and control they have not previously enjoyed. Responsibility for assessment if need remains with local health and social care commissioners.

The programme has developed a business case for a new model of delivery of wheelchair services which is currently being considered.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212873]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 and has not incurred any new capital investment since that time. The expenditure on refurbishment projects for the financial year 2007-08 was £12,028,357.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental

meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [208707]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families financial systems does not hold information on the amount of spend incurred purely for refreshments. The information held identifies hospitality spend which includes buffets as well as refreshments. Therefore the information could be provided only at disproportionate costs. All refreshments provided by our catering provider, Aramark, for internal meetings and functions is Fairtrade.

The Department was created on 28 June 2007 and the hospitality spend for the financial year 2007-08 was £354,769.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the change in the number of employees of his Department has been since it was established. [217076]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was established as part of the machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007 with the vast majority of staff coming from the former Department for Education and Skills. At the point of establishment there were 2,774.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in my Department. At 30 June 2008 there were 2,586.6 FTE employees, so there has been a net reduction of 188 FTE employees.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department and its predecessor was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220686]

Kevin Brennan: The percentage of paper from recycled sources used in the last two financial years for

Sheffield and London Reprographics: 97 per cent;

National floor copiers (all four sites): 100 per cent;

Printed publications: 100 per cent.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his Department's budget and that of its predecessor was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218062]

Ed Balls: The proportion of my Department's budget and that of its predecessors that was spent on research in each of the past 10 years is shown in the following table.

	Total departmental spending (DEL and AME) by DCSF or its predecessor[1] (£ billion)	*Social research expenditure as a proportion of total departmental expenditure (DEL and AME) by DCSF and its predecessors[2] (Percentage)*
1998-99	17.863	0.03
1999-2000	18.970	0.03
2000-01	20.885	0.05
2001-02	23.482	0.03
2002-03	20.263	0.05
2003-04	21.789	0.05
2004-05	22.734	0.06
2005-06	26.497	0.08
2006-07	54.568	0.05
2007-08	60.887	0.04

[1] Source: 1998-99 to 2001-02 figures are from the Department for Education and Skills departmental report 2003, Annex. 2002-03 figures onwards are from DCSF departmental report 2008, Annex A.

[2] Details of the expenditure on research funded from the central research budget is available for the full period requested. However, expenditure on research funded by individual policy budgets has only been recorded centrally since 2005-06.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract agreed and signed between the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and ETS in 2007. [220150]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) oversees the marking process which is delivered by ETS Europe, the new test delivery contractor, on the QCA's behalf. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, right hon. Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 220150.

The information you have requested is subject to an obligation of confidentiality and is commercially sensitive and cannot be provided.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will arrange for the key stage 2 and key stage 3 standard assessment tests taken in 2008 to be re-marked. [221209]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency, which administers the key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests, has arrangements in place for schools to seek a review of the marking of test if they find evidence that the mark scheme has not been properly applied.

Extended Schools

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* secondary school children, *(b)* primary school children and *(c)* all children have access to the full extended school core offer in each local education authority. [220508]

Beverley Hughes: The following table shows the percentages of secondary school children, primary school children and all children who have access to the full extended school core offer in each local authority. The core offer comprises a varied menu of activities in primary and secondary schools; high quality childcare 8 am to 6 pm 48 weeks a year in primary schools; parenting support; swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services such as health and social care; and wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.

The pupil figures provided are based on information taken from DCSF's Edubase system and the percentages are in relation to the total school population in that local authority. The percentages have been rounded up to two decimal places.

There are many other schools which are already providing individual parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures. Monthly variations can occur, resulting in figures going down as well, for example as a result of local school reorganisations. By 2010 we expect all schools to be offering access to extended services.

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	Phase	Percentage
Barking and Dagenham	Primary	26.39
	Secondary	80.94
Total		48.82
Barnet	Primary	66.27
	Secondary	53.62
Total		60.91
Barnsley	Primary	79.45
	Secondary	91.86
Total		84.59
Bath and North East Somerset	Primary	61.00
	Secondary	91.47
Total		75.76
Bedfordshire	Primary	56.61
	Secondary	57.74
Total		57.93
Bexley	Primary	75.39
	Secondary	98.34
Total		86.62
Birmingham	Primary	94.83
	Secondary	96.29
Total		95.40
Blackburn with Darwen	Primary	59.11
	Secondary	46.78
Total		55.03
Blackpool	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Blackpool Total		100.00

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	Phase	Percentage
Bolton	Primary	61.06
	Secondary	82.13
Total		70.58
Bournemouth	Primary	63.32
	Secondary	61.15
Total		62.42
Bracknell Forest	Primary	55.92
	Secondary	70.97
Total		61.49
Bradford	Primary	58.69
	Secondary	64.82
Total		60.22
Brent	Primary	49.89
	Secondary	83.36
Total		64.33
Brighton and Hove	Primary	59.55
	Secondary	33.73
Total		48.12
Bristol City of	Primary	57.58
	Secondary	94.39
Total		70.64
Bromley	Primary	71.88
	Secondary	69.84
Total		70.42
Buckinghamshire	Primary	55.68
	Secondary	90.66
Total		71.93
Bury	Primary	58.09
	Secondary	84.89
Total		69.70
Calderdale	Primary	63.46
	Secondary	50.83
Total		57.68
Cambridgeshire	Primary	80.42
	Secondary	100.00
Total		87.78
Camden	Primary	66.72
	Secondary	69.51
Total		68.33
Cheshire	Primary	41.12
	Secondary	59.49
Cheshire Total		49.34

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Cornwall	Primary	69.79
	Secondary	80.93
Total		74.23
Corporation of London	Primary	100.00
Total		100.00
Coventry	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Coventry Total		100.00
Croydon	Primary	44.51
	Secondary	39.88
Total		42.82
Cumbria	Primary	76.29
	Secondary	79.29
Total		77.76
Darlington	Primary	54.49
	Secondary	74.72
Total		63.41
Derby City	Primary	73.38
	Secondary	54.44
Total		65.32
Derbyshire	Primary	64.28
	Secondary	45.67
Total		55.61
Devon	Primary	59.45
	Secondary	66.61
Total		62.64
Doncaster	Primary	79.05
	Secondary	65.24
Total		72.31
Dorset	Primary	36.84
	Secondary	67.17
Total		53.25
Dudley	Primary	74.80
	Secondary	81.23
Total		76.74
Durham	Primary	59.79
	Secondary	69.78
Total		64.20
Ealing	Primary	56.86
	Secondary	54.97
Total		56.00

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
East Riding of Yorkshire	Primary	66.77
	Secondary	89.18
Total		76.89
East Sussex	Primary	76.54
	Secondary	100.00
Total		87.11
Enfield	Primary	58.45
	Secondary	59.37
Total		58.51
Essex	Primary	43.91
	Secondary	59.84
Total		51.05
Gateshead	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Total		100.00
Gloucestershire	Primary	61.40
	Secondary	79.70
Total		69.81
Greenwich	Primary	67.62
	Secondary	57.13
Total		63.44
Hackney	Primary	52.89
	Secondary	58.18
Total		53.41
Halton	Primary	69.16
	Secondary	72.56
Total		69.59
Hammersmith and Fulham	Primary	58.36
	Secondary	59.57
Total		58.96
Hampshire	Primary	60.46
	Secondary	60.80
Total		60.08
Haringey	Primary	38.68
	Secondary	37.08
Total		38.71
Harrow	Primary	69.96
	Secondary	91.82
Total		73.58
Hartlepool	Primary	94.43
	Secondary	86.04
Total		90.30

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Havering	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Total		100.00
Herefordshire	Primary	73.07
	Secondary	100.00
Total		86.21
Hertfordshire	Primary	55.47
	Secondary	57.65
Total		56.22
Hillingdon	Primary	46.92
	Secondary	52.00
Total		48.88
Hounslow	Primary	44.16
	Secondary	85.30
Total		63.00
Isle of Wight	Primary	74.20
	Secondary	93.88
Total		86.44
Isles of Scilly	Primary	100.00
Total		100.00
Islington	Primary	50.92
	Secondary	24.64
Total		41.03
Kensington and Chelsea	Primary	66.49
	Secondary	100.00
Total		78.32
Kent	Primary	68.24
	Secondary	65.23
Total	Kent Total	66.58
Kingston upon Hull City Council	Primary	76.36
	Secondary	79.86
Total		78.01
Kingston upon Thames	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Total		99.11
Kirklees	Primary	65.43
	Secondary	71.90
Total		67.81
Knowsley	Primary	51.22
	Secondary	100.00
Total		68.42

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Lambeth	Primary	49.94
	Secondary	24.67
Total		43.25
Lancashire	Primary	57.59
	Secondary	52.63
Total		55.09
Leeds	Primary	59.77
	Secondary	73.87
Total		65.54
Leicester	Primary	65.16
	Secondary	87.93
Total		74.08
Leicestershire	Primary	63.87
	Secondary	75.27
Total		69.40
Lewisham	Primary	69.48
	Secondary	36.59
Total		63.86
Lincolnshire	Primary	66.09
	Secondary	73.30
Total		69.23
Liverpool	Primary	58.30
	Secondary	59.42
Total		58.90
Luton	Primary	82.10
	Secondary	86.63
Total		83.86
Manchester	Primary	39.99
	Secondary	94.08
Total		59.99
Medway	Primary	55.91
	Secondary	57.99
Total		56.82
Merton	Primary	71.37
	Secondary	49.66
Total		63.41
Middlesbrough	Primary	91.25
	Secondary	89.33
Total		89.74
Milton Keynes	Primary	97.38
	Secondary	87.07
Total		93.01

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Newcastle upon Tyne	Primary	77.18
	Secondary	85.30
Total		80.48
Newham	Primary	56.95
	Secondary	73.98
Total		63.21
Norfolk	Primary	50.54
	Secondary	82.87
Total		65.42
North East Lincolnshire	Primary	57.15
	Secondary	28.33
Total		46.43
North Lincolnshire	Primary	77.44
	Secondary	85.56
Total		80.54
North Somerset	Primary	59.40
	Secondary	87.49
Total		72.26
North Tyneside	Primary	58.06
	Secondary	100.00
Total		76.82
North Yorkshire	Primary	52.85
	Secondary	79.23
Total		65.43
Northamptonshire	Primary	38.31
	Secondary	83.34
Total		58.47
Northumberland	Primary	72.51
	Secondary	83.88
Total		79.28
Nottingham	Primary	60.12
	Secondary	61.36
Total		60.74
Nottinghamshire	Primary	52.54
	Secondary	48.94
Total		51.10
Oldham	Primary	53.16
	Secondary	50.38
Total		52.15
Oxfordshire	Primary	52.85
	Secondary	78.06
Total		64.06

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Peterborough	Primary	70.59
	Secondary	81.16
Total		74.08
Plymouth	Primary	60.04
	Secondary	61.58
Total		60.68
Poole	Primary	45.34
	Secondary	54.15
Total		49.26
Portsmouth	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Total		100.00
Reading	Primary	51.37
	Secondary	100.00
Total		68.62
Redbridge	Primary	53.12
	Secondary	71.09
Total		61.50
Redcar and Cleveland	Primary	98.25
	Secondary	84.20
Total		92.28
Richmond upon Thames	Primary	56.65
	Secondary	49.02
Total		54.44
Rochdale	Primary	51.40
	Secondary	54.18
Total		52.88
Rotherham	Primary	55.13
	Secondary	56.33
Total		55.93
Rutland	Primary	100.00
	Secondary	100.00
Total		100.00
Salford	Primary	43.82
	Secondary	49.21
Total		45.81
Sandwell	Primary	61.03
	Secondary	47.65
Total		55.98
Sefton	Primary	58.97
	Secondary	57.98
Total		58.77

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Sheffield	Primary	43.87
	Secondary	58.22
Total		49.80
Shropshire	Primary	65.75
	Secondary	84.15
Total		73.54
Slough	Primary	80.76
	Secondary	42.25
Total		64.37
Solihull	Primary	56.14
	Secondary	91.76
Total		71.33
Somerset	Primary	52.57
	Secondary	67.34
Total		59.33
South Gloucestershire	Primary	50.38
	Secondary	65.89
Total		56.95
South Tyneside	Primary	98.18
	Secondary	100.00
Total		98.68
Southampton	Primary	63.19
	Secondary	57.64
Total		60.33
Southend-on-Sea	Primary	50.31
	Secondary	39.40
Total		45.08
Southwark	Primary	57.05
	Secondary	43.36
Total		53.12
St. Helens	Primary	54.39
	Secondary	71.58
Total		61.21
Staffordshire	Primary	61.10
	Secondary	65.45
Total		61.76
Stockport	Primary	71.87
	Secondary	63.24
Total		67.96
Stockton-on-Tees	Primary	76.65
	Secondary	100.00
Total		86.29

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	*Phase*	*Percentage*
Stoke-on-Trent	Primary	83.90
	Secondary	100.00
Total		90.35
Suffolk	Primary	61.63
	Secondary	76.33
Total		69.95
Sunderland	Primary	94.38
	Secondary	85.99
Total		90.98
Surrey	Primary	70.66
	Secondary	80.81
Total		74.67
Sutton	Primary	63.53
	Secondary	62.00
Total		62.36
Swindon	Primary	74.36
	Secondary	63.67
Total		68.94
Tameside	Primary	62.99
	Secondary	39.89
Total		52.46
Telford and Wrekin	Primary	76.95
	Secondary	83.83
Total		79.58
Thurrock	Primary	57.50
	Secondary	88.74
Total		68.87
Torbay	Primary	68.56
	Secondary	78.28
Total		72.03
Tower Hamlets	Primary	70.92
	Secondary	85.48
Total		75.96
Trafford	Primary	41.16
	Secondary	51.47
Total		45.33
Wakefield	Primary	62.53
	Secondary	46.36
Total		55.11
Walsall	Primary	55.18
	Secondary	58.84
Total		57.30

Percentage of children that have access to the full extended school core offer

LA	Phase	Percentage
Waltham Forest	Primary	65.56
	Secondary	73.25
Total		68.86
Wandsworth	Primary	68.53
	Secondary	72.03
Total		69.16
Warrington	Primary	44.75
	Secondary	60.71
Total		52.24
Warwickshire	Primary	98.69
	Secondary	96.53
Total		97.62
West Berkshire	Primary	49.21
	Secondary	73.54
Total		61.79
West Sussex	Primary	62.75
	Secondary	61.76
Total		61.76
Westminster	Primary	48.12
	Secondary	33.14
Total		42.23
Wigan	Primary	38.55
	Secondary	55.46
Total		46.58
Wiltshire	Primary	44.57
	Secondary	77.50
Total		59.80
Windsor and Maidenhead	Primary	47.70
	Secondary	79.78
Total		64.86
Wirral	Primary	69.47
	Secondary	59.57
Total		64.52
Wokingham	Primary	50.73
	Secondary	81.32
Total		64.65
Wolverhampton	Primary	48.30
	Secondary	50.14
Total		30.06
Worcestershire	Primary	56.94
	Secondary	51.68
Total		54.09
York	Primary	99.58
	Secondary	100.00
Total		99.76

Family Law

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of family court cases involved a Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service representative in the last period for which figures are available. [220761]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not available. Separate statistics are collected by the Ministry of Justice and CAFCASS; proportions cannot be calculated from the statistics because they are collected for different business purposes.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214887]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. It spent £495,176 on food in 2007-08.

Information on the amount of spend broken down into food of British origin could be provided only at disproportionate costs. A report was produced by DEFRA and issued to Parliament on the proportion of domestically produced food used in Government departments during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. DEFRA proposes to publish data on the value of contracts let for food and catering contracts (including the value of food provided under the catering contracts) by the end of 2008 which will allow calculations to be made.

Literacy: Hearing Impaired

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the teaching of literacy is accessible to deaf children, with particular regard to the use of phonics; [220143]

(2) what arrangements are in place to ensure deaf children who fail to attain level 3 at key stage 2 English are receiving catch-up support tailored to their needs; [220144]

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he is planning to implement to reduce the gap in attainment between deaf children and their hearing peers; and if he will make a statement. [220683]

Kevin Brennan: Our key priority is to personalise learning by focusing on each pupil's progression so that every child achieves their potential. Our renewed literacy strategy builds on Sir Jim Rose's independent review of the teaching of early reading by putting phonics at the heart of 'teaching reading in order to help to raise attainment levels amongst all pupils.

The review found that there was a wide range of expert support and guidance available to help schools match provision to need regarding the teaching of literacy.

Through the national strategies we will continue to encourage teachers to apply inclusive principles to address issues of accessibility, including the needs of children with severe sensory impairment such as deafness.

The primary national strategy and other partners provide a range of intervention programmes to help those children who struggle most in reading and writing. These include the Every Child a Reader and Every Child a Writer programmes. The former provides intensive one to one support in reading for five and six year olds, the latter is a new pilot currently under development but will include one-to-one intervention in years three and four in the areas of writing that children find hardest to master.

Extra help is available for those children who need it to prevent them from falling behind: we provide early literacy support (ELS—year 1), Y3 literacy support (Y3LS) and further literacy support (FLS—year 5). These three packages are designed to help those children who, without additional help would not reach level 4 at the end of year 6.

Overseas Students

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the contribution made by overseas gap year students to the education sector in the United Kingdom. [216759]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not have any information on the numbers of people from overseas undertaking gap years in the United Kingdom, nor can we make any assessment of the contribution that they make to the education sector here.

Pre-school Education

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free early education places have been available in *(a)* Kingston-Upon-Hull, *(b)* East Riding of Yorkshire, *(c)* north Lincolnshire and *(d)* north east Lincolnshire in each year since 1997. [220899]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on the number of part-time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds in Kingston-upon-Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and north-east Lincolnshire local authority areas is shown in the tables.

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] filled by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: Kingston upon Hull, City of
Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
1997	[2]2,200	n/a	2,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,500
1998	2,300	n/a	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,500
1999	2,300	n/a	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,300
2000	2,100	[7]480	2,600	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,500
2001	2,000	[7]520	2,600	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,200
2002	1,900	[7]650	2,600	2,700	[7]270	3,000
2003	1,800	[7]760	2,600	2,600	[8]290	2,900
2004	1,700	[7]740	2,500	2,500	[10]280	2,800
2005	1,700	[9]810	2,500	2,400	[10]260	2,700
2006	1,800	[7]790	2,400	2,400	[10]270	2,700
2007	1,700	[9]870	2,600	2,300	[10]290	2,600
2008	1,800	[9]940	2,700	2,500	[10]300	2,800

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997 to 2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] fitted by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: East Riding of Yorkshire. Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
1997	1,100	n/a	1,100	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,200
1998	1,100	n/a	1,100	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,400
1999	1,100	n/a	1,100	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,400
2000	1,000	[7]...	1,000	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,500
2001	1,000	[8]140	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,400
2002	1,100	[8]140	1,200	2,000	[9]930	2,900
2003	1,100	[8]1,200	2,200	2,700	[9]900	3,600
2004	1,000	[10]1,200	2,200	2,600	[11]820	3,400
2005	1,000	[10]1,500	2,500	2,400	[11]710	3,100
2006	960	[10]1,800	2,700	2,500	[11]740	3,200
2007	950	[10]1,900	2,900	2,400	[11]730	3,100
2008	1,100	[10]1,900	3,000	2,400	[11]820	3,200

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997 to 2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Less than five.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[11] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] fitted by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: North Lincolnshire. Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
1997	530	n/a	530	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,800
1998	550	n/a	550	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,860
1999	530	n/a	550	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,800
2000	590	[7]...	600	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]2,000
2001	640	[8]540	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,800
2002	860	[8]760	1,600	1,500	[9]200	1,700
2003	570	[8]700	1,300	1,600	[9]220	1,800
2004	690	[10]820	1,500	1,400	[11]220	1,600
2005	680	[10]800	1,500	1,600	[11]230	1,800
2006	770	[10]710	1,500	1,600	[11]170	1,700
2007	780	[10]720	1,500	1,500	[11]170	1,700
2008	810	[10]810	1,600	1,500	[11]200	1,700

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997 to 2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Less than five.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[11] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] fitted by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: North East Lincolnshire. Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
1997	920	n/a	920	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]2,100
1998	980	n/a	980	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]2,000
1999	1,000	n/a	1,000	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]2,000
2000	1,000	[7]520	1,500	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]2,000
2001	930	[7]550	1,500	n/a	n/a	[5] [6]1,900
2002	940	[7]620	1,600	1,700	[8]230	1,900
2003	990	[7]690	1,700	1,600	[8]240	1,900
2004	870	[8]730	1,600	1,700	[9]240	1,900

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] fitted by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: North East Lincolnshire: Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
2005	900	[6]650[6]	1,500	1,500	[10]220	1,700
2006	920	[6]650	1,600	1,500	[10]300	1,800
2007	990	[9]710	1,700	1,500	[10]240	1,700
2008	1,000	[8]690	1,700	1,600	[10]220	1,800

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997 to 2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in statistical first release 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2008" in May, which is available on my Department's website

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Pupils: Intimidation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has conducted into the effect of stress caused by bullying in schools. [220751]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We are not aware of any specific research into the effect of stress caused by bullying in schools. However, we are aware that many external studies link being bullied to outcomes such as anxiety, depression, lowered self-esteem and, in extreme cases, suicide. The Anti-Bullying Alliance has carried out a number of research projects on behalf of my Department around various aspects of bullying, and the findings have informed our wider work to prevent and tackle this happening in schools. My Department has also recently tendered for research into the effectiveness of our anti-bullying strategies.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities had data included in the School Food Trust survey of school meal up-take 2007-08 for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [219865]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the statement provided to the House on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 80-82WS, entitled "The take up of school meals 2007-08 and future support for Improving take up".

All 150 local authorities (LAs) in England were asked to provide information about both primary and secondary school take up for 2007-08 as well as more general information on factors influencing changes in take up in the previous year. Responses have been received from 109.

The data were collected 'in confidence', with the promise that findings would be reported at no lower than regional level. LAs were asked, however, if they would be willing for data collected to be used to identify their individual LA. Of the 109 LAs that responded, the following said that they would:

Barking and Dagenham
Bath and North East Somerset
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bolton
Bracknell Forest
Bradford
Brighton and Hove
Bristol, City of
Bury
Calderdale
Cheshire
Coventry
Cumbria
Derbyshire
Devon
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Essex
Greenwich
Halton
Hampshire
Haringey
Hartlepool
Havering
Herefordshire
Hillingdon
Isle of Wight
Islington
Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees
Knowsley

Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester
Lewisham
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newham
Norfolk
North Lincolnshire
North Somerset
North Yorkshire
Northumberland
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
Plymouth
Redbridge
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
Sefton
Sheffield
Shropshire
Solihull
Staffordshire
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland
Sutton
Swindon
Tameside
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Sussex
Westminster
Wigan
Wiltshire
Wokingham
Worcestershire

School Meals: Waste

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he provides to schools on reducing waste from the meals they provide. [219847]

Kevin Brennan: In April 2008 the School Food Trust published comprehensive guidance for schools and local authorities that provide school meals entitled "A fresh look at procurement—efficiency and sustainability". The guide includes a section on waste management with three recommendations:

To review the school meals service to identify opportunities to reduce food waste;

To review the school meals service to identify opportunities to minimise packaging waste; and

To explore opportunities for diverting waste products for re-use, recycling or resource reclamation.

Case studies are supplied for each recommendation and links are provided to sources of further information.

Schools are advised that reducing food waste may be one of the most productive ways to improve the overall sustainability of the school food system. The guide can be viewed on the School Food Trust's website at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/doc_item.asp?DocId=79&DocCatId=9

Schools: Attendance

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average attendance rate at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority area has been in each of the last five years. [220656]

Kevin Brennan: The latest available information on attendance rates for primary and secondary schools covers the school year 2006/07, this table together with information for the school years 2002/03 to 2005/06 has been placed in the Library.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of violence against teachers in schools. [220134]

Kevin Brennan: Violence to school staff is rare but any incident is one too many. We have therefore made it clear that head teachers may permanently exclude pupils for violence, even for a first offence. We are also helping to reduce the risk of violence through a national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage pupils' behaviour. This includes giving schools access to specialist training and advice, strengthening their legal powers to discipline pupils, reaffirming their legal power to use reasonable force to restrain pupils, giving them legal power to search pupils for weapons and encouraging them to form safer school partnerships that base police officers in schools. Sir Alan Steer is advising on how the programme could be further strengthened.

Schools: Disabled

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools have produced a disability equality scheme; and if he will make a statement; [219895]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that all schools produce a disability equality scheme; and if he will make a statement. [219896]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 499W.

Schools: Greater Manchester

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the revenue balance was for schools in each local authority area in Greater Manchester at the end of each of the last three financial years. [218774]

Jim Knight: The available information on school revenue balances for the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is contained in the following tables. These figures are in cash terms.

Data for 2007-08 is currently being collected by the Department, and should be available in October 2008.

2004-05

Local authority name	*Total number of schools*	*Total revenue balance (£)*	*Of which: Committed revenue balance*	*Of which: Uncommitted revenue balance*
England	22,836	1,532,855,786	923,320,611	609,535,175
North West and Merseyside	3,405	218,059,504	119,269,811	98,789,693
Greater Manchester	1,187	67,137,162	34,259,994	32,877,168
Bolton	127	2,715,832	2,563,660	152,171
Bury	83	5,902,581	2,516,215	3,386,366
Manchester	180	11,005,500	8,344,877	2,660,623
Oldham	118	8,177,688	6,871,180	1,306,508
Rochdale	100	7,031,029	1,136,182	5,894,848
Salford	104	4,426,277	(1,507,456)	5,933,733
Stockport	131	7,289,479	2,030,241	5,259,238
Tameside	101	5,376,019	173,522	5,202,497
Trafford	97	5,752,347	3,917,445	1,834,902
Wigan	146	9,460,410	8,214,128	1,246,282

2005-06

Local authority name	*Total number of schools*	*Total revenue balance (£)*	*Of which: Committed revenue balance*	*Of which: Uncommitted revenue balance*
England	22,638	1,570,348,360	988,073,529	582,274,831
North West and Merseyside	3,365	225,368,853	134,064,078	91,304,774
Greater Manchester	1,168	69,564,861	39,410,861	30,154,001
Bolton	125	3,820,404	1,347,954	2,472,450
Bury	81	4,676,053	1,353,161	3,322,892
Manchester	177	9,265,782	9,002,084	263,698
Oldham	113	8,801,124	7,004,622	1,796,502
Rochdale	99	7,748,401	2,737,678	5,010,723
Salford	103	4,576,053	(214,294)	4,790,348
Stockport	130	7,198,242	3,088,284	4,109,958
Tameside	100	718,804	311,747	4,807,057
Trafford	97	7,209,186	5,017,235	2,191,951
Wigan	143	11,150,812	9,762,390	1,388,422

2006-07

Local authority name	*Total number of schools*	*Total revenue balance (£)*	*Of which: Committed revenue balance*	*Of which: Uncommitted revenue balance*	*Of which: Community focused extended school revenue balance*
England	22,470	1,670,198,878	1,036,036,034	614,844,776	19,318,069
North West and Merseyside	3,332	246,882,010	132,369,672	112,931,045	1,581,293
Greater Manchester	1,156	72,861,278	38,463,254	33,948,857	449,167
Bolton	126	3,351,255	(321,719)	3,632,791	40,184
Bury	81	5,728,462	2,649,468	3,078,993	0
Manchester	175	11,816,249	9,760,778	1,925,052	130,419
Oldham	112	7,827,016	6,814,741	1,224,019	(211,744)
Rochdale	98	8,777,866	1,753,725	7,024,141	0
Salford	102	3,911,644	335,152	3,576,162	330
Stockport	121	8,707,478	3,351,080	5,356,398	0
Tameside	99	5,122,748	85,346	4,978,598	58,804
Trafford	97	7,367,534	5,758,711	1,454,750	154,072
Wigan	145	10,251,028	8,275,972	1,697,954	277,102

Secondary Education: Disabled

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in Leeds put a disability equality scheme in place in each of the last five years. [220780]

Kevin Brennan: We expect all schools and local authorities to have in place a disability equality scheme. However, data on those schools that have implemented them is not collected Centrally.

Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils receive free school meals in the *(a)* top 100, *(b)* top 500, *(c)* bottom 500 and *(d)* bottom 100 performing secondary schools; and what the national average number of pupils in secondary schools receiving free meals is. [220657]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of pupils who are known to be eligible and are claiming their free school meal entitlement by school performance has been placed in the Library.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the Government plans to engage with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission and *(c)* the Scottish Human Rights Commission in formulating a response to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations. [220101]

Beverley Hughes: The UK Government and devolved Administrations will seek dialogues with a range of organisations, including the respective Human Rights Commissions, when considering the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision for adult education in north Yorkshire. [215730]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council has responsibility for ensuring that there is sufficient, good quality provision for post-16 learners in further education delivered by FE colleges and providers in England. Quality in north Yorkshire is assured through the same assessment processes as all other areas of England in that all further education colleges and providers are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

In line with the LSC's national approach to commissioning, regional LSCs will discuss with each FE college and provider their contribution to the delivery of skills for employability and further progression in learning in line with Government priorities. The performance of FE colleges and providers in delivering LSC-funded FE provision is also considered against the published national minimum levels of performance.

These discussions will inform decisions on whether the range of provision available in an area is sufficient and of good quality, and whether there is a need to tender for new provision, expand existing provision and/or replace poor quality provision. The offer to all local citizens, particularly those in disadvantaged neighbourhoods is central to these decisions.

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on apprentices, what the reasons are for the planning assumption that the number of adult apprenticeship starts will reduce between 2009-10 and 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [216964]

Mr. Lammy: The adult apprenticeship start figures are converted from the planned figures used for the 2008-09 Learning and Skills Council grant letter and LSC statement of priorities. These figures were produced before the apprenticeships review and were on a different basis from the starts measure that is now the agreed measure following that review. For the 2009-10 LSC grant letter and LSC statement of priorities, due to be published later this year, we will be revisiting the planned figures for apprenticeships on the agreed basis of starts and ensuring that our apprenticeship trajectory matches the ambition that we set out in world-class apprenticeships. We will continue to provide funding to expand the apprenticeship programme to meet the needs of both young people and adults.

Apprentices: Construction

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that more apprenticeship placements are made available for young people wishing to acquire skills in the construction industry. [218894]

Mr. Lammy: "World-class Apprenticeships" (WCA) announced a package of measures designed to boost capacity and make it easier for employers to take on apprentices A construction taskforce is working directly with the Learning and Skills Council to increase the numbers of apprenticeships in the sector. Last year saw the highest number of starts, 21,000, in construction for four years.

Funding for apprenticeships will increase by almost a quarter between 2007/08 and 2010/11 to over £1 billion.

We are also working to ensure major developments such as the Olympic and Paralympic games include opportunities for apprenticeships. Already the Olympic Development Authority has committed to get at least 2,000 people in apprenticeships and work placements (up to 2012) at the Olympic park and other venues that the ODA is working on or building.

A national apprenticeship service, announced in the WCA, will have a particular focus of giving young people the opportunities to explore 'non-traditional' areas, for instance, potential female apprentices will be encouraged to look at trades concerned with construction and the built environment.

Computers: Graduates

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of trends in numbers of computer science graduates in England. [218338]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There have been on average some 18,500 computer science first degree qualifiers over the five years to 2006-07. While levels in 2006-07 are lower than in the past five years it is too early to draw conclusions about trends. The labour force survey shows that adults with a degree in computing have the 4th highest employment rates.

I am encouraged by the range of contact currently taking place between the Sector Skills Council (e-skills UK), the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the higher education sector to ensure their IT and computing courses continue to meet the needs of industry. The ITMB degree framework helps prepare undergraduates for the changing role of the IT professional by providing them with the technology and business skills employers need. E-skills are also supporting activity in schools

such as the 14-19 diploma in information technology and computer clubs for girls which improve the information available to pupils and can help drive demand for computer science courses.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students at UK universities graduated with degrees in *(a)* computer science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* physics in each of the last five years. [218731]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* The latest available information is given in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Number of First Degree Qualifiers[1] in Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences and Physics: UK higher education institutions[2]

Subject of study	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Computer Science[3]	18,240	20,010	19,775	18,495	16,255
Mathematical Sciences[4]	5,100	5,150	4,990	5,260	5,385
Physics	2,205	2,180	2,225	2,345	2,255

[1] Figures cover qualifiers of all domiciles and all modes of study.
[2] Figures exclude those qualifying from the Open University due to inconsistencies in their method of recording subject of study over the time period.
[3] Computer Science as a subject area includes the following principal subjects: Computer Science, Information Systems, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Others in Computing Science.
[4] Mathematical Sciences as a subject area includes the following principal subjects: Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Others in Mathematical and Computing Sciences, Others " Mathematical Sciences, Balanced Combination of Maths Sciences and informatics.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

The STEM programme aims to increase the number of young people taking up post-16 qualifications in the area of STEM, which includes ICT. By ensuring that more young people are going into mathematics and the sciences at post-16 we are enabling more people to take up degrees and other HE qualifications in ICT and computing fields.

Sixty four per cent. of computing graduates work in STEM jobs. This is slightly higher than all STEM graduates (48 per cent.), which suggests that either there is slightly higher demand for computing graduates so that computing graduates are more likely to have the right skills that employers are looking for than other STEM graduates. Five per cent. of e-skills employers have skills-shortage vacancies, the same as the UK average. There are still some 36 per cent. of computing graduates or 73,000 individuals not working in a STEM job, who could be used to overcome any excess demand.

I am encouraged by the range of contact currently taking place between the Sector Skills Council (e-skills UK), the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the higher education sector to ensure their IT and computing courses continue to meet the needs of industry. The ITMB degree framework helps prepare undergraduates for the changing rote of the IT professional by providing them with the technology and business skills employers need. E-skills are also supporting activity in schools such as the 14-19 diploma in information technology and computer clubs for girls which improve the information available to pupils and can help drive demand for computer science courses.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214683]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

(a) The costs for website setup, design and ongoing maintenance and content updates in the financial year 2007/08 was £89,532.16. The cost of web hosting is unknown as it is wrapped up in a larger contract, but would very roughly estimate this to be no more than £25,000 pa.

(b) We are unable to provide costs for print media design as there is no central record of leaflets, reports or printed material for a public audience. Print media design is commissioned by many teams within the Department and it would be disproportionate in cost to gather this information in detail.

(c) The costs for broadcast media for the public information campaigns since the Departments inception are £1,520,004.80.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named-day questions in each of the last three years. [215464]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dudley College

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the findings of the recent Ofsted report on Dudley college. [220490]

Bill Rammell: I am delighted to say that Dudley college of technology was graded good for overall effectiveness in its recent inspection by Ofsted. I commend the college on the significant improvements they have made since their previous Ofsted inspection in February 2007.

These results show that with strong leadership and management, and good quality teaching, colleges can greatly improve their performance to meet the needs of learners and employers and play a key role in the local community they serve. I would like to congratulate the staff and students at Dudley College of Technology on this transformation.

The improvements made by Dudley college of technology demonstrate that the measures we introduced in the FE reform White Paper to tackle and eliminate under performance, are clearly working.

Education: Employment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of the number of adults who after taking part in publicly-financed education courses found work with salaries between *(a)* £10,000 to £15,000, *(b)* £15,000 to £20,000, *(c)* £20,000 to £25,000 and *(d)* above £25,000. [220705]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available. However, DIUS does publish information on labour force survey estimates of hourly earnings according to highest qualification held in the "Statistical First Release, Highest Qualification Held by Adults: England 2007" available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/SFR/s000798/index.shtml.

Information on the salaries of newly qualified first degree graduates (based on their employment situation six months after graduation) is collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, but the information is only available for around 50 per cent. of graduates who enter employment. The latest such information is available at

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1237/161/.

Education: Prisons

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures are in place to ensure inmates are able to continue and complete study courses following *(a)* (i) managed and (ii) involuntary moves by HM prison service to other detention facilities, *(b)* the granting of early release and *(c)* the completion of custodial sentences. [220745]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Learning and Skills Council contracts with providers to deliver learning and skills to prisoners. Transferring prisoners are able to continue learning with the provider at the receiving establishment, and it is a contractual requirement on the provider to try to ensure that learning can be continued on release.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to improve completion rates for inmates undertaking study courses. [220746]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Learning and Skills Council took responsibility for learning and skills in prisons, and let new contracts through a refreshed set of providers in summer 2006. The specification for those contracts put in place a detailed requirement for the delivery of learning that has led to 55 per cent. of learners in the 2006/07 academic year completing their learning aims, which represents a significant achievement at a time when the prison service is facing real challenges in terms of overcrowding and the consequent need to move prisoners around the estate. The Learning and Skills Council is developing arrangements, including a new specification, for the successor contracts it will let for August 2009 that will incorporate payment arrangements to reward learner outcomes.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to improve levels of educational attainment among the prison population in England and Wales. [220747]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Government have put in place a significant programme of action to improve levels of educational attainment among the prison population in England and Wales. Funding for offender learning has more than trebled since the predecessors of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families took responsibility for offender learning in 2001 and is expected to exceed £170 million in 2008-09. We have introduced heads of learning and skills in prisons to take day to day responsibility for managing the learning and skills. Prisons are now subject to the same inspection arrangements as the rest of the further education sector, delivered by Ofsted and Estyn. Inspection outcomes are improving and the proportion of failed inspections are falling to similar levels as those in community adult learning settings. In England we have given responsibility for planning and funding offender learning to the Learning and Skills Council, operating collaboratively with the National Offender Management Service in commissioning the service to be delivered. Since the Learning and Skills Council took responsibility for the service, participation rates have risen from an estimated 36 per cent. in the 2006-07 academic year to 39 per cent. in the August 2007 to May 2008. Similar arrangements apply in Wales, with the director of offender management Wales playing a significant role in planning the service.

We are continuing to drive forward the agenda of attainment and employment through the programme of activity set out in 'Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps' (December 2006) with two test bed regions (the west midlands and the east of England) trialling the plans set out in the document, ready for implementation from summer 2009.

Educational Psychology: Training

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether trainee educational psychologists are expected to pay for their transport costs when visiting pupils during their placements; and if he will make a statement. [220226]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Detailed arrangements for the support offered to individual trainee educational psychologists (EPs) are matters for local determination between the host local authority, the trainee and training provider.

Under the current postgraduate grant scheme for educational psychology training places, administered by the Children's Workforce Development Council, trainees receive a bursary of £14,500 (£14,900 with London weighting) in their the first year. Arrangements vary for years two and three depending on what has been agreed regionally.

Where trainees are employed as trainee EPs, they are entitled to the same services and allowances as any other employees of the local authority, including being able to claim back expenses. Where trainees are on

bursaries, local authorities are not necessarily bound by the same obligations. Some training providers are making provision to cover trainees' expenses, up to a fixed amount, where they receive a bursary.

The CWDC will keep the current arrangements under review in the light of operational experience.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much fish was procured by his Department since establishment, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217885]

Mr. Lammy: We do not have data on how much fish this Department has procured.

Further Education

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the 10 most popular courses delivered in further education colleges at Level 4 and above were in 2005-06; and how many students enrolled on each. [219526]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows the 10 most popular specific qualification aims at Level 4 and above in 2005/06.

Table 1: Level 4 and above learning aims in 2005/06 by qualification/course 10 most popular qualifications in further education colleges

Qualification/course title	*Number of learning aims*
AAT Level 4 NVQ in Accounting	8,990
City and Guilds Level 4 Certificate in FE Teaching Stage 1	8,890
City and Guilds Level 4 Certificate in FE Teaching Stage 2	5,850
Unitisation (approved external qualification) Higher Level, Business, Administration and Law	4,680
City and Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Registered Managers (Adults)	3,100
PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education)	1,970
Graduateship	1,920
City and Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Health and Social Care	1,820
City and Guilds Level 4 Award in Conducing Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process	1,810
EDEXCEL Level 4 NVQ in Registered Managers (Adults)	1,730
Other qualifications/courses	116,300
Total	157,070

Notes: 1. A learner may be enrolled on more than one learning aim. 2. These figures include both funded and non-funded learning aims. *Source:* FE Individualised Learner Record.

Table 2 shows the 10 most popular Sector Subject Areas for learning aims at Level 4 and above in 2005/06, and the total number of learning aims at this level in further education colleges.

Table 2: Level 4 and above learning aims in 2005/06 by Sector Subject Area (SSA)—10 most popular SSAs in further education colleges

Sector Subject Area (tier 2)	*Number of learning aims*
Teaching and Lecturing	34,590
Business Management	21,870
Health and Social Care	18,090
Accounting and Finance	11,310
Crafts, Creative Arts and Design	8,270
Business, Administration and Law	6,660
Engineering	6,510
Building and Construction	5,740
ICT Practitioners	5,540
Performing Arts	3,150
Other Sector Subject Areas	35,330
Total	157,070

Notes: 1. A learner may be enrolled on more than one learning aim. 2. These figures include both funded and non-funded learning aims. *Source:* FE Individualised Learner Record.

Further Education: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of further education colleges in Halifax in the last 12 months. [219987]

Bill Rammell: Ofsted is the body responsible for assessing the quality of provision in further education colleges. Ofsted inspected Calderdale college in November 2007 and published its judgment that the provision is satisfactory in January 2008. In addition, the Learning and Skills Council as part of its commissioning process discusses and reviews performance with all providers. As a matter of course, west Yorkshire LSC will be conducting this activity with Calderdale college on an annual basis.

Further Education: Student Wastage

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons why students in further education who failed to complete their courses did so in the last three years. [220138]

Bill Rammell: Our research shows that reasons for leaving from FE courses are quite disparate (reflecting the wide range of learners, courses, and learning modes). The most common main reason for leaving FE was that the course was not what the learner wanted to do after all.

We will be establishing a universal adult advancement and careers service through the merger of nextstep and learndirect-advice to be fully operational from autumn 2010 which will help individuals make the choices on learning that are right for them.

We want to make sure that we are meeting the needs of learners. It is encouraging that success rates have increased in FE—rising year-on-year since 2000/01 to 78 per cent. in 2006/07, and that over 90 per cent. of learners are satisfied with their overall learning experience.

Full details of the research can be found in the regular national learner satisfaction survey undertaken by the Learning and Skills Council

http://research.lsc.gov.uk/LSC+Research/published/learner-satisfaction/

and the survey of early leavers from further education and wok-based teaming courses

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR849.pdf

The Learning and Skills Council have commissioned a further two projects;

(1) Learner journeys on several different Learner Support programmes.

(2) Understanding the needs of disadvantaged learners and non learners.

Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on including UK material in the best practice compendium on the modernisation of universities, as referred to in section 2.3 of EU document 2008/C 86/01. [217994]

Bill Rammell: The UK has been actively engaged in developing the compendium and has contributed several examples of best practice to it. The compendium will be a web-based tool and it will allow access for policy makers, practitioners and the wider public to search and download information. It is currently being tested and is expected to go live by the end of this month.

Higher Education: Admissions

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students began undergraduate courses in universities in England in each of the last five years; [218779]

(2) how many students domiciled in England began undergraduate courses in universities in Wales in each of the last five years; [218780]

(3) how many students domiciled in Wales began undergraduate courses in universities in England in each of the last five years. [218781]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the tables. Table 1 covers entrants to full-time undergraduate courses, and table 2 covers entrants to part-time courses.

Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Table 1: Entrants to full-time undergraduate courses by domicile and location of institution English and Welsh higher education institutions—Academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

Academic year	Location of institution	All domiciles	Of which: England	Of which: Wales
2002/03	England	344,235	287,485	6,400
	Wales	24,355	9,080	12,705
2003/04	England	350,410	289,885	6,410
	Wales	25,200	9,095	12,965
2004/05	England	354,605	293,700	6,190
	Wales	24,365	9,105	12,180
2005/06	England	372,710	312,110	6,365
	Wales	24,780	9,510	12,160
2006/07	England	359,355	296,725	5,460
	Wales	25,565	8,735	13,515

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: Entrants to part-time undergraduate courses by domicile and location of institution English and Welsh higher education institutions—Academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

Academic year	Location of institution	All domiciles	Of which: England	Of which: Wales
2002/03	England	261,070	236,405	3,385
	Wales	21,100	2,400	17,450
2003/04	England	272,185	243,970	3,820
	Wales	20,180	2,475	17,485
2004/05[1]	England	266,770	237,295	3,495
	Wales	22,575	2,600	18,325
2005/06	England	284,965	249,660	4,280
	Wales	22,800	2,935	17,610
2006/07	England	287,215	249,125	4,990
	Wales	22,890	2,605	17,560

[1] The increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be greater than in reality as a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher education is one of the most important investments a young person can make as graduates earn, on average, far more than people with A-levels or similar who do not go in to higher education. Over the working life, the average graduate will earn comfortably over £100,000 more, after tax and in today's valuation, than a similar individual who completed their education with two or more A-levels.

In recent years we have reformed student finance, offering improvements to both full-time and part-time students. For new entrants to full-time higher education in 2008/09 we have increased the means-testing threshold below which students are entitled to a full maintenance grant up from £17,910 for entrants in 2007/08 to £25,000. The threshold for a partial grant will increase from £38,330 for entrants in 2007/08 to £60,005. These thresholds relate to household income. This will mean that one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant of between £50 and £2,835. Due to these reforms, by 2011 the number of students receiving some level of grant will increase by around 100,000. As part of this change, an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant.

In 2006 grants towards part time students' fees were increased by 27 per cent. with an additional £40 million of institutional funding to higher education institutions to encourage participation from the most under-represented groups.

Latest figures from UCAS, covering applicants to full-time undergraduate courses only, show that, after the small downturn in 2006, applicants who were accepted for entry in 2007 increased. For accepted applicants from the UK, figures show a rise of 5.5 per cent. to 364,500, with those from England showing a 6.1 per cent. rise to 307,000, the highest ever, and those from Wales up 1.3 per cent.

Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show as at the end of June, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses show a year-on-year rise of 6.5 per cent. with those from England up by 7.3 per cent. and those from Wales up by 4.9 per cent.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of 18-year-olds who had been previously identified as gifted and talented went on to higher education in each of the last three years. [219346]

Bill Rammell: The gifted and talented flag was not introduced into the national pupil database until 2006 and we do not yet have data on HE destinations that can be linked to this flag.

The National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) catered for the national top 5 per cent. of 11 to 19-year-olds from 2002 to 2007. It has now been replaced by the Young Gifted and Talented (YG and T) Learner Academy.

NAGTY's 2006 student exit survey questionnaire showed that, of those completing the questionnaire:

87 per cent. said they went straight on to continue their education at university;

8 per cent. were taking a gap year before going into higher education.

The Government remain committed to widening participation in higher education and to securing fair access for gifted and talented students. It is an economic as well as a social imperative that everyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Widening participation is about spotting and nurturing talent, with schools, colleges and universities working together to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from higher education are able to do so.

Innovation: Medical Equipment

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential for future innovation in the market for *(a)* urology-related products, *(b)* stoma-related products and *(c)* single-line items. [220198]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department works closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to improve patients' access to beneficial new treatments and medical technologies. The contribution that innovative medical technologies can make to the delivery of modern health and social care services was recognised as part of Lord Darzi's report on the NHS Next Stage Review "High Quality Care For All" published on 30 June 2008. As a result, the Department is working across Government and with the medical technology industry to develop a strategy which promotes uptake of clinically and cost effective innovative products throughout the care pathway. A copy of the Next Stage Review has already been placed in the Library.

Regarding stoma and urology items that are dispensed in primary care, mechanisms are in place to assess innovation when a supplier seeks to have an item listed in the Drug Tariff. Similar mechanisms would apply to single-line items.

The Department is seeking best value for money from the expenditure it makes in all areas of healthcare. In Secondary Care, buyers procure goods and services via a tendering process. Consequently, market forces will drive a level of competition amongst suppliers who wish to secure NHS contracts.

Regarding the provision of stoma and urology items in primary care, the Department recently published an impact assessment (IA) alongside the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care" June 2008. The IA considers the impact of the proposals set out in the consultation and includes a robust competition impact. A copy of the IA has already been placed in the Library.

Medicine: Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of giving separate consideration for funding of medical students in the 2009 review of the funding arrangements for all students in England. [216925]

Bill Rammell: We have no current or future plans to fund medical students separately. Our policy has always been that there should be an independent review to examine the evidence from the first three years of the new fees and student support regime which will report directly to Parliament. Draft terms of reference for the review were published in January 2004. Ahead of that there are a number of pressing questions about what Government and universities should do over the next 10 to 15 years to ensure we have a world class system of higher education, it is on these questions that Government, universities and others should now focus.

Qualifications: Young People

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 16-year-olds without a level 2 qualification are in full-time education; and what proportion *(a)* achieved a level 2 and remained in full-time education and *(b)* achieved a level 2 and left full-time education in the latest period for which figures are available. [220197]

Mr. Lammy: Estimates of the proportions of 16-year-olds attaining different levels of qualifications who continued in full-time education were published on 26 June 2008 in a Statistical Bulletin, Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Study of Young People in England: The Activities and Experiences of 16-Year-Olds: England 2007. The bulletin relates to young people who completed their compulsory education in 2006 and reached 16 during the 2005/06 academic year.

Fifty one per cent. of those without a level 2 qualification remained in full-time education; 88 per cent. of those who achieved a level 2 remained in full-time education and 12 per cent. of those who achieved a level 2 left full-time education.

Science: Postgraduate Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of current postgraduate students studying

science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects took their first degree in the UK, broken down by *(a)* type of postgraduate course and *(b)* subject. [219347]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the tables. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Table 1: Number and proportion of postgraduate enrolments[1] to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)[2] courses by level of study UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2006/07

		Of which; those with a first degree from the UK[3]	
Level of Study	*Enrolments*	*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Doctorate	60,305	23,470	38.9
Masters	113,815	47,870	42.1
Other PG	34,445	13,815	40.1
Total STEM PG	208,565	85,160	40.8

Table 2: Number and proportion of postgraduate enrolments[1] to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)[2] courses by subject: UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2006/07

		Of which; those with a first degree from the UK[3]	
Subject of Study	*Enrolments*	*Number*	*Proportion*
Medicine and Dentistry	20,020	8,490	42.4
Subjects allied to Medicine	47,150	19,710	41.8
Biological Sciences	30,990	14,650	47.3
Veterinary Science	990	460	46.5
Agriculture and Related Subjects	2,840	1,065	37.4
Physical Sciences	21,060	9,940	47.2
Mathematical Sciences	6,175	2,490	40.4
Computer Science	23,080	7,440	32.2
Engineering and Technology	40,760	13,810	33.9
Architecture, Building and Planning	15,500	7,105	45.8
Total STEM PG	208,565	85,160	40.8

[1] Figures cover enrolments from all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] The department considers the following subject groups as STEM subjects: medicine and dentistry, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, veterinary science, agriculture and related subjects, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science, engineering and technology, and architecture, building and planning.
[3] This population has been derived by selecting those enrolments whose highest qualification on entry was a first degree from a UK institution or an undergraduate qualification with qualified teacher status (QTS). This will exclude those who already have a postgraduate qualification and those with other qualifications on entry to their postgraduate course.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest 5 so columns may not sum to totals. Proportions have been calculated using unrounded figures.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Sixth Form Colleges: Governing Bodies

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has issued guidance on whether governors of sixth form colleges may refuse requests from *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* parents of students and *(c)* members of teaching staff at the college to make their home addresses and email addresses available. [210358]

Bill Rammell: The Department has not issued any guidance to colleges (including sixth form colleges) asking governors to make available their home and private e-mail addresses. As independent institutions, it is for individual governing bodies to determine their own arrangements for communications with governors.

Student Unions: Equality

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what provisions of legislation on race relations govern the activities of student unions; and if he will make a statement. [218165]

Bill Rammell: The Race Relations Act 1976 imposes obligations on student unions in relation to their roles as employers, providers of goods, facilities and services and in relation to the disposal and management of their premises. It also places them under obligations as regards their decisions in relation to applications for membership and their treatment of their members, if they have a membership of 25 or more people.

Student unions are also subject to supervision by higher education institutions, under section 22 of the Education Act 1994, who have a duty to:

"take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that any students' union for students at the establishment operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances".

Student Wastage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students dropped out of each UK university in each of the last 10 years, broken down by subject studied. [214023]

Bill Rammell: Non-completion rates are not broken down by degree subject However a sector-wide non-continuation rate is provided for each year, which is broken down by subject of study. The non-continuation rate is the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study. The rates for young entrants are shown in table 1. Information on the actual numbers not continuing in HE has not been published.

Table 1: Percentage of young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in HE in after one year of study UK higher education institutions academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06

							Percentage
Degree subject	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.6
Subjects allied to medicine	6.3	6.0	5.9	6.4	7.7	6.8	6.5
Biological sciences[1]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7.3	6.8	6.7
Physical sciences[1]	6.9	6.0	6.1	7.1	6.1	6.0	7.8
Agriculture and related subjects	6.8	7.0	11.4	7.5	8.3	8.0	5.7
Mathematical sciences[2]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	5.5	5.3	4.8

Table 1: Percentage of young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in HE in after one year of study—UK higher education institutions academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06

Degree subject	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Percentage 2005/06
Computer sciences[2]	9.8	8.0	8.4	9.4	10.3	10.3	10.5
Engineering and technology	10.1	9.0	8.9	10.0	10.1	9.1	8.5
Architecture, building, planning	9.6	8.0	10.2	11.1	10.0	8.3	7.6
Social studies[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	7.2	6.9	7.0
Law[1]	6.9	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.9
Librarianship, information sciences[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business and administrative studies[4,5]	6.9	8.0	8.2	—	8.8	8.2	8.4
Mass communications and documentation[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.8	8.5	8.6	8.5
Humanities[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Languages[6,7]	5.9	5.0	5.7	—	6.3	5.7	5.8
Historical and philosophical studies[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.3	5.9	5.0	5.1
Creative arts and design	8.7	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.0
Education	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.0	7.5	7.6	7.3
Combined subjects	8.8	8.0	8.2	14.3	13.5	14.3	13.8
All subjects	7.8	7.0	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.2	7.1

n/a = Not applicable
[1] One figure was provided for Biological and Physical Sciences until 2003/04.
[2] One figure was provided for Mathematical and Computer Sciences until 2003/04.
[3] One figure was provided for Social Studies and Law until 2003/04.
[4] One figure was provided for Librarianship, information sciences and Business and administrative studies until 2002/03.
[5] One figure was provided for Business and administrative studies and Mass communications and documentation in 2002/03.
[6] One figure was provided for Languages and Humanities until 2002/03.
[7] One figure was provided for Languages and Historical and Philosophical Studies in 2002/03.
Notes:
1. Figures for 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
2. There is a break in the time series between academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 because the subjects' JACS coding was changed in 2002/03.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2, which has been placed in the Library of the House, shows the proportion of full-time first degree entrants who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer for each UK HEI. Information on the actual numbers projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer has not been published.

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

Students: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the maximum amount of *(a)* grant and *(b)* loan available to students completing (i) clinical and (ii) research positions during a mandatory sandwich year forming part of an undergraduate degree course is. [219209]

Bill Rammell: Entitlement to maintenance loan and grant support for students on a sandwich course placement year depends upon the periods of full-time study during the academic year in question.

Generally, students are not entitled to grants for living costs in respect of an academic year of a sandwich course in which periods of full-time study aggregate to less than 10 weeks, unless the periods of work experience constitute unpaid service. They are, however, eligible for a non means-tested loan for living costs—in 2008-09 the maximum amount available to most students will be £2,265.

However, students on certain specified unpaid placements in the public or voluntary sectors (including unpaid clinical and research positions in public health and local authorities) are potentially entitled to grants for living costs of up to £2,835 (up to £1,000 if they entered higher education in 2004/05 or 2005/06), subject to means testing; and for other grants for dependants and for travel. Students on such unpaid placements will be eligible for the full amount of loans for living costs, also subject to means testing and place of residence; in 2008/09 the maximum loan available to most students will be £4,625 (£6,475 for students living away from home and studying in London).

Students who entered HE in or after 2006 and who are subject to the variable fee regime can take out a non means tested fee loan of up to £3,145 in 2008/09 if any periods of full-time study in the academic year in question aggregate to more than 10 weeks, or £1,570 If any such periods aggregate to less than 10 weeks.

Students who entered HE before 1 September 2006 and who consequently are not subject to the variable fee regime will be liable for a tuition fee contribution of £1,255 if any periods of full-time study aggregate to more than 10 weeks, or a contribution of up to £610 if any such periods aggregate to less than 10 weeks. Such students can apply for a means-tested fee grant to cover their contribution, and can take out a non means-tested fee contribution loan to cover any shortfall in their fee grant.

Students: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to provide assistance to students who have been estranged from their families. [216537]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* The Education (Student Support) Regulations provide for students who are proven to be estranged from their parents to be treated as independent students for the purposes of assessing their entitlement to higher education student support. We have no plans to change the way in which the assessment of such students is carried out.

Students who claim to be estranged from their parents are required to provide sufficient evidence for their local authority (LA) to determine that the estrangement does exist and is permanent. For each subsequent year for which such a student applies for support; the LA has to satisfy itself that the estrangement still persists.

The financial assessment for single independent students (i.e. they do not have a husband, wife, civil partner or cohabiting partner of either sex) is based on the student's own income only. The core student support package for such a student with an income of up to £18,360 (or up to £25,000 for new students starting their studies from 2008/09) studying outside London comprises: a non means-tested tuition fee loan of up to £3,145; a means-tested maintenance grant of £2,835; and a loan for maintenance of up to £4,625. Students who are in receipt of the full maintenance grant and who are being charged the maximum £3,145 tuition fee are also eligible for an institutional bursary of at least £310.

Extra support is available for disadvantaged students trough non means-tested disabled students allowances and means-tested childcare grant, adult dependant grant and parents learning allowance, in addition, students may also be able to apply to their university or college for support from its access to learning fund for students experiencing particular financial hardship.

Students: Loans

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the new interest rates payable on student loans to be repaid over the year from 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008 were set by the Student Loans Company; and *(a)* when and *(b)* in what form those rates were communicated to those graduates and current students who had taken out loans through the SLC. [217132]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* The student loan interest rate for the year from 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008 was confirmed by officials during August 2007 as the rate to apply for the forthcoming academic year for both types of student loan.

In accordance with the requirements of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, the SLC publishes details of the forthcoming change in the interest rate payable for pre-1998 mortgage style (MS) Student Loans before the new rate takes effect on 1 September each year. There is no similar requirement for advance notification for the current income contingent repayment (ICR) student loans which have a low interest rate exemption from arrangements governing consumer credit agreements. ICR statements are issued in September each year for those borrowers whose loans are not yet in repayment. For ICR borrowers who are in repayment, statements are issued after receipt of a file from HMRC. Thus, there is no specific timescale for the issue of these statements but, for the majority, these are issued between September and December.

However, the SLC publishes notices of the change of interest rates affecting all student loan borrowers in national newspapers before 1 September each year. The change is also published on the SLC's and Government websites.

Borrowers with MS loans are individually informed of the change by the SLC and private sector debt owners before 1 September. This is important as a change in interest rate for these borrowers changes the payments they are required to make. Borrowers with ICR loans receive notification of the change with their annual statements. While any change in the interest rate applied affects the overall balance of the outstanding loan, it does not alter the income-related repayments of these borrowers.

Students: Work Experience

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the additional costs incurred by students during non-paid work placements; and if he will make a statement. [220227]

Bill Rammell: The range of unpaid placements varies greatly between different courses and different institutions. Information is not available on the costs incurred by students while undertaking a non-paid work placement.

Generally, students are not entitled to grants for living costs in respect of an academic year of a sandwich course in which periods of full-time study aggregate to less than 10 weeks. They are, however, eligible for a non means-tested loan for living costs. In 2008/09, the maximum amount available to most students will be £2,265.

However, students on specified unpaid placements in the public or voluntary sectors are potentially entitled to grants for living costs of up to £2,835 (up to £1,000 if they entered higher education in 2004/05 or 2005/06), subject to means-testing; and for other grants for dependants and for travel. Students on these specified unpaid placements will be eligible in 2008/09 for a student loan of up to £4,625 in most cases (up to £6,475 for students living away from home and studying in London), subject to means testing and place of residence.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the Train to Gain budget was spent on employers that had been recruited by skills brokers in the most recent year for which figures are available. [219484]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006 the Train to Gain service has engaged almost 93,000 employers and led to over 488,000 employees starting learning funded by LSC. The brokerage service has played an important part in the development of Train to Gain. It has helped engage a high proportion of hard to reach employers, many of which are small businesses. Satisfaction with brokerage is high, at 80 per cent., and recent evaluations show that employers particularly value the local knowledge and impartiality of the brokerage service in helping them source high-quality training.

In the financial year 2006/07 34,000 employers engaged with Train to Gain, of which around half were engaged by skills brokers. The vast majority of employers engaged by brokers will have gone on to receive Train to Gain funding to help them invest in the skills of their employees. Detailed figures are not readily available on the proportion of employees who began learning programmes in Train to Gain who worked for employers engaged by skills brokers.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 50 companies have the largest contracts for delivering the Train to Gain programme; and how much these contracts are worth in total. [219465]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006, Train to Gain has grown quickly. It has now engaged 92,210 employers, supported 454,920 employees to begin learning programmes, and delivered 186,720 full level 2 and over 23,000 Skills for Life achievements. Recent evaluations of the service show that both employer and employee satisfaction with their experience of Train to Gain is high.

The following table lists the 50 providers, as at the end of May 2008, with the largest contracts for delivering Train to Gain in 2007/08. Taken together, these providers have contracts worth approximately £160 million—over 40 per cent. of projected spend for the year.

2007/08

Provider	*Total allocation (£)*
Telford College of Arts and Technology	8,013,929
Protocol Skills Limited	7,433,413
A4e Management Ltd.	7,374,277
CITB—Constructionskills	6,902,652
Construction Learning World Ltd.	6,066,730
Eastleigh College	5,817,334
Ufi Limited	5,038,120
Sheffield Trainers Limited	4,997,622
Huddersfield Technical College	4,391,152
Black Country Training Group Limited	4,355,771
JHP Group Limited	4,196,691
North Hertfordshire College	3,739,257
Preston College	3,505,122
Central Sussex College	3,453,643
CITB—Constructionskills (NES)	3,400,000
PDM Training and Consultancy Limited	3,340,570
Carter and Carter Group Plc	3,309,781
Cumbria Colleges Limited	3,211,590
West Nottinghamshire College	3,133,212
North Lindsey College	3,083,503
TNG Network Limited	2,964,636
Newham College of Further Education	2,812,767
Anne Clarke Limited	2,798,002
Hull College	2,789,748
Cambridge Regional College	2,544,281
Hit Training Ltd.	2,479,144
Stoke on Trent College	2,432,307
Park Lane College, Leeds	2,364,082
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College	2,293,051
M2 Training Limited	2,251,158
VT Training Plc	2,213,638
Stourbridge College	2,209,638
Constant Browning Edmonds Limited	2,195,091
Rotherham College of Arts and Technology	2,146,833
Boston College	2,123,631
Wigan and Leigh College	2,103,469
TQ Workforce Development Limited	2,060,981
Economic Solutions Limited	2,054,670
QGS Synergy Limited	1,987,281
Newcastle College	1,911,842
College of North East London	1,903,617
West Yorkshire Learning Providers Ltd.	1,882,144
Southwark College	1,865,929
Guildford College of Further and Higher Education	1,856,841
Education and Youth Services Limited	1,822,234
Yorkshire Training Partnership Limited	1,803,881
Walsall College	1,788,895
The Oldham College	1,762,500
Manchester College of Arts and Technology (Mancat)	1,750,000
South Leicestershire College	1,716,237

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abandoned Vehicles

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what figures police forces collect on numbers of abandoned cars. [219066]

Mr. McNulty: The police do not collect this information.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used for the purposes of marine biotoxins testing in 2006 for (i) PSP toxins and (ii) DSP toxins; what plans she has to replace the use of animals for these purposes; and what plans she has to revoke all existing licences for animal tests for these purposes. [218603]

Meg Hillier: We do not hold separate figures for testing for paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) and diarrheic shellfish poison (DSP). However, Table 9 of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals: Great Britain for 2006 records the use of 7,346 mice for the safety evaluation of other foodstuffs. All of these animals were used for marine biotoxin testing.

Section 5.4 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires the Secretary of State to weigh the likely adverse effects on the animals concerned against the benefits likely to accrue as a result of the programme to be specified in the licence. In the case of testing for the presence of marine biotoxins, the benefits of such testing are the protection of public health by ensuring that consumers are not exposed to biotoxins present in molluscan shellfish. In view of this, we have no plan to revoke or amend any project licences that have been granted authorising marine biotoxins testing. However, the Home Office is committed to the replacement of both the PSP and DSP bioassays. To this end, Home Office officials are working closely with the Food Standards Agency, as competent authority for food safety, and those contracted by them to perform routine monitoring for shellfish toxins, to progress replacements.

Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 there have been for *(a)* noise, *(b)* graffiti and fly posting and *(c)* waste and litter in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police authority, broken down by basic command unit, in each region of England and Wales since January 2008. [219164]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to respond.

The information requested covering the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for noise, waste offences and littering in England and Wales for 2006 by police force area and region, are shown in the following tables. Offences of graffiti and fly posting are not separately identifiable from other criminal damage offences (for example vandalism and damaging property) from the information reported to the Ministry of Justice.

It is not possible to separately identify prosecutions taking place in (i) local authority area and (ii) basic command units within police force areas in England and Wales from the information reported to the Ministry of Justice.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the winter of 2008.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the winter of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal offences, littering and noise offences, by region, and police force area in England and Wales for 2006[1,2]

	Proceeded against				
Offence code	*9115*	*9116*	*9137*	*16882*	*16897*
Statute	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(1)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33 (6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87*	*Noise Act 1996*
Offence description	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Contravening conditions of a waste management licence.*	*Depositing litter.*	*Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences.*
Region					
North East	33	1	8	273	—
North West	71	29	62	819	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	16	2	62	212	—
East Midlands	23	4	34	302	—
West Midlands	50	11	22	56	—
East of England	19	3	38	47	3
London	48	10	121	115	5
South East	60	19	36	51	—
South West	24	—	11	56	—
Wales	17	5	83	91	—
England and Wales	360	84	477	2,022	9

	Proceeded against				
Statute	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(1)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33 (6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87.*	*Noise Act 1996*
Offence description	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Contravening conditions of a waste management licence.*	*Depositing litter.*	*Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences.*
Force					
Avon and Somerset	—	—	4	4	—
Bedfordshire	4	—	5	10	3
Cambridgeshire	3	—	3	1	—
Cheshire	5	6	1	2	—
Cleveland	3	—	8	70	—
Cumbria	1	—	5	20	—
Derbyshire	3	—	6	28	—
Devon and Cornwall	15	—	1	20	—
Dorset	9	—	—	15	—

	Proceeded against				
Statute	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(8)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33 (6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87.*	*Noise Act 1996*
Offence description	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence.*	*Contravening conditions of a waste management licence.*	*Depositing litter.*	*Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences.*
Durham	—	—	—	6	—
Essex	2	3	17	22	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	3	16	—
Greater Manchester	49	2	42	668	—
Hampshire	2	1	—	6	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	9	3	—
Humberside	3	—	9	31	—
Kent	7	14	16	38	—
Lancashire	12	21	10	108	—
Leicestershire	5	—	4	188	—
Lincolnshire	10	2	2	18	—
Merseyside	6	—	—	21	—
Metropolitan Police	48	10	121	115	5
Norfolk	8	—	4	5	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	7	2	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	14	—
Northumbria	29	1	—	197	—
Nottinghamshire	5	2	20	54	—
South Yorkshire	8	—	15	79	—
Staffordshire	—	—	2	5	—
Suffolk	2	—	—	6	—
Surrey	3	1	7	4	—
Sussex	6	2	4	1	—
Thames Valley	42	1	9	2	—
Warwickshire	1	7	—	1	—
West Mercia	2	—	10	19	—
West Midlands	47	4	10	31	—
West Yorkshire	5	2	31	100	—
Wiltshire	—	—	3	1	—
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	10	15	—
Gwent	—	—	19	15	—
North Wales	1	—	6	8	—
South Wales	15	5	48	53	—
England and Wales	360	84	477	2,022	7

— = Nil

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Asylum

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on *(a)* the most recent operation of the asylum system and *(b)* the most recent report of the Independent Asylum Commission; and if she will make a statement. [220075]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The UK Border Agency receives correspondence from a variety of sources about the operation of the asylum system some of which makes reference to the reports of the Independent Asylum Commission. The UK Border Agency operates a fair and humane asylum system fully meeting the United Kingdom's international protection obligations.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somalian people have been refused asylum in the UK in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [220634]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following two tables give the most recently published figures available and show the total number of refusals for Somali people, following initial decisions, between April 2007 and March 2008 and for each of the last five years.

The published figure for asylum applications for Somali people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not divided into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and for Q2 2008 will be available on 21 August 2008 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1,2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants April 2007 to March 2008 by month, nationals of Somalia

	Total refusals
2007	
April	65
May	65
June	75
July	60
August	50
September	40
October	55
November	60
December	40
2008	
January	45
February	40
March	35

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.
[2] Provisional figures.

Asylum refusals[1] on initial decisions in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants 2003-07, nationals of Somalia

	Total refusals
2003	3,835
2004	2,355
2005	1,000
2006[2]	905
2007[2]	710

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.
[2] Provisional figures.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sudanese people have been refused asylum in the UK in each of the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [220636]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The accompanying two tables give the most recently published figures available and show the total number of refusals for Sudanese people, following initial decisions, between April 2007 and March 2008 and for each of the last five years.

The published figure for asylum applications for Sudanese people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not divided into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and for Q2 2008 will be available on 21 August 2008 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate.

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1, 2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants April 2007 - March 2008 by month, nationals of Sudan

	Total refusals
2007	
April	25
May	20
June	30
July	30
August	20
September	10
October	10
November	15
December	10
2008	
January	10
February	10
March	15

Asylum refusals[1] on initial decisions in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants 2003-07, nationals of Sudan

	Total refusals
2003	595
2004	1,305
2005	900
2006[2]	510
2007[2]	300

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Provisional figures

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of political violence involving Zimbabweans have been recorded in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* the UK in the last 24 months. [217658]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. From the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office, it is not possible to identify whether *(a)* a crime was politically motivated or *(b)* the nationality of either the victim or the alleged offender.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for asylum there were from Zimbabwean nationals in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* England and Wales at the end of (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [220121]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Further information on asylum is published annually and quarterly and is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean people have been refused asylum in the UK in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [220635]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following two tables give the most recently published figures available and show the total number of refusals for Zimbabwean people, following initial decisions, between April 2007 and March 2008 and for each of the last five years.

The published figure for asylum applications for Zimbabwean people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not divided into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and for Q2 2008 will be available on 21 August 2008 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum refusals[1] on initial decisions in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants 2003-07, nationals of Zimbabwe

	Total refusals
2003	3,285
2004	2,310
2005	945
2006[2]	1,510
2007[2]	1,155

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.
[2] Provisional figures.

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1,2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants April 2007 to March 2008 by month, nationals of Zimbabwe

	Total refusals
2007	
April	95
May	140
June	115
July	135
August	85
September	70
October	80
November	105
December	70
2008	
January	80
February	100
March	90

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.
[2] Provisional figures.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter to the Border and Immigration Agency of 8 April 2008 on behalf of Mamta Devi, Home Office reference number D1104208 and her further letter of 23 May 2008, correspondence reference B18481/8. [219873]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency replied to the right hon. Member's first letter in a letter received by her on 14 May 2008 and her letter of 23 May was replied to on 17 July 2008.

Borders: Personal Records

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the companies within the consortium selected to deliver the e-Borders programme have had experience of delivering this type of system; and for which governments or companies each has delivered similar programmes. [220274]

Mr. Byrne: Within the Trusted Borders consortium, Raytheon Systems Ltd., Serco, Accenture, Detica, QinetiQ, Steria and Cap Gemini all have experience in delivering programmes with similar capabilities to e-Borders. These include:

US Visit, for the US Government;

Schengen Information System for the European Union; and

miSense for the Home Office.

Cannabis: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of children *(a)* under 14, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* between 17 and 18 years old who (i) have tried skunk cannabis and (ii) smoke skunk cannabis at least once a week in each of the last 10 years. [216999]

Mr. Coaker: There are two primary sources of statistics on the use of illicit drugs by young people: the British crime survey (which covers England and Wales) and the smoking drinking and drug use survey among young people in England. However, both surveys ask questions about the use of cannabis in general and it is not possible to report separately on the use of skunk.

Crime

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standards she has set for *(a)* police services, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* local crime and disorder reduction partnerships in respect of the methodology for local crime and disorder audits; and what examples of best practice she has identified. [218535]

Mr. McNulty: Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the police service and local authorities are two of the five responsible authorities which comprise crime and disorder reduction partnerships or community safety partnerships (CSPs) in Wales.

Following a review of the partnerships provisions of the 1998 Act, the duties to produce three yearly audits and to report annually to the Secretary of State on a partnership's work and progress were repealed in 2007. They were replaced by new statutory requirements in 2007 to introduce minimum standards for partnership working based on six hallmarks of effective partnerships, providing clear statements of the core functions of CDRPs and CSPs. These include producing a strategic assessment identifying local community safety priorities and a partnership plan which sets out the approach for addressing these priorities.

'Delivering Safer Communities: A Guide to Effective Partnership Working' was issued in September 2007 to support the implementation of the statutory requirements and of the hallmarks of effective partnership. The guidance also contains a number of suggested practice case studies which represent practical solutions to support partnerships meet the statutory requirements.

Crime Prevention: Young People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces on involving young people in local crime reduction strategies. [219325]

Mr. Coaker: Engaging and involving young people in local crime reduction strategies is important, as they are often the group most concerned about crime and are disproportionately victims of crime.

The Government make it clear in the policing Green Paper that neighbourhood policing teams should always include young people in their consultations about policing priorities and also make every effort to engage hard to reach groups.

We encourage all aspects of youth engagement and encourage all police forces authorities and forces to make every effort to consult with and work in partnership with young people, both through adapting existing examples of good practice and developing new ones. We recognise that approaches will differ according to local circumstances and support partnerships between the police and other agencies where there is a coordinated approach to engaging and involving young people.

Police forces are already engaging positively with young people, for example by way of safer schools partnerships. SSPs are a successful mechanism for ensuring joint working between schools and police, with a dedicated police officer attached to a school, and liaising closely with the pupils. There are now about 500 SSPs of one form or another. Evaluations have shown that they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, developing strong and positive relationships between the police and young people, and to help young people develop a sense of being part of the local community.

The youth crime action plan, published on 15 July, includes a number of additional ways in which the police will be working proactively with and for with young people includes:

Expansion of safer schools partnerships (see above).

Increase after school patrols in the locality of the school and transport hubs. This is not only intended to reduce criminal and antisocial behaviour in these areas, but also to help young people feel safer, and able to interact positively with the police.

Using existing child protection legislation to ensure young people on the street at night are taken to a safe place (Operation Stay Safe).

Establishing youth forums to address the carrying of knives by young people, including young people who have been directly involved or affected by knife crime.

The YCAP also includes way of how we need to be responsive and accountable to young people to ensure they are involved in tackling youth crime and decisions that affect them and to improve the relationship between young people and the police. We will also listen to the views of young people themselves, ensuring that they can contribute to developing solutions not just feeling that they are seen as the problem.

We welcome and encourage youth engagement and will continue to explore ways to achieve this. For example young people are regularly represented on the steering group of the YCAP, as their views are very important.

Crime: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of digital forensic time within the police force is spent on investigating *(a)* online child abuse incidents, *(b)* e-crime and *(c)* terrorism. [218822]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

The Government recognises that all forensic work carried by or on behalf of law enforcement can be an essential part of evidence gathering; however each police force and law enforcement agency is given its own annual budget to be distributed where necessary to provide adequate resources.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* demand by police forces and *(b)* adequacy of resources for digital forensic services in England and Wales. [218823]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office allocates core grants to police forces on an annual basis without stipulating where the grant should be spent. The ultimate decision on where this money should be spent lies with the relevant chief officers.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of records held by the Criminal Records Bureau which contain incorrect information, broken down by police force are. [221650]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1123W.

Criminal Records Bureau: Discrimination

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by staff of the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years; and how many in each case were settled (i) in and (ii) out of court. [219038]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau has had no claims for discrimination on grounds of *(a)* sex, *(b)* race or *(c)* sexual orientation in the last five years.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in how many cases the Criminal Records Bureau is known to have wrongly reported that a person has a criminal record in each year since

its inception; on how many occasions in each year such cases related to offences involving children, broken down by offence; and if she will make a statement; [219049]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of Criminal Records Bureau checks which failed to reveal criminal offences that were subsequently found in each year since 2001; [219173]

(3) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were found to be incorrect in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and what estimate she has made of the (i) number and (ii) percentage of Criminal Records Bureau records which are incorrect; [219177]

(4) what measures there are to ensure that *(a)* information kept by the Criminal Records Bureau is accurate and up-to-date and *(b)* the documentary evidence to support such information is appropriately recorded. [219180]

Meg Hillier: All the quality control procedures at the Criminal Records Bureau are geared to achieving the highest levels of accuracy. In addition, the CRB carries out a post-disclosure accuracy check that analyses all aspects of the disclosure application and its issue. This check was introduced in 2007 and is based on a statistical sample of disclosure applications and from that sample it can be ascertained that the accuracy rate for 2006-07 is 99.94 per cent. and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent. No comparative data are available before these dates.

The CRB does not collate information about cases related to offences involving children.

The CRB operates a central database in order to record transactions that occur during the disclosure process, where applicants' personal data provided on an application form are compared against information held by the police, the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Although the CRB has access to conviction and other information through this process, the police and the other data sources are the data owners of material held on their respective databases and as such are responsible for the accuracy of information held thereon.

Criminal Records: Offences Against Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure the Criminal Records Bureau follows in recording allegations of child abuse which have not been proven; how many such allegations are on CRB records; what the procedure for the removal of an unfounded allegation is; and if she will make a statement. [219213]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau compares applicant details against information held by the police, the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Although the CRB has access to conviction and other information through this process, the police and the other data sources above are the data owners of material held on their respective databases and as such are responsible for the accuracy of information held thereon. Therefore, the CRB would not record the number of allegations of child abuse which have not been proven. However, the CRB operate a dispute procedure to enable recipients of Disclosure information to dispute the accuracy and relevancy of any information revealed in a Disclosure.

Criminal Records: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Wales were incorrectly identified as having criminal records by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2002. [218778]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau would need to perform a manual trawl, at disproportionate cost, of each application to ascertain whether the postcode falls within Wales, in order to identify how many applicants in Wales have been incorrectly identified in each year since 2002.

Furthermore, this may not provide a conclusive figure as applicants may live on the borders of England and Wales.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182720]

Mr. Byrne: Press and communications officers in the Home Office are employed at the Information and senior information officer grades. Total bonus payments are recorded by financial year and the following tables give details of payments made to staff within the communication directorate in the past six financial years. There are two types of bonus:

1. Performance Review

Staff performance reviews are completed annually with a bonus awarded to all staff with a performance assessment of 'exceptionally effective'. Table 1 details the amounts that would have been paid to individual members of staff with an 'exceptionally effective' rating.

This does not represent the total amount paid in bonuses to all staff in the relevant grades. This information and the data for the rest of the Department is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

2. Reward and Recognition Scheme

All bonus payments are awarded with reference to the guidance contained in the Home Office 'Reward and Recognition' scheme. Use of a special bonus allows management to respond quickly to effort or excellence. Table 2 shows the highest and lowest bonuses paid.

Table 1

Financial year	*Percentage*	*IO (£)*	*SIO (£)*
2002-03	1	303	322
2003-04	2	623	763
2004-05	2	629	771
2005-06	2	649	795
2006-07[1]	2	666	815
2007-08[1]	2	672	824

[1] The anticipated amount that will be paid for 'exceptionally effective' performance between April 2007 and March 2008.

Note:
Calculations are based on 2 per cent. (1 per cent . 2002-03) of the 'Target rate' of the appropriate pay scale.

Table 2

£

Financial year	*Total bonus payments*	*Highest bonus paid*	*Lowest bonus paid*
2002-03	5,900	700	400
2003-04	8,550	500	450
2004-05	8,200	1,000	300
2005-06	6,550	800	250
2006-07	6,400	500	250
2007-08[1]	8,120	650	150

[1] All awards have been made for 07/08; therefore this is the final total for the current financial year.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which make and model of car she has chosen as her ministerial car to be provided by the Government car and despatch agency. [217760]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to staff in annual appraisal-related end-year bonuses in 2007-08. [217322]

Jacqui Smith: For staff in Home Office headquarters, UK Border Agency, and the senior civil service end-of-year bonuses are linked to annual appraisals.

For 2007-08 these bonuses will be paid in July salaries along with the annual pay award and therefore this information will not be available until September.

Identity and Passport Service does not operate an end of year annual appraisal related bonus scheme for all its staff. Where bonuses are applicable, these are expected to be paid in July salaries and this information will not be available until September.

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau do not receive end of year appraisal bonuses.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167304]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost of staff responsible for marketing and branding for the 12 month period ending 31 December 2007 is detailed in the following table.

The marketing staff delivered campaigns including alcohol, harm reduction, drugs prevention, police recruitment, immigration control, advice to employers and changes to passport applications

The total cost of staff responsible for marketing and branding for the 12-month period ending 31 December 2007 is detailed in the following table:

January 2007 to December 2007

£

	Staff costs for marketing	*Staff costs for branding*
Home Office	990,630	3,124
Borders and Immigration Agency	238,345	124,710
Identity and Passport Service	774,436	104,453
Total	2,003,411	232,287

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reviews of regulation her Department and its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210840]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's approach to post-legislative scrutiny was set out by the Leader of the House of Commons in "Post-legislative Scrutiny - The Government's Approach" (Cm 7320) published in March 2008. The Home Office is following this new systematic process to post-legislative scrutiny. Reviews that are undertaken under the new process will, where necessary, be submitted to the Home Affairs Select Committee and copies made available on the Home Office website. In addition, the revised impact assessment (IA) process has increased the focus on post implementation reviews, with each individual IA setting out when the policy would be reviewed.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working days were lost by her Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198947]

Mr. Byrne: 31,194 days were lost during 2006-07, and 36,877 days lost from 2007-08.

In 2006-07, the Home Office HQ included the following departments: Communities Group, that National Offender Management Services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform which have now all transferred out. It is important to note NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join Ministry of Justice, and therefore have been included for the month of April 2007. Communities Group transferred to DCLG in May 2006.

The information has been drawn from the Home Office personnel system (Adelphi). Calculations are based on a 12-month rolling period as monthly calculations are not an accurate representation of working days lost.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff surveys her Department has undertaken in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [219153]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office headquarters and the United Kingdom Border Agency conducted a joint staff survey in February 2008. This is the only full staff

survey they have conducted since 2005. The 2008 survey cost a total of £66,338.64 which includes reprographics.

The Criminal Records Bureau conducted a staff satisfaction survey in September 2007 and it cost £25,180.

The Identity and Passport Service have not conducted a survey in the last 12 months.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which her Department is responsible. [166551]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows:

Contact centre	*Purpose*	*Information collected and monitored*
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire)	IPS—Call arrangements are for customer inquiries and appointment bookings—also e-mail inquiries such as progress chasers, customer complaints and requests for passport application packs	Information is collected and monitored relating to performance against contractual targets. Information is also collected on the types of general queries being asked by the public
Bangor (Northern Ireland)	IPS—Call arrangements are for customer inquiries and appointment bookings—also e-mail inquiries such as progress chasers, customer complaints and requests for passport application packs	Information is collected and monitored relating to performance against contractual targets. Information is also collected on the types of general queries being asked by the public
Bristol	IPS—Call arrangements are for customer inquiries and appointment bookings—also e-mail inquiries such as progress chasers, customer complaints and requests for passport application packs	Information is collected and monitored relating to performance against contractual targets. Information is also collected on the types of general queries being asked by the public
Home Office public Switchboard	Deals with non-specific callers (those who do not have a name/ extension number)	The Home Office public switchboard collects information on the subject of the call, the number of calls and the number of calls responded to within published targets
Immigration Enquiry Bureau (IEB)	BIA—Deals with inquiries from the public relating to general immigration issues, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for immigration application forms	Number of call attempts, number of calls answered, number of calls abandoned, calls abandoned while waiting to be answered, number of calls abandoned following information messages. The average time to answer a call and the average length of a call
Sheffield CC	BIA—inquiries on all work permit schemes and programmes and provides advice to employers on recruiting non-UK nationals	1 per cent. of all calls are monitored for quality purposes
Liverpool CC	BIA—Deals with general inquiries about citizenship and right of abode, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for application forms	Call centres are measured on the number of calls answered against demand on a daily, weekly, monthly basis and on the quality of service provided. 1 per cent. of all calls are monitored for quality purposes
Evidence and Inquiry	BIA—Deals with a range of inquiries from other Crown Agencies	Facilities in place to record calls—also reports weekly and monthly on a number of quality fronts including one to one sessions with staff and dealing with complaints when received
MP's Hotline	BIA—Deals with MP's House of Lords, European Parliament and members of the Scottish Parliament and devolved Assemblies	Performance measured on calls answered against demand on a daily basis and reports management information weekly to managers
CRB Contact Centre	Deals with the receipt of telephone calls from applicants, organisations, registered bodies (through whom applicants submit their applications) and other third parties.	Time taken to answer calls, percentage of calls answered within 20 seconds, average time to answer calls in seconds, abandoned calls, percentage of calls terminated by the caller, phone contact availability for all lines, percentage of time (during the opening hours of the centre) with all lines unavailable, phone contact availability for a specific phone. Percentage of time during the opening hours of the contact centre
Adelphi Service Centre	Deals with invoice payments, expense payments, Adelphi password resets and general assistance	The business is based on transactional processing for invoices and expense claims. Support is also offered around the Adelphi System dealing with general inquiries and password resets. This is monitored through contractual service levels and KPI's

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each telephone contact centre for which her Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166552]

Mr. Byrne: The information is in the following table.

Contact centre	*Purpose*	*Cost*	*Generated income*
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire)	IPS—Call arrangements are for customer inquiries and appointment bookings—also e-mail inquiries such as progress chasers, customer complaints and requests for passport application packs.	From 2001 to 2006 an average of £7.5 million per annum for call handling and fulfilment services (includes all IPS contact centres).	Average generated income from 2001 to 2006 is approximately £308,000 from 0870 numbers.

Contact centre	Purpose	Cost	Generated income
Bangor (Northern Ireland)	IPS-As above	As above	The above figure applies to all IPS contact centres
Bristol	IPS-As above	As above	As above
Home Office public switchboard	Deals with non-specific callers (those who do not have a name/ extension number).	The switchboard is run internally at an annual staff cost of £90,000.	No income
Immigration Enquiry Bureau (IEB)	BIA—Deals with inquiries from the public relating to general immigration issues, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for immigration application forms.	Bespoke financial info is not available for previous years on the call centres, since their annual cost was previously amalgamated with other non-call centre activities.	April 2002 to March 2003—£88,333.00 April 2003 to March 2004—£97,212.00 April 2004 to March 2005—£108,151.00 (This applies to all BIA contact centres)
Sheffield CC	BIA—Deals with inquiries on all work permit schemes and programmes and provides advice to employers on recruiting non UK nationals.	The expected running cost for the financial year for 2007-08 is £1.34 million	As above
Liverpool CC	BIA—Deals with general inquiries about citizenship and right of abode, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for application forms.	The expected running cost for the financial year for 2007-08 is £1.44 million	As above
Evidence and Enquiry	BIA—Deals with a range of inquiries from other Crown Agencies.	The expected running cost for the financial year for 2007-08 is £1.59 million	As above
MP's Hotline	BIA—Deals with MP's House of Lords, European Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament and devolved assemblies. Deals with a range of inquiries.	The expected running cost for the financial year 2007-08 is £530,000.	As above
CRB Contact Centre	Deals with the receipt of telephone calls from applicants, organisations, registered bodies (through whom applicants submit their applications) and other third parties.	There is no separate charge for the call centre—it is wrapped up in the-overall service.	No income
Adelphi Service Centre	Deals with invoice payments, expense payments, Adelphi password resets and general assistance.	Cost for 2006-07 financial year is £349,789.00.	No income

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average her Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named-day questions in each of the last three years. [215465]

Mr. McNulty: The information for each member could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, a manual check of the parliamentary questions database showed that it took on average, 11 days to answer written questions tabled by the hon. Member for Upper Bann from the start of the 2007-08 session to the 3 July 2008.

Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department and its agencies was of employing private security firms to enforce deportation orders in each of the last five years. [220208]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency has approved four contractors to carry out enforcement of deportation. One of these companies operates the main contract and three are appointed from an approved list on a case by case basis in the event that the main contractor staff are fully deployed and additional capacity is required. The reason UK Border Agency outsources these services is because it does not have the expertise and staffing resources in-house.

The costs of employing private security firms to enforce deportation orders in each of the last five years are:

	£ million
2007-08	10.43
2006-07	9.15
2005-06	7.13
2004-05	4.92
2003-04	3.97

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* claims have been made against her Department and its agencies and contractors, as a result of alleged injuries and assaults sustained during the enforcement of deportation orders in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age, (iii) nationality and (iv) location of alleged incident. [220209]

Mr. Byrne: We do not differentiate between the enforcement of deportation orders and other removals under immigration powers. The information requested is not collated in this format, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which private security firms her Department has approved to carry out enforcement of deportation orders; which have been contracted to perform such duties; and what the financial value of each such contract will be in each of the next five years. [220268]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The UK Border Agency has a current contract with G4S to carry out enforcement of deportation. Additional firms are approved and used as required on case by case basis to provide capacity over and above the contract. Owing to the commercial nature of these contracts, if we were to release the information requested on the financial value of each such contract, in each of the next five years this would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the UK Border Agency and those companies with whom the UK Border Agency enters into contracts. In view of the fact that the current contract with G4S is in the process of being re-tendered to release this information may prejudice the procurement process.

Deportation: Iran

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will suspend the return to Iran of Iranian nationals who are converts to christianity and who have been denied asylum in the UK in light of the consideration by the Iranian Government of a mandatory death sentence for apostasy from Islam. [220170]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We only enforce the return of individuals, including christian converts from Iran, whom we, and the independent immigration judges, are satisfied are not in need of protection.

Each case is carefully considered on its individual merits against the background of the 1951 UN refugee convention and the latest available country information. We do not accept that each and every asylum seeker who presents themselves as being from a particular country or religion, regardless of their individual circumstances, should automatically be afforded protection in the UK.

Detention Centres

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families and *(b)* people in such families have been detained in immigration removal centres in (i) each year from 1997 to 2007 and (ii) each month in 2008 for which data is available. [219417]

Mr. Byrne: The historical information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

We can provide local management information on the number of family units taken into detention from 31 March 2006 to date:

Period	*Number of family units entering detention*
31 March 2006 to 29 March 2007	894
30 March 2007 to 3 April 2008	825
4 April 2008 to 1 May 2008	50
2 May 2008 to 29 May 2008	60
30 May 2008 to 26 June 2008	64
27 June 2008 to 10 July 2008	28

The figures may include families detained on more than one occasion, do not constitute part of the national statistics and are based solely on locally researched management information. This information has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

We do not hold local management information on the number of family members entering detention.

Quarterly data are published in the asylum statistics United Kingdom quarterly publications, showing the number of people detained solely under Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 powers on the last Saturday of each quarter. Statistics on the total number of persons recorded as being removed from the UK upon leaving detention each quarter are also published.

Copies of the aforementioned publications are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the minutes of the ministerial action group on domestic violence on a regular basis. [218911]

Mr. Coaker: We do not publish the minutes of the inter-ministerial group on domestic violence (set up in 2003). This is because the minutes often record the considerations made when formulating and developing Government policy. Any premature disclosure may result in closing off alternative decisions or courses of action.

A report on the progress made against the national domestic violence delivery plan, which the IMG oversees, is published annually. The annual reports for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are on the website and the report for 2007-08 will be published shortly.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were fined for speeding in England and Wales in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area; and how much was received in fines in each area in each year. [219057]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the total revenue from speed limit convictions is not collected centrally.

Available information relates to the number of fixed penalties issued and the number of fines imposed by the courts. This information is given in the following tables. The fixed penalty level is £60, the maximum fine is Level three (£1000)

Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid.

2007 data will be available later this year.

Table A: Number of fines[1] [2] imposed at magistrates courts for speed limit[3] offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2007*
					Number of offences
Avon and Somerset	7,738	5,643	3,532	4,344	5,709
Bedfordshire	1,746	3,432	1,913	2,019	2,332
Cambridgeshire	4,932	3,130	2,653	1,625	756
Cheshire	2,709	3,639	3,621	4,501	3,699
Cleveland	511	976	1,001	984	1,323
Cumbria	2,073	2,161	2,066	1,521	1,548
Derbyshire	3,366	3,654	4,209	4,933	6,005
Devon and Cornwall	3,076	3,229	3,486	4547	3,609
Dorset	737	695	792	1,213	902
Durham	345	408	905	1,364	1,749
Essex	5,034	4,743	6,618	6,275	9,131
Gloucestershire	2,343	1,798	1,509	2,131	1,835
Greater Manchester	10,637	14,458	13,228	14,505	10,375
Hampshire	6,565	6,316	7,146	5,995	5,418
Hertfordshire	2,116	2,638	2,771	2,277	2,088
Humberside	959	1,037	2,828	1,908	2,434
Kent	1,533	3,548	1,814	2,245	2,367
Lancashire	3,904	5,067	5,257	5,166	4,370
Leicestershire	1,180	1,858	2,255	2,001	1,750
Lincolnshire	1,880	2,103	3,874	3,528	4,131
London, City of	125	232	232	163	101
Merseyside	3,110	2,002	2,155	1,322	635
Metropolitan Police	10,988	11,045	9,203	8,269	8,840
Norfolk	1,225	1,360	1,697	1,374	1,440
Northamptonshire	228	92	557	248	403
Northumbria	2,100	2,304	2,569	3,519	2,352
North Yorkshire	2,037	1,766	1,408	1,208	1,412
Nottinghamshire	560	1,083	1,236	1,332	1,707
South Yorkshire	2,235	2,304	2,265	2,464	2,587
Staffordshire	2,683	3,196	3,239	1,815	929
Suffolk	1,041	1,456	1,648	1,210	1,238
Surrey	1,467	2,137	3,220	2,911	3,457
Sussex	3,825	3,740	3,256	3,492	2,619
Thames Valley	9,507	14,264	10,814	7,601	9,190
Warwickshire	1,145	1,298	2,960	4,636	3,624
West Mercia	2,259	2,305	2,259	2,696	2,586
West Midlands	5,652	8,622	7,339	3,455	3,949
West Yorkshire	3,736	4,245	5,553	5,819	4,442
Wiltshire	4,464	5,428	5,669	2,301	2,163
England	121,693	140,047	138,763	126,723	125,610
Dyfed Powys	634	767	771	013	650
Gwent	4,728	6,349	7,393	4,036	2,813
North Wales	1,364	1,636	1,594	2,610	2,655
South Wales	1,966	2,651	2,706	2,706	1,754
Wales	8,712	11,306	12,464	10,465	7,872
Total England and Wales	130,605	151,352	151,227	139,188	133,482

Police force area	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
					Number of offences
Avon and Somerset	4,974	6.815	6,923	6,356	8633
Bedfordshire	1,551	3,521	1,171	4,507	4350
Cambridgeshire	521	1,163	1,754	2,101	3466
Cheshire	3,969	3,068	4,153	2,703	2624
Cleveland	1,120	1,282	1,665	1,093	1328
Cumbria	1,604	2,002	2,366	2,549	2953
Derbyshire	3,885	3,527	3,329	2,853	2592
Devon and Cornwall	3,415	4,862	4,869	5,102	4625
Dorset	999	1,486	1,666	3,058	3012
Durham	1,603	1,042	718	391	340
Essex	14,670	0583	8592	9,960	7688
Gloucestershire	877	800	786	750	1308
Greater Manchester	7,182	6585	4,745	7,220	6699
Hampshire	4,949	6,270	4,237	5,050	4571
Hertfordshire	2,334	2,167	1,606	2,990	2915
Humberside	1,131	1,179	3,592	3,241	2886
Kent	1,670	2,995	3523	3,636	3074
Lancashire	3,833	8,759	5,030	4,742	5478
Leicestershire	1,726	3,036	2,173	2,184	2554
Lincolnshire	3,692	4557	4,356	4,362	3351
London, City of	580	1,137	1,700	6,200	1741
Merseyside	579	911	693	679	1447
Metropolitan Police	7,530	7,080	6,646	4,381	4653
Norfolk	1,260	2,372	2,764	2,824	3453
Northamptonshire	222	2,836	4,001	3,342	2876
Northumbria	2,555	2,207	3,770	2,880	2856
North Yorkshire	1,236	1,515	2,034	1,545	1362
Nottinghamshire	2,026	3,780	4,146	4,593	3929
South Yorkshire	1,776	1,181	2,684	4,040	4541
Staffordshire	1,091	2520	4,449	4,408	3609
Suffolk	1,266	763	1,820	3,213	3035
Surrey	2,00S	1,493	279	2,876	3828
Sussex	1,745	2,783	247	3,353	3649
Thames Valley	10,989	9,339	8,862	8,290	7545
Warwickshire	1,743	2,323	1,707	1,842	1384
West Mercia	2514	1,320	363	2,023	2396
West Midlands	4,706	5,069	7,362	5,397	4161
West Yorkshire	2,295	3,349	4,263	5504	5955
Wiltshire	2,678	4,037	4,022	4,180	4308
England	113369	126,494	128,174	146585	141504
Dyfed Powys	614	1,548	1531	1,904	1120
Gwent	2,238	2,645	2,270	2,094	1282
North Wales	3,834	4,319	4,597	4,612	6066
South Wales	1,980	2,924	4,146	3,350	2789
Wales	8,666	11,436	12544	11,960	11567
Total England and Wales	122,555	137,930	141,118	156546	152,461

[1] May include cases where a fixed penalty notice was issued and not paid and referred to court.
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 20 each year.
[3] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1964 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences are less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts and police force. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area: England and Wales, 1997-2006

					Number of offences
	1997	*1998*	*1999[3]*	*2000[3]*	*2001[3]*
Avon and Somerset	7,204	18,327	25,897	36,122	30,339
Bedfordshire	8,700	10,255	18,008	16,707	13,415
Cambridgeshire	14,837	13,818	14,662	8,708	6,777
Cheshire	10,785	23,198	18,393	15,356	16,694
Cleveland	3,239	10,734	7,717	23,228	24,160
Cumbria	4,882	4,919	5,058	4,103	3,640
Derbyshire	17,438	22,785	21,771	16,291	24,948
Devon and Cornwall	38,150	32,757	33,882	28,091	33,388
Dorset	11,172	14,738	14,815	18,305	18,605
Durham	3,213	3,930	4,586	9,180	14,156
Essex	48,123	19,282	38,097	56,010	87,038
Gloucestershire	6,260	8,714	6,268	5,781	4,007
Greater Manchester	54,684	51,145	64,318	59,785	50,448
Hampshire	27,480	34,555	46,709	27,566	28,985
Hertfordshire	17,604	14,063	25,687	23,958	23,474
Humberside	9,735	13,739	12,671	22,209	17,228
Kent	28,706	28,009	18,854	24,617	23,044
Lancashire	23,613	32,810	35,335	29,683	27,893
Leicestershire	5,612	9,720	8,791	8,094	7,750
Lincolnshire	6,588	12,368	17,913	28,319	31,487
London, City of	520	907	2,423	353	713
Merseyside	11,808	15,373	15,968	7,385	4,100
Metropolitan Police	45,488	36,690	32,061	54,843	58,412
Norfolk	4,895	5,379	0,267	4,783	5,166
Northamptonshire	3,722	8,836	7,772	34,809	79,827
Northumbria	25,693	34,918	37,472	24,265	40,728
North Yorkshire	11,879	9,924	8,908	5,285	7,438
Nottinghamshire	4,625	6,289	5,512	23,766	24,556
South Yorkshire	39,082	31,585	23,544	20,987	21,566
Staffordshire	22,552	22,044	14,656	13,989	20,372
Suffolk	7,271	12,840	18,088	12,596	12,418
Surrey	5,340	10,252	11,035	12,072	10,424
Sussex	25,124	24,882	22,370	24,880	18,513
Thames Valley	53,285	62,827	48,034	71,888	154,524
Warwickshire	1,857	2,510	2,745	2,099	3,136
West Mercia	15,392	16,502	18,478	22,150	30,504
West Midlands	9,378	11,586	9,546	5,688	15,606
West Yorkshire	24,103	29,635	24,791	24,595	20,937
Wiltshire	11,330	8,494	8,319	16,351	17,941
England	669,409	730,146	755,221	844,656	1,035,562
Dyfed Powys	6,708	0,272	8,222	8,840	6,868
Gwent	5,263	4,214	2,050	16,518	13,209
North Wales	9,146	9,920	11,141	18,880	20,245
South Wales	22,227	27,464	28,850	54,383	75,224
Wales	43,144	50,870	50,263	96,721	115,546
Total England and Wales	712,753	781,016	805/184	941,876	1,151,108

					Number of offences
Police force area	*2002[3]*	*2003[3]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	53,846	89,405	85,331	67,933	52,606
Bedfordshire	40,338	66,709	56,762	44,736	48,407
Cambridgeshire	16,435	28,510	18,802	44,887	20,502
Cheshire	13,578	29,564	40,306	25,056	28,570
Cleveland	25,264	24,729	18,039	24,812	19,044
Cumbria	5,797	24,692	31331	27,441	32,023
Derbyshire	71,085	44,517	44,412	30,903	31,484
Devon and Cornwall	31,144	63,916	81,682	53,474	42,487
Dorset	18,688	83,185	71,832	79,522	51,599
Durham	7,687	6,538	4,184	2,816	2,817
Essex	101,063	66,281	66,852	85,746	60,705
Gloucestershire	3,888	3,139	4,813	10,849	13,406
Greater Manchester	35,881	44,903	43,531	59,478	60,282
Hampshire	31,867	45,324	52,587	58,750	49,404
Hertfordshire	23,203	28,896	61,637	49,738	81,805
Humberside	13,389	25,755	52,288	48,494	36,718
Kent	36,645	64,584	66,661	53,289	47,179
Lancashire	158,163	98,660	63233	63,588	57,658
Leicestershire	17,903	45,417	26,357	7,281	24,605
Lincolnshire	27,490	27,070	29,258	32,613	25,750
London, City of	4,782	4,864	6,358	10,275	5,089
Merseyside	8,484	8,863	8,058	16,411	33,049
Metropolitan Police	53,334	80,213	104,920	128,426	102,482
Norfolk	17,116	31,640	26,938	25,117	24,885
Northamptonshire	60,459	49,902	49,108	47,886	42,242
Northumbria	41,050	68,018	94,318	65,708	51,880
North Yorkshire	5,412	5,836	5,971	4,823	5,256
Nottinghamshire	35,771	53,276	53,188	53,686	42,816
South Yorkshire	16,098	61,418	42,635	65,352	51,462
Staffordshire	28,094	47,565	41,249	46,218	50,823
Suffolk	9,477	16,606	40,847	40,029	34,442
Surrey	6,052	7,057	8,200	17,509	38,520
Sussex	23,550	60,384	45,819	58,806	48,827
Thames Valley	121,677	123,586	92,834	97,049	137,312
Warwickshire	14,988	27,737	34,206	40,401	30,316
West Mercia	29,098	78,408	57,844	53,711	46,213
West Midlands	17,782	43,542	58,052	46,612	44,407
West Yorkshire	32,126	70,011	68,827	66,031	40,528
Wiltshire	27,975	42,738	50,841	52,412	61,458
England	1,286,556	1,703,168	1324,892	1,797,950	1,679,128
Dyfed Powys	12,343	3,072	2,221	1,435	1,054
Gwent	2,880	1,013	859	506	531
North Wales	44,458	61,645	51,068	74,485	59,491
South Wales	61,848	65,852	45,343	45,189	33,208
Wales	121,710	131,582	99,492	121,615	94,284
Total England and Wales	1,407,266	1,894,750	1,924,384	1,919,565	1,773,412

[1] Only covers notices paid where there be no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1964 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1073.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete, however it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff her Department employs processing applications for licences to sponsor migrants; and what she expects the average processing time to be for an application made in *(a)* May, *(b)* June, *(c)* July, *(d)* August, *(e)* September, *(f)* October, *(g)* November and *(h)* December 2008. [208990]

Mr. Byrne: In total 50 staff will consider applications for sponsor licensing.

No service level agreements for processing applications have been agreed. We will however shortly publish "Service Level Agreements", which will provide key stakeholders with the assurance that their applications will be dealt with in a timely manner.

Entry Clearances: Iran

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas from Iranian citizens have been made in each of the last 36 months; and what percentage of applications in each month was successful. [219629]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The information requested is given in the following table.

	Applications received from Iranian citizens	*Percentage issued*
July 2005	4,788	76.7
August 2005	4,360	80.0
September 2005	2,750	84.4
October 2005	2,729	85.5
November 2005	2,869	88.0
December 2005	2,659	88.2
January 2006	2,464	91.2
February 2006	3,409	83.9
March 2006	3,712	91.1
April 2006	3,107	93.1
May 2006	5,148	84.8
June 2006	4,960	89.8
July 2006	6,145	91.9
August 2006	5,783	86.0
September 2006	3,335	84.9
October 2006	3,004	84.3
November 2006	3,174	88.6
December 2006	3,015	80.3
January 2007	2,599	83.7
February 2007	3,687	81.6
March 2007	3,729	79.9
April 2007	2,738	86.7
May 2007	4,330	79.1
June 2007	4,939	83.6
July 2007	5,557	76.0
August 2007	5,550	74.0
September 2007	3,376	91.9
October 2007	2,995	75.6
November 2007	3,075	78.0
December 2007	3,014	75.6
January 2008	2,235	77.6
February 2008	3,207	74.2
March 2008	3,172	74.7
April 2008	3,441	70.2
May 2008	2,858	67.6
June 2008	5,122	67.2

Source:
Central Reference System

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1443W, on entry clearances: overseas students, whether her figures take account of gap year students entering the UK on *(a)* EU passports and *(b)* ancestor visas. [220804]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The numbers provided in my answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1443W, related only to visas issued in the entry category "Gap Year Entrant for Work in Schools". UK ancestry is a separate entry category for persons aged 17 or over who intend to take or seek employment in the UK. Persons admitted in this category are allowed to stay for an initial period of five years, after which they may apply for indefinite leave to remain. Unlike the gap year entry category, the UK ancestry route is therefore not restricted to young persons who only wish to spend a limited period of time working in the UK.

I also confirm that the numbers given do not include EU nationals who have the right of free movement and residence in all member states.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1443-4W, on entry clearances: overseas students, what allowance has been made for gap year students wishing to take a second working holiday after university. [220861]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Participants will be allowed one period of stay of up to two years under the terms of the new youth mobility scheme. Young people who have previously spent time in the UK on one of our existing youth mobility-type arrangements, except for the working holidaymaker scheme but including the gap year entrants concession, will be eligible to apply to enter under the new youth mobility scheme where they can demonstrate they meet its requirements.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1443-4W, on entry clearances: overseas students, what arrangements have been made for gap year students who are 17 years of age on entry to the UK but have their 18th birthday during their stay. [220862]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The concession for gap year entrants allows applicants to be aged 17, 18 or 19 when they apply under the concession. A participant in the scheme can enter and remain in the UK for up to 12 months on a gap year entry clearance, and this is not affected by any birthday he may have while in the UK. These conditions will continue to apply to any participants in possession of valid gap year entrant entry clearances when the scheme is abolished later this year prior to the launch of the new youth mobility scheme under the points-based system.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of overstay were recorded against recipients of temporary visas issued in Pakistan between April 2006 and March 2007. [198342]

Mr. Byrne: No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes overstayers

who have received temporary visas issued in Pakistan. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of reform to border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Essex Police Authority

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from the Essex police authority since January 2008 on the report on sustainable policing produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities; and if she will make a statement. [217738]

Mr. McNulty: None. The case made in Sustainable Policing was taken into account in developing the final police grant settlement tabled by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 4 February.

Essex Police Authority: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary exit schemes at Essex police authority for staff at each grade in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [217733]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold information relating to how much was spent on exit schemes at the Essex police authority since 1997-98.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from the Essex police authority on (i) overspend and (ii) underspend by the authority since January 2008; what reply was given to such representations; and if she will make a statement. [217739]

Mr. McNulty: We have not received any representations nor held any discussions with Essex police authority on overspends or underspends.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority. It is a legal requirement for the police authority to set balanced budgets taking into account any use of reserves.

Essex Police Authority: Job Satisfaction

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of job satisfaction of Essex police authority's staff in each year since 1997; what assessment she has made of trends in such levels; if she will place in the Library copies of such assessments; and if she will make a statement. [217736]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold information relating to the levels of job satisfaction of Essex police authority's staff.

Essex Police Authority: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff were employed by Essex police authority and its predecessor bodies in (i) 1979, (ii) 1989, (iii) 1999 and (iv) each year since 2001, broken down by (A) age and (B) sex. [217741]

Mr. McNulty: The available information about the number of personnel in the Essex police is set out in the following tables. Historical data on police staff at force level are not available before 1986 and were not collected by gender until 1995. Data on age are only available from March 2003 and in the format set out at the table.

Table 1: Essex police—officers and staff by gender[1]

	Police officers		Police staff	
As at 31 March	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
1979	2,259	202	Not available	
1989	2,496	250	[2]950.5	
1999	2,413	477	419.5	857.5
2001	2,419	468	492.5	933.0
2002	2,433	512	553.5	996.5
2003	2,413	576	602.5	1,050.0
2004	2,443	655	691.0	1,153.0
2005	2,489	701	715.0	1,218.0
2006	2,520	759	724.5	1,208.0
2007	2,468	829	729.0	1,145.5

[1] All figures are full-time equivalent.
[2] Data were not collected by gender for police staff until 1995.

Table 2: Officers and staff by age[1,2]

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Police officers					
25 and under	353	406	460	483	517
26 to 40	1,630	1,696	1,719	1,766	1,592
41 to 55	1,046	1,048	1,080	1,105	1,267
Over 55	11	15	19	20	21
Police staff					
25 and under	203	250	235	277	235
26 to 40	614	674	678	674	606
41 to 55	722	742	768	757	785
Over 55	307	398	485	462	509

[1] As these data are not usually published they has not been subjected to the normal verification by the Home Office.
[2] Age data are by headcount and will not equate to the full-time equivalent number of officers and staff.

Essex Police Authority: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding was allocated per head of population to Essex police authority in 2007-08; how much is planned for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement; [217742]

(2) what the police grant funding for Essex police authority was in 2007-08; how much is proposed for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [217743]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Essex police authority Government revenue grant allocations 2007-08 and 2008-09

	Government grant[1] (£ million)	*Resident population (Million)*
2007-08	187.91	1.66
2008-09	196.32	1.69

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.

Sources:

Population: Office of National Statistics, mid year population estimates and projections.

Grants: DCLG

Essex Police Authority: Redundancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed by Essex police authority will be made *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2008-09; and what cost; and if she will make a statement. [217735]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold information relating to how many staff employed by the Essex police authority will be made redundant (either compulsorily or voluntariiy) in 2008-09.

Essex Police Authority: Regulation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation regulates Essex police authority; what amendments have been made to, and what recent representations she has received about the operation of this legislation; what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [217731]

Mr. McNulty: Essex police authority, like all police authorities, is regulated by the Police and Justice Act 1996, as amended, and regulations issued under the provisions of that Act. A full list of the amending Acts will be placed in the Library of the House.

I have recently issued three sets of regulations regarding police authorities, numbered 82, 312, 630 and 631 of 2008. I have also recently issued Home Office circular 004/2008 which concerns policing plans. I plan to issue two further sets of regulations in the next 12 months regarding community engagement of police authorities, and the reporting requirements for police authorities.

Documents to be placed in the Library of the House:

Acts of Parliament which have Amended the Police Act 1996

The Justices of the Peace Act 1997 inserted references to that Act in relation to Justices of the Peace

The Greater London Authority Act 1999 made amendments to establish the Metropolitan Police Authority

The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 amended the way councillors are appointed to police authorities

The Insolvency Act 2000 amended the insolvency disqualification for police authority members

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 amended the 1996 Act to allow for Vice-Chairmen of police authorities, to require political balance on police authorities, to dispose of the maximum age requirement for membership of police authorities and to make changes to the allowances for members of police authorities

The Police Reform Act 2002 removed the need for the Government to approve members' allowances

The Police and Justice Act 2006 amended the rules on committees of police authorities, removed the best value legislation requirements on police authorities, and enabled the Secretary of State to produce regulations regarding the functions, membership and planning process of police authorities.

Essex Police Authority: Resignations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials of each grade have voluntarily ceased employment, other than through redundancy, in Essex police authority since June 2007. [217734]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant domestic worker visas were issued at British embassies in each of the last three years. [197986]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* The total number of domestic worker visas issued at British missions overseas in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2005	17,185
2006	18,259
2007	16,906

Hezbollah

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that money raised in the UK for political, social or humanitarian activities by Hezbollah is not used to fund terrorist action. [217115]

Mr. McNulty: On 2 July 2008, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary laid a draft order that will, if approved by Parliament, proscribe Hezballah's military wing in substitution for the existing entry on the proscribed list, the 'Hezballah external security organisation'. Where allegations are made of links between a charity and terrorist activity, the Charity Commission for England and Wales will deal with them as an immediate priority. It is an operational matter for the police to investigate

any allegations that money is being raised or used for terrorist purposes, and the Charity Commission will co-operate fully with the police and other agencies in such cases.

Hunting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* fines and *(d)* cautions there have been for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area since 2006. [219143]

Mr. Coaker: In 2006, there were 11 defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, five defendants found guilty at all courts and five sentenced to a fine for offences under the Hunting Act 2004. There were no offenders cautioned under the Act during the period. Information for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Identity Cards: Fess and Charges

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely cost to the individual of *(a)* having a suitable photograph taken for and *(b)* enrolling their biometrics in the identity card scheme. [219755]

Meg Hillier: The 2008 delivery plan sets out that the Identity and Passport Service are currently looking at new ways of recording fingerprints and photographs to make it easy and convenient for individuals to be enrolled onto the national identity register. For example, we are looking to a future where the market would provide biometric enrolment services, giving citizens a choice of competing services which should maximise convenience and drive down price.

We are currently considering how best this can be provided to the highest possible security standards, through a market with competing third parties. Until this work is completed, we are unable to speculate on the final costs to individual citizens.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detected trying to enter the UK illegally in each year since 1997; how many of those people subsequently claimed asylum; and how many were removed from the UK after their asylum claim was rejected. [167717]

Mr. Byrne: The information about the number of people who were detected trying to enter the UK illegally prior to 2002 is not available due to a change in our data collection systems in 2003. Official figures for 2007 are not yet available.

Locally collated management information for the period 2003 to 2006 is provided in the following tables. The figures include all those illegal entrants detected at ports of entry.

Between 2003 and 2006, 5,917 people were detected trying to enter the UK illegally, or seeking to enter illegally, while during the same period nearly 48,000 were detected in France and Belgium seeking to enter the UK illegally. A further 74,000 illegal entrants were prevented from flying to the UK through the combined efforts of the airline liaison officer network and respective carriers.

The additional information requested in relation to how many of these people subsequently claimed asylum and how many of those were then removed from the United Kingdom could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Number of people detected trying to enter the UK illegally from 2003 until 2006, broken down by port

	Total each year				
Initiating port/local enforcement office	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2003-06*
Aberdeen	0	0	0	2	2
Dorset Ports Office	0	0	18	123	141
Dover	1,690	871	661	611	3,833
Dartford	31	38	8	32	109
Harwich	31	32	32	27	122
Hull	304	186	81	45	616
Newhaven	17	71	36	26	150
Plymouth	0	0	0	2	2
Portsmouth Ports Office	0	187	108	74	369
Purfleet	14	52	1	0	67
Ramsgate	122	48	48	110	328
Sheerness	2	0	0	0	2
Tees Ports Office	53	14	6	21	94
Tilbury Ports Office	15	15	1	19	50
Tyne Commission Quay	5	15	11	1	32
Total	2,284	1,529	1,011	1,093	5,917

Notes:
1. Figures for 2003 for Portsmouth, Plymouth and Dorset were not available.
2. These data have been compiled from locally held Management Information and as such do not represent National Statistics. They may therefore be subject to change.

The number of individual attempts by people crossing the Channel illegally at the juxtaposed controls

	Total each year				
UK juxtaposed controls[1]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2003-06*
Calais	3,236	6,189	9,746	12,508	31,679
Coquelles	3,396	2,969	2,427	2,160	10,952
Dunkerque	0	1,296	1,691	2,230	5,217
Total	6,632	10,454	13,864	16,898	47,848

[1] The UK Juxtaposed Controls figures incorporate all detections made by all agencies including Calais Chamber of Commerce (CCCI), Eamus Cork Solutions (ECS), UK Border Agency.

Number of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding from flights to UK, by carriers after reference to ALO and by carriers without reference to ALO, from 2003 until 2006

	Number
2003	16,508
2004	16,767
2005	15,255
2006	26,307
Total	74,747

There is a big increase in the figures from 2005-06. Prior to 2006 we only kept detailed denied boarding figures on ALO home locations and not the region for which they were responsible.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal immigration since 1997. [190537]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Over the last 12 months we have drawn up plans for the biggest ever shake-up of Britain's border security. This year we will make the change.

We have put in place fingerprint checks before we issue a visa anywhere in the world. We have already delivered 1.4 million sets of finger scans, generating over 14,000 hits and bringing to notice 1,255 cases of identity swaps.

In February, we introduced large on the spot fines for employers who don't make the right checks. In financial year 2006-07, there were 15 successful prosecutions including cautions under section 8, and 21 so far this financial year.

Last month we introduced the first stage of the points based system as part of a phased approach to manage the flow of migrants coming to the UK. Applicants under the points based system will earn points for their skills and the potential they show for economic success, competence in the English language and ability to support themselves and their dependents. It is a simple, transparent and objective process that enables us to ensure that only those migrants who benefit the UK can come here to work or study. So far over 1,800 applications have been received under tier 1, highly skilled migrant workers. Future tiers will include students, skilled workers, youth mobility and temporary workers.

On 1 April we launched the UK Border Agency, an organisation of 25,000 staff, with a presence in 135 countries world-wide. The new agency will protect our border with single immigration and customs checks, tackle smuggling, immigration crime and border tax fraud, and implement fast and fair decisions.

We have already had successes thanks to exporting the border. Airline liaison officers have assisted in preventing nearly 180,000 people boarding planes over the last five years. That's equivalent to about two jumbo jets a week. In 2007 our strengthening of cross channel border controls stopped 17,658 individual attempts to cross the channel illegally. Additionally at juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium we have refused over 6,000 people entry to the UK. This means the number of illegal immigrants arriving in Kent from juxtaposed locations has reduced by 86 per cent. since 2002.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means her Department ensures that deported convicted foreign nationals cannot return to the United Kingdom at a later date. [163352]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency maintains a database which contains information on all foreign nationals who are deported from the United Kingdom. All passengers arriving in the UK and all visa applicants are checked against this database. On the basis of that, immigration officers and entry clearance officers will make a decision (under paragraph 320(2) of the immigration rules) on entry to the UK.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to collect additional data from migrants via landing cards. [206844]

Mr. Byrne: A new style landing card is being phased in to reflect the changes to the UK Border Agency. This includes an extra question as to the passenger's proposed length of stay in the UK.

In addition, as the e-Borders programme rolls out, we will be collecting additional passenger information. Full details of the information to be collected by e-Borders has been outlined in schedule 1 to The Immigration and Police (Passenger, Crew and Service Information) Order 2008, which formed part of the legislative package underpinning the e-Borders programme. The order came into force on 1 March 2008, after clearing parliamentary scrutiny.

The longer term future of the landing card is under review.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy immigration cases were being handled by her Department on 31 March 2008. [206854]

Mr. Byrne: We have previously estimated that there are around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, although this is difficult to assess accurately as many case records are dependants, duplicates or errors. This figure does not therefore equate to numbers of asylum applicants. Lin Homer is due to update the Home Affairs Select Committee shortly on the latest position in regard to progress.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to ascertain and record the citizenship of children who *(a)* accompany foreign national parents (i) into immigration detention and (ii) upon removal from the UK and *(b)* are included in family removal directions made under section 10A of the Immigration Act 1971. [220272]

Mr. Byrne: Information relating to families and dependant children including welfare issues, preparatory and detention visits, actual detention, mitigating circumstances, absent family members, removal and citizenship is ascertained during contact management events and recorded on the recently introduced family welfare form. This information is also recorded electronically and on the family's paper file.

The general processes followed in relation to family cases are all contained within chapter 45 of the enforcement instructions and guidance. Processes concerning the setting of removal directions and actual removal under Para 9 and 10 of Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 are in chapter 47.

The enforcement instructions and guidance is available to view on the UK Border Agency external website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Immigration: Police Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions the immigration service has used police cells to hold immigrants in each police force area in each year since 1997; and what the average cost of such accommodation was in each year in each police force area; [219159]

(2) what the nightly rate paid by the immigration Service for the use of police cells was to each police force in each year since 1997. [219160]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which her Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218049]

Mr. Byrne: Table 1 shows the total number of days lost due to industrial action in Home Office headquarters, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau in 2007 and 2008.

The Department does not hold historical information on levels of industrial action. The payroll system holds details of absence due to industrial action but it is not possible to produce accurate information prior to 2007 due to the level of payroll changes over time.

Table 1: Number of days lost due to industrial action

Period	*Number*
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	10,954
1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008	2,586

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter to her dated 29 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Nafeesha Babri. [218872]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 July 2008.

Migrant Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take in response to the judicial review judgement CO/924/2007 on the highly skilled migrants programme; and if she will make a statement. [218910]

Mr. Byrne: We published our response to this judgment on the UK Border Agency website on 10 July:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/hsmpforumjudicialreview

A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Offensive Weapons: Detection Rates

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the percentage clear-up rate for knife crime in each region was in the last 12 months; [219860]

(2) how many people in each region of England and Wales were charged with offences relating to knife crime in each of the last three years; [219861]

(3) how many offences were committed in each region of England and Wales in which a knife was employed by the perpetrator in each of the last three years. [219864]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences that are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing the Home Office with aggregate data on serious violence (attempted murder, grevious bodily harm and robbery) involving knives and sharp instruments. Data relating to such offences recorded during 2007-08 were published in table 3.09 of the recent "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08" statistical bulletin. A breakdown by region is shown in table A. Information about the number of persons charged and number of offences detected, or 'cleared-up', by police cannot be provided as they are not collected on the new statistical return.

Available data from the homicide index relates to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument', as at 12 November 2007. Table B shows the number of such offences recorded within each region in England and Wales in the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the number of these homicides with a current suspect and the number that have resulted in a homicide conviction. Figures for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Table A: Knife and sharp instrument offences[1] recorded by the police for selected offences[2], by region: England and Wales 2007-08

Region	*Number of offences*
North East	613
North West	3,709
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,629
East Midlands	1,316
West Midlands	2,826
East of England	1,112
London	7,428
South East	1,432
South West	920
Wale	897
British Transport Police	269
England and Wales	22,151

[1] Refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
[2] Total of selected serious offences only: attempted murder; wounding with intent to do GBH; wounding or inflicting GBH (i.e. without intent), which includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH; robbery of business property; robbery of personal property. Other offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument may exist, but are not shown in this table.

Table B: Currently recorded homicides[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], by region: England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2006-07[3,4]

Number

	2004-05			*2005-06*			*2006-07*		
Region	*Total number of offences recorded*	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*	*Total number of offences recorded*	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*	*Total number of offences recorded*	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*
North East	11	11	10	13	13	12	18	17	7

Table B: Currently recorded homicides[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], by region: England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2006-07[3,4]

Number

Region	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	Total number of offences recorded	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*	*Total number of offences recorded*	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*	*Total number of offences recorded*	*With current suspect*	*Resulted in homicide conviction*
North West	44	40	31	29	28	20	29	20	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	26	26	23	20	20	17	20	17	11
East Midlands	11	11	11	18	18	15	24	20	11
West Midlands	30	27	25	25	23	17	28	21	7
East of England	13	12	9	18	16	11	25	24	6
London	62	57	54	56	54	44	69	48	9
South East	30	29	26	25	24	10	21	15	2
South West	19	17	14	8	8	7	13	7	5
Wales	13	13	11	7	7	6	11	9	5
British Transport Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	259	243	214	219	211	159	258	198	69

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[4] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the costed security plan being prepared by the Olympic security directorate will be finalised; [217319]

(2) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* total costs and *(b)* costs additional to existing budgets of providing security for the Olympic games in each year until 2012. [217320]

Jacqui Smith: A costed security plan for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be agreed by the end of 2008. £600 million has been allocated for policing and wider security, in addition to the provision by the Olympic Delivery Authority and by the London organising committee for the Olympic games.

Overseas Students: Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to prevent unaccredited language schools being used as avenues for illegal entry into the UK. [220547]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We have been working closely with the Joint Education Taskforce and Ofsted and from early 2009 accreditation by an independent accreditation body approved by the UK Border Agency will be required by all private education providers that recruit international students.

This means that any private college delivering English language courses to international students coming to the UK under our new Australian-style points system or in the student visitor category will need to hold independent accreditation.

The intention of demanding independent accreditation will be to assure the UK Border Agency that an institution is genuinely providing good quality education rather than offering low quality courses for the purposes of facilitating applications by bogus students.

In the interim the UK Border Agency will continue to act upon allegations and intelligence relating to English language schools that are suspected of being bogus.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost of each of the passport interview centres was in June 2008; [218884]

(2) how many people had been interviewed at each of the passport interview centres by 30 June 2008; and what the cost per interview was for each office. [218885]

Meg Hillier: The total operating costs for the interview office network of 68 offices during June 2008 was £2.4 million, which excludes the cost of depreciation of relevant set-up capital expenditure. There are a number of central costs within the £2.4 million such as call centre appointments and IT maintenance that make it impossible to give meaningful comprehensive monthly costs for each individual office. A total of 32,792 interviews were carried out in the network during June resulting in an average cost per interview of £73.19, just below the planned figure.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were reported lost or stolen by people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 19 and 25, *(c)* between 25 and 35, *(d)* between 35 and 45, *(e)* between 45 and 55, *(f)* between 55 and 65 and *(g)* over 65 years old in the last year for which figures are available. [217420]

Meg Hillier: Procedures and supporting systems for reporting lost, stolen and recovered British passports were introduced in December 2003. Since then the Identity and Passport Service has provided a range of management information on the number of passports that have been processed under these arrangements. In 2007 there were 251,751 reports of lost passports and 41,393 reports of stolen passports. In addition, 10,428 passports were reported under the "other" category, which includes those damaged or destroyed. The systems, however, do not capture specifically the age of the holder whose passport is reported lost or stolen.

Police Custody: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the development and provision of electronic custody systems for the police; when such systems will be available; what the expected cost of such systems is; what the cost of their development has been to date; and what the planned date was for such systems to be available. [219111]

Mr. McNulty: All forces now have an electronic custody system in use at all custody sites. 24 police forces are equipped with the national strategy for police information systems custody system. The other 19 forces have implemented alternative custody systems that conform to the same data standards.

The cost of these systems varies from force to force, depending upon the size of the force and the particular system chosen. Furthermore, some systems were deployed as part of an integrated suite of applications and so the actual cost of the custody element cannot be identified separately.

The target date for the implementation of these systems was 31 March 2008.

Police Stations: Closures

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations were closed in each police force area in each year since 1997-98. [213625]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time police officers spent on frontline policing duties in each police force in each year since 2001. [219117]

Mr. McNulty: The information is set out in the following table has only been collected since 2003-04. The frontline policing measure does not cover a range of essential, but not frontline activities, including time spent at court, crime prevention activities, custody duties, operational planning, call handling duties or time spent on non-incident related paperwork.

Time spent on front-line policing 2003-04 to 2006-07

Front line policing	*Baseline year 2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	57.7	59.0	63.4	58.0
Bedfordshire	63.2	63.3	62.1	66.2
Cambridgeshire	61.1	60.3	70.7	63.0
Cheshire	63.2	57.7	64.6	63.6
City of London	64.7	63.1	69.1	70.6
Cleveland	58.5	53.6	55.2	56.1
Cumbria	59.9	61.0	59.1	61.9
Derbyshire	61.6	62.5	70.3	71.2
Devon and Cornwall	67.1	64.0	63.1	60.8
Dorset	67.8	68.2	68.5	69.4
Durham	60.7	59.0	59.5	57.8
Dyfed-Powys	65.1	64.1	63.3	62.2
Essex	56.8	60.9	62.9	64.8
Gloucestershire	64.6	68.1	66.5	67.8
Greater Manchester	63.7	61.1	61.2	58.6
Gwent	49.4	65.1	60.2	67.7
Hampshire	65.7	67.0	67.3	67.9
Hertfordshire	60.4	62.9	64.5	65.9
Humberside	57.6	57.3	56.4	65.9
Kent	58.8	66.4	67.6	70.1
Lancashire	62.2	64.3	62.4	63.4
Leicestershire	60.4	60.8	67.8	70.1
Lincolnshire	55.3	64.4	66.5	63.8
Merseyside	55.1	51.5	61.4	62.9
Metropolitan Police	65.0	62.4	61.9	61.7
Norfolk	61.0	62.9	66.8	65.9
North Wales	63.9	63.4	63.9	63.9
North Yorkshire	63.0	64.1	66.7	61.1
Northamptonshire	64.0	60.2	65.4	64.3
Northumbria	57.1	61.8	62.6	66.4
Nottinghamshire	59.5	57.6	59.6	63.9
South Wales	60.5	62.0	60.9	60.7
South Yorkshire	60.4	64.9	67.1	68.8
Staffordshire	59.2	61.5	66.7	73.1
Suffolk	62.9	60.6	59.5	66.2
Surrey	61.0	62.2	63.0	64.9
Sussex	60.9	60.6	61.6	61.1
Thames Valley	59.5	59.8	66.1	64.0
Warwickshire	64.7	66.3	65.9	63.9
West Mercia	63.6	62.8	64.5	64.3
West Midlands	62.2	63.6	61.8	64.7
West Yorkshire	62.2	67.4	70.6	76.0
Wiltshire	62.3	63.3	63.8	66.7
England and Wales	62.0	62.3	63.6	64.2

Police: Complaints

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since its establishment. [220068]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Responsibility for the collation and publication of data with regard to complaints against the police rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many operations firearms were issued to police officers in England and Wales in each year since 1997; in how many of these operations weapons were discharged by police officers; and how many police officers were qualified to carry firearms in each of the last nine years; [219102]

(2) how many police officers were armed while on duty in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area. [219104]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised to be used in each force area since 1997, and the number of authorised firearms officers in those forces, are shown in the following tables. The number of incidents where a conventional firearm was used is also shown.

Statistics on the police use of firearms are published annually by way of a written ministerial statement. Statistics for the last five years were published in my written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008.

Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total	12,379	11,842	10,928	10,915	11,109	13,991	14,827	16,657	15,981	18,891	18,053
Avon and Somerset	312	139	88	90	65	195	262	311	333	247	285
Bedfordshire	345	323	260	190	294	237	301	442	475	575	684
Cambridgeshire	54	96	43	75	71	114	57	104	241	201	207
Cheshire	288	216	299	386	545	419	451	397	358	367	340
Cleveland	1,026	103	35	76	28	37	170	453	530	657	293
City of London	308	307	147	125	3	40	131	364	404	323	239
Cumbria	72	68	52	24	30	71	77	72	152	112	92
Derbyshire	109	147	176	178	167	275	401	369	287	305	223
Devon and Cornwall	160	133	61	65	151	101	96	112	71	84	80
Dorset	36	54	69	79	174	184	193	231	223	263	354
Durham	131	103	114	114	40	89	83	156	144	291	340
Essex	331	505	590	497	435	323	312	275	296	432	245
Gloucestershire	41	51	52	52	48	165	185	127	176	229	280
Greater Manchester	214	165	160	224	357	580	518	507	461	478	481
Hampshire	245	217	129	103	114	198	162	208	237	289	352
Hertfordshire	96	82	75	73	86	112	172	195	185	187	280
Humberside	291	472	317	193	158	297	187	183	206	362	235
Kent	236	423	92	85	83	115	137	207	163	219	170
Lancashire	333	338	616	267	242	232	238	318	241	240	410
Leicestershire	155	89	109	222	217	300	268	295	260	363	334
Lincolnshire	58	52	57	155	336	477	392	386	294	220	157
Merseyside	671	675	484	489	825	1020	628	751	733	669	727
Metropolitan	2,439	2,578	2,742	2,862	1,862	2,447	3,199	3,563	2,964	4,711	3,878
Norfolk	166	128	185	239	226	175	200	178	195	175	153
Northamptonshire	64	77	51	57	58	43	138	148	158	137	156
Northumbria	1,360	823	683	465	708	1,440	1,275	1,140	977	611	332
North Yorkshire	65	102	69	612	72	92	100	147	185	183	282
Nottinghamshire	84	306	266	255	233	384	452	459	408	394	289
South Yorkshire	155	302	135	237	127	258	463	484	546	749	737
Staffordshire	257	240	269	174	203	232	281	255	216	171	250
Suffolk	180	193	174	165	176	163	270	251	153	202	256
Surrey	133	87	60	143	221	245	247	203	151	222	222
Sussex	235	330	123	185	353	248	204	280	187	190	201
Thames valley	215	227	158	110	153	179	167	195	289	427	264
Warwickshire	97	152	291	194	233	130	149	164	124	180	162
West Mercia	106	132	130	110	36	117	91	197	162	122	155
West Midlands	270	227	305	362	485	822	902	1,377	1,264	1,044	1,557
West Yorkshire	617	630	662	813	822	757	604	575	853	1,335	1,272
Wiltshire	26	26	24	19	66	45	58	63	88	139	226
Dyfed Powys	17	27	38	37	18	28	29	28	51	63	72
Gwent	89	86	64	39	30	20	37	40	81	94	133
North Wales	233	310	386	371	195	302	259	197	223	350	340
South Wales	59	101	148	255	363	283	281	250	236	279	308

Number of incidents where conventional firearms were used

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Incidents	5	3	5	7	9	11	10	4	5	9	3
Percentage of incidents compared with number of authorised operations	0.040	0.025	0.046	0.064	0.081	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048	0.017

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total	6,738	6,585	6,308	6,262	6,064	5,776	5,763	6,096	6,243	6,584	6,728
Avon and Somerset	165	161	153	150	135	116	84	122	118	117	103
Bedfordshire	46	42	50	46	45	48	53	58	56	59	57
Cambridgeshire	90	80	80	77	73	56	71	60	60	50	46
Cheshire	70	82	70	75	74	81	89	75	76	73	80
Cleveland	86	84	78	80	75	85	80	95	100	100	105
City of London	88	81	55	73	74	73	72	86	89	86	45
Cumbria	108	122	98	95	94	92	87	89	90	89	90
Derbyshire	110	100	87	77	81	80	69	70	74	75	69
Devon and Cornwall	151	147	82	119	100	108	115	132	123	122	132
Dorset	74	72	72	66	67	57	59	60	64	62	67
Durham	138	144	96	101	101	86	102	97	103	100	102
Essex	228	217	235	228	195	180	184	186	202	205	220
Gloucestershire	82	84	79	77	72	71	80	82	93	92	94
Greater Manchester	209	182	217	218	240	219	202	205	187	245	217
Hampshire	106	112	110	111	100	87	94	94	92	97	83
Hertfordshire	42	41	43	52	44	46	47	50	53	52	49
Humberside	90	102	102	97	102	96	96	96	101	92	83
Kent	150	150	130	136	136	113	93	90	94	94	98
Lancashire	132	125	132	143	132	138	129	122	115	123	103
Leicestershire	104	94	90	90	85	69	68	51	53	59	67
Lincolnshire	82	85	75	78	80	91	87	78	86	87	75
Merseyside	147	165	121	96	103	78	84	94	91	129	139
Metropolitan	2,035	1,971	1,951	1,977	1,940	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331	2,584
Norfolk	98	102	109	110	114	104	109	114	125	119	127
Northamptonshire	92	92	92	75	77	51	56	52	50	56	59
Northumbria	173	126	123	114	109	125	99	90	93	98	92
North Yorkshire	108	95	83	59	66	66	64	60	56	78	67
Nottinghamshire	128	129	120	116	137	136	131	138	138	149	146
South Yorkshire	110	108	90	100	98	92	100	98	122	116	118
Staffordshire	78	86	92	81	67	71	63	67	76	70	82
Suffolk	82	96	101	98	90	90	80	96	88	84	78
Surrey	76	61	69	71	72	62	48	53	49	51	45
Sussex	180	146	156	131	118	120	141	134	130	129	129
Thames valley	185	194	179	187	185	156	180	172	176	180	186
Warwickshire	41	38	44	54	45	50	51	46	53	55	59
West Mercia	155	159	139	129	130	125	131	139	141	152	133
West midlands	88	95	92	93	83	111	110	124	134	145	175
West Yorkshire	131	114	128	110	117	116	132	140	130	150	148
Wiltshire	134	105	88	89	71	71	78	80	74	72	69
Dyfed Powys	70	71	67	65	61	77	62	58	79	68	72
Gwent	70	59	64	68	66	57	60	71	74	86	64
North Wales	72	90	97	92	67	83	75	73	65	57	56
South Wales	134	176	169	155	143	138	125	139	134	130	115

Police: Fuels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on police services in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England and Wales; and if she will make a statement; [217236]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on the police service; and if she will make a statement. [217237]

Mr. McNulty: We have received no such representations.

This is an operational matter for each police authority and chief constable.

Police: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.police.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200378]

Mr. McNulty: The website www.police.uk/ (also known as the 'Police Portal') provided a national communications channel for the police service. The total annual cost of running this service was just under £2 million per annum. Most of the costs associated with running the portal were charged on an annual basis and there was little variation from month to month.

There is no budget for the website in 2008-09 and no staff are currently employed to maintain this website. This is because the Police Portal service ceased on 31 March 2007 when the contract with the service provider then providing the operational service came to an end.

The numbers of unique visitors per month can only be estimated. However, on the basis of the IP addresses used it is estimated that in the period from 1 January 2006 until the portal's cessation on 31 March 2007 the numbers of unique visitors were as follows:

	Number
January 2006	52,516
February 2006	46,338
March 2006	50,084
April 2006	47,775
May 2006	49,935
June 2006	47,051
July 2006	45,063
August 2006	76,386
September 2006	68,880
October 2006	57,802
November 2006	57,259
December 2006	75,101
January 2007	92,424
February 2007	84,294
March 2007	84,851

Police: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of provision of policing in the sparsely populated countryside of north Yorkshire; and if she will make a statement. [220018]

Mr. McNulty: The provision of policing across the force area is a matter for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* the total and *(b)* the average overtime payments for police officers were in each police force in England and Wales for each year since 1997. [219106]

Mr. McNulty: Data on police overtime is produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Police officer overtime for 1997-98 to 2006-07, broken down by police force areas, is shown in table A as follows. The average overtime payment can be calculated by dividing the overtime payment by the official number of police officers for that year (using Home Office figures) and is shown in table B as follows.

Table A: Total Police Officer overtime expenditure by force, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Overtime spend £000

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	2,835	3,103	4,054	3,443	5,112	7,000	6,899	6,870	5,351	5,801
Bedfordshire	1,603	2,132	2,372	2,709	3,992	4,106	4,708	4,693	4,181	4,398
Cambridgeshire	2,008	2,081	2,279	2,920	4,102	5,175	4,238	—	5,550	4,976
Cheshire	2,946	2,875	3,406	3,175	3,200	4,751	4,261	3,278	3,951	5,275
City of London	1,554	1,386	1,934	2,065	2,375	2,602	2,135	2,185	1,955	1,096
Cleveland	1,691	1,986	2,713	2,096	2,996	4,035	3,479	2,188	4,038	4,834
Cumbria	1,256	1,376	1,865	1,730	2,095	—	2,314	2,201	2,317	2,042
Derbyshire	2,108	2,287	3,512	2,718	3,278	4,010	3,542	4,009	3,822	3,778
Devon and Cornwall	3,634	3,988	4,653	4,831	7,658	6,441	5,476	6,026	6,566	6,568
Dorset	1,606	1,619	1,812	1,976	2,233	2,880	2,790	3,581	3,089	3,413
Durham	2,046	2,550	2,835	2,528	3,083	3,151	2,868	3,325	3,158	3,221
Dyfed-Powys	1,437	1,504	1,582	1,694	2,017	2,458	1,794	1,936	2,163	2,724
Essex	4,983	6,117	7,204	8,708	8,401	10,601	8,678	10,444	10,688	10,944
Gloucestershire	1,625	1,826	2,416	2,209	2,337	3,257	3,430	2,766	3,273	2,854
Greater Manchester	7,907	8,902	13,999	12,518	15,981	19,438	14,727	16,138	16,226	22,671
Gwent	1,788	1,954	2,934	2,993	3,020	3,184	4,077	3,447	4,123	3,993
Hampshire	6,016	7,367	8,322	7,109	8,557	11,603	9,703	11,818	11,243	12,001
Hertfordshire	2,907	2,806	3,840	7,056	—	9,036	7,494	6,854	6,576	6,742
Humberside	3,046	3,304	4,259	4,486	5,760	5,790	5,375	5,896	5,991	7,461
Kent	4,984	5,307	6,695	6,941	7,420	10,301	9,523	9,877	11,405	11,992
Lancashire	4,006	4,053	3,360	4,772	6,773	9,595	7,758	7,057	7,226	7,349

Table A: Total Police Officer overtime expenditure by force, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Overtime spend £000

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Leicestershire	2,634	2,787	3,122	2,946	3,305	4,404	4,123	4,342	4,720	4,482
Lincolnshire	1,781	1,702	2,380	2,945	2,537	3,199	2,193	2,856	2,345	2,214
Merseyside	6,372	8,411	9,207	8,848	10,455	11,144	11,637	12,577	12,103	11,215
Metropolitan Police	57,483	61,816	83,713	94,930	96,428	112,228	132,815	135,717	150,274	136,901
Norfolk	3,260	2,826	3,694	3,848	3,737	3,884	3,653	3,950	3,640	3,374
North Wales	1,798	1,798	2,389	2,594	2,740	3,446	3,885	3,403	4,099	2,767
North Yorkshire	2,111	2,364	3,048	3,738	3,584	3,534	3,199	3,690	4,889	4,352
Northamptonshire	1,865	2,181	2,157	2,197	—	2,688	1,311	2,991	2,246	834
Northumbria	5,037	5,007	3,970	4,421	4,776	6,217	6,452	7,395	7,736	8,135
Nottinghamshire	2,215	2,660	3,567	3,210	4,304	4,626	—	6,782	5,886	5,091
South Wales	2,599	2,805	3,845	4,181	3,993	4,977	5,328	6,291	5,002	6,373
South Yorkshire	5,661	5,712	6,218	5,605	—	8,097	7,601	8,962	9,467	9,605
Staffordshire	3,080	3,347	—	4,664	5,089	7,580	6,241	5,973	6,054	5,210
Suffolk	1,304	1,421	1,367	1,760	1,775	1,815	2,031	2,171	2,041	3,467
Surrey	—	2,457	3,999	5,028	5,674	6,573	5,676	6,228	6,322	6,354
Sussex	3,985	3,753	—	14,418	8,159	6,098	7,971	8,887	8,213	7,271
Thames Valley	7,408	6,919	7,713	8,381	12,052	12,006	11,504	12,345	11,810	15,897
Warwickshire	1,077	1,372	1,585	1,773	1,811	2,207	1,945	2,279	3,056	3,207
West Mercia	2,654	2,896	3,088	3,837	4,495	4,857	4,503	4,491	4,107	5,237
West Midlands	8,657	10,283	9,838	11,366	—	18,785	16,637	18,009	23,496	20,081
West Yorkshire	6,461	5,365	6,746	7,322	11,839	13,510	10,997	13,549	13,323	13,244
Wiltshire	1,408	1,535	2,028	1,850	1,770	1,940	1,440	2,430	1,903	2,385

Table B: Average overtime spend per officer, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	949	1,043	1,352	1,173	1,727	2,261	2,191	2,020	1,581	1,712
Bedfordshire	1,466	1,977	2,278	2,635	3,853	3,841	4,257	3,974	3,441	3,671
Cambridgeshire	1,542	1,611	1,788	2,361	3,165	3,800	3,062	—	3,959	3,480
Cheshire	1,440	1,408	1,645	1,579	1,598	2,307	2,011	1,506	1,807	2,426
City of London	1,809	1,680	2,486	2,823	3,378	3,406	2,642	2,562	2,232	1,261
Cleveland	1,159	1,339	1,917	1,493	2,129	2,762	2,199	1,297	2,409	2,883
Cumbria	1,098	1,183	1,656	1,596	1,999	—	2,030	1,801	1,881	1,660
Derbyshire	1,177	1,291	1,997	1,530	1,798	2,170	1,768	1,937	1,846	1,847
Devon and Cornwall	1,269	1,347	1,612	1,700	2,610	2,110	1,710	1,836	1,949	1,880
Dorset	1,251	1,236	1,417	1,513	1,649	2,085	1,970	2,499	2,130	2,298
Durham	1,401	1,683	1,808	1,629	1,933	1,952	1,737	1,973	1,838	1,896
Dyfed-Powys	1,431	1,501	1,542	1,629	1,912	2,171	1,561	1,669	1,842	2,305
Essex	1,683	2,089	2,492	3,104	2,910	3,598	2,903	3,371	3,350	3,338
Gloucestershire	1,435	1,654	2,188	1,983	1,992	2,753	2,795	2,154	2,535	2,214
Greater Manchester	1,142	1,281	2,056	1,842	2,313	2,693	2,006	2,007	2,018	2,848
Gwent	1,438	1,585	2,353	2,369	2,370	2,389	3,040	2,512	2,867	2,722
Hampshire	1,743	2,111	2,396	2,079	2,491	3,334	2,645	3,189	3,018	3,237
Hertfordshire	1,653	1,613	2,228	3,994	—	4,951	3,829	3,286	3,125	3,171
Humberside	1,490	1,635	2,157	2,322	3,005	2,813	2,553	2,664	2,687	3,355
Kent	1,529	1,633	2,092	2,166	2,236	3,070	2,731	2,762	3,180	3,332
Lancashire	1,234	1,490	1,036	1,501	2,081	2,904	2,323	1,988	2,035	2,051
Leicestershire	1,352	1,405	1,566	1,478	1,626	2,097	1,950	1,907	2,067	1,992
Lincolnshire	1,489	1,429	2,089	2,641	2,111	2,670	1,796	2,326	1,921	1,825
Merseyside	1,506	1,995	2,186	2,166	2,562	2,702	2,845	3,051	2,804	2,627
Metropolitan Police	2,155	2,369	3,211	3,725	3,876	4,280	4,746	4,564	4,893	4,483
Norfolk	2,277	1,977	2,674	2,786	2,632	2,646	2,437	2,616	2,358	2,167
North Wales	1,313	1,288	1,717	1,849	1,898	2,288	2,524	2,123	2,481	1,711
North Yorkshire	1,578	1,729	2,280	2,913	2,746	2,494	2,215	2,413	3,169	2,660
Northamptonshire	1,585	1,866	1,897	1,967	—	2,214	1,083	2,414	1,773	633
Northumbria	1,370	1,328	1,034	1,167	1,238	1,582	1,636	1,830	1,911	2,042
Nottinghamshire	953	1,145	1,603	1,456	1,946	1,985	—	2,730	2,353	2,055
South Wales	873	939	1,290	1,429	1,288	1,545	1,645	1,919	1,525	1,984
South Yorkshire	1,792	1,795	1,963	1,772	—	2,531	2,388	2,733	2,900	2,951
Staffordshire	1,393	1,460	—	2,150	2,390	3,554	2,834	2,636	2,655	2,293
Suffolk	1,105	1,198	1,149	1,537	1,567	1,509	1,621	1,665	1,554	2,667
Surrey	—	1,528	2,406	2,817	2,746	3,300	2,978	3,256	3,301	3,306
Sussex	1,292	1,253	—	5,108	2,858	2,108	2,667	2,924	2,698	2,352

Table B: Average overtime spend per officer, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Force	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Thames Valley	2,005	1,833	2,058	2,241	3,255	3,191	3,001	3,060	2,871	3,759
Warwickshire	1,163	1,485	1,746	1,971	1,956	2,278	1,951	2,261	3,023	3,108
West Mercia	1,301	1,441	1,525	2,034	2,304	2,407	1,996	1,907	1,735	2,228
West Midlands	1,217	1,437	1,344	1,580	—	2,466	2,146	2,283	2,917	2,480
West Yorkshire	1,240	1,041	1,354	1,518	2,459	2,763	2,187	2,569	2,366	2,347
Wiltshire	1,220	1,327	1,762	1,655	1,580	1,677	1,244	1,997	1,557	1,957

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics: Actuals 1997/98-2006/07, Home Office Police Officer Numbers

Police: Public Participation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to include the views of the public when deciding national policing priorities. [217644]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Since April there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area—meeting the Government's commitment. Neighbourhood policing gives local communities a role in deciding policing priorities by working with them to identify and tackle local problems together, as well as providing a highly visible presence.

Both Sir Ronnie Flanagan's review of policing and the Casey review 'Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime' contain recommendations about how best to embed neighbourhood policing and ensure communities have a say in how they are policed. In the forthcoming policing Green Paper the new police pledge will take forward many of the recommendations and will set out new national standards for the police service to ensure the public receive visible, accountable and responsive policing.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police resources is allocated to traffic policing in England and Wales, broken down by police force area; how many dedicated traffic police officers there were in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area; what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the number of dedicated traffic police officers; and if she will make a statement. [219059]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office police funding formula is designed to assess the relative need for resources between police authorities in England and Wales. The formula does not assign specific funding for any particular aspect of policing. Allocation of resources to specific areas of work within a force is a matter for the police authority and chief officer.

Available information on the number of police whose main function is traffic is in the following tables.

The Government have set implementation of the national roads policing strategy as a key action for the police in the national community safety plan. How they set about implementing the strategy is an operational matter for the police.

The Government believe, however, that it is not helpful to focus solely on numbers of dedicated traffic police: it is the most effective and efficient use of all resources that is most significant.

Police Officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function is Traffic[2] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	216	222	228	215	148
Bedfordshire	75	80	80	81	68
Cambridgeshire	85	99	101	99	96
Cheshire	194	200	194	85	91
Cleveland	64	73	—	61	72
Cumbria	107	110	108	111	114
Derbyshire	107	121	116	119	110
Devon and Cornwall	192	198	211	215	225
Dorset	91	86	82	81	80
Durham	111	119	108	105	100
Essex	241	242	243	243	231
Gloucestershire	62	66	67	73	67
Greater Manchester	406	392	359	342	352
Hampshire	248	246	244	240	237
Hertfordshire	150	151	149	149	145
Humberside	123	119	225	181	100
Kent	104	—	122	116	109
Lancashire	198	187	190	197	184
Leicestershire	92	95	85	77	72
Lincolnshire	90	89	96	102	100
London, City of	24	24	28	24	23
Merseyside	125	119	115	138	150
Metropolitan Police	583	592	1029	603	611
Norfolk	120	121	107	112	110
Northamptonshire	70	71	65	63	63
Northumbria	245	253	165	167	172
North Yorkshire	151	138	101	97	99
Nottinghamshire	—	121	133	134	139
South Yorkshire	180	127	134	141	143
Staffordshire	50	49	58	28	35
Suffolk	68	72	76	80	77
Surrey	108	110	107	99	87
Sussex	164	163	163	160	169
Thames Valley	259	259	245	236	237
Warwickshire	103	103	93	97	93
West Mercia	292	115	117	116	129
West Midlands	384	405	393	401	383
West Yorkshire	320	314	317	343	324
Wiltshire	91	96	93	—	89
Dyfed Powys	136	105	141	143	136

Police Officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function is Traffic[2] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gwent	93	95	96	102	93
North Wales	115	114	76	81	98
South Wales	243	245	243	243	252

Proportion of Police Officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function is Traffic[2] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

					Percentage
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	6.8	6.5	6.7	6.3	4.4
Bedfordshire	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	5.7
Cambridgeshire	6.1	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.9
Cheshire	9.2	9.2	8.9	3.9	4.2
Cleveland	4.0	4.3	—	3.6	4.2
Cumbria	9.4	9.0	8.8	9.0	9.1
Derbyshire	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.4
Devon and Cornwall	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.5
Dorset	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.4
Durham	6.7	7.1	6.3	6.2	5.9
Essex	8.1	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.0
Gloucestershire	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.7	5.2
Greater Manchester	5.5	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.5
Hampshire	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2
Hertfordshire	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.7
Humberside	5.8	5.4	10.1	8.1	4.5
Kent	3.0	—	3.4	3.2	3.0
Lancashire	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.1
Leicestershire	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.2
Lincolnshire	7.4	7.2	7.8	8.4	8.2
London, City of	3.0	2.8	3.2	2.8	2.7
Merseyside	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.2	3.4
Metropolitan Police	2.1	2.0	3.4	2.0	2.0
Norfolk	8.0	8.0	6.9	7.2	7.0
Northamptonshire	5.8	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.9
Northumbria	6.2	6.3	4.1	4.2	4.4
North Yorkshire	10.5	9.0	6.5	5.9	6.0
Nottinghamshire	—	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.8
South Yorkshire	5.7	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.4
Staffordshire	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.2	1.5
Suffolk	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.2	5.7
Surrey	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.2	4.5
Sussex	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.5
Thames Valley	6.8	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.7
Warwickshire	10.3	10.2	9.2	9.4	8.8
West Mercia	13.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.4
West Midlands	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.7
West Yorkshire	6.4	6.0	5.6	6.1	5.7
Wiltshire	7.8	7.9	7.6	—	7.4
Dyfed Powys	11.8	9.1	12.0	12.1	11.6
Gwent	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.3
North Wales	7.5	7.1	4.6	5.0	6.1
South Wales	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.6

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities(or designations) are recorded under their 'primary' role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

Police: Sign Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have procedures in place to provide British sign language interpreters and lipspeakers on a 24-hour basis for deaf people requiring assistance at police stations; and what steps her Department has taken to facilitate police force compliance with the requirements of the national agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the criminal justice system, as revised in 2007. [218643]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not currently held centrally.

All chief officers of police have been issued with guidance on the use of the national agreement.

ACPO is aiming shortly to write further reminding forces of interpreting requirements for those requiring lip speakers and British Sign Language services. This is being done in partnership with the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, who are preparing an additional leaflet of guidance in respect of deaf people in the criminal justice system.

Police: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary and wage costs were of *(a)* Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary, *(b)* the National Police Improvement Agency, *(c)* the Police Standards Unit and *(d)* the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since their inception; and how many staff worked in each organisation in each year. [219113]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

	Total staff	Total pay costs (£ million)
2007-08	145	8.8
2006-07	137	8.9
2005-06	129	7.1
2004-05	128	7.0
2003-04	128	6.1
2002-03	—	5.8
2001-02	—	5.6
2000-01	—	4.5
1999-2000	—	3.7
1998-99	—	3.7
1997-98	—	3.9

Notes:
1. The first HMIs appointed under the provisions of the County and Borough Police Act 1856, however, numbers prior to 1997-98 are not readily available.
2. HMIC have been unable to provide complete staff numbers within the timeframe as a change in IT systems has meant data are not readily available prior to 2003-04.
3. Total staff numbers include HO and seconded staff.
4. Pay costs rose significantly with effect from 2006-07 as a result of changes to the funding of police officer pensions.

National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

	Total staff	Total pay costs (£ million)
2007-08	1,898	84

Notes:
1. The NPIA was established by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and began its work in April 2007.
2. Staffing numbers include permanent NPIA staff, police, civilian and other secondees, along with contractors, agency and consultants.

Police Standards Unit (PSU)

	Total staff	Total pay costs (£ million)
2007-08	[illegible]	[illegible]

Police Standards Unit (PSU)

	Total staff	Total pay costs (£ million)
2006-07	22	2.5
2005-06	58	3.1
2004-05	59	3.6
2003-04	66	2.8
2002-03	[2]	[2]
2001-02	29	0.645

[1] In July 2007 the Police Standards Unit merged with the Partnership Performance Support Unit to form the Police and Partnership Standards Unit (PPSU). The rationale for the merger is explained in the PCSD Director's Report 2006-07. The complement for the PPSU in 2007-08 was 33 and the total pay costs were approximately £2.3 million.
[2] Unavailable.
Note:
The budget and staffing data for PSU is managed at directorate level along with a number of other Home Office units. The figure for 2006-07 only is disaggregated, all the rest include the other units.

2001-02

In response to a Parliamentary question on 17 June 2002 we stated that the costs from 1 July 2001 to 17 June 2002 were £709,000. So an estimate for the financial year 2001-02 would be £645,000.

2002-03

We have been unable to locate data for 2002-03 within the timeframe available as data are stored on an old financial system.

2003-04 to 2005-06

These figures include the police performance and framework team including iQuanta, and the policy team, which from 2006-07 were counted as separate units.

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

	Total staff	Total pay costs (£ million)
2007-08	398	19.1
2006-07	415	20
2005-06	352	16.1
2004-05	208	12.5

Notes:
1. The IPCC became operational on 1 April 2004.
2. The figures in the table are taken from the 2007-08 annual accounts to be laid before Parliament.
3. The figures for pay cost include pension and social security costs.
4. Staff costs and figures include agency staff, seconded staff and commissioners; staff numbers are average.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to extend the use of tasers nationwide. [219101]

Mr. McNulty: Following a trial in five forces in 2003, chief officers of all forces in England and Wales have been able to make the tasers have available to authorised firearms officers (AFO) as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the ACPO manual of guidance on police use of firearms.

Following a request by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), tasers have been deployed since July 2007 by AFO's beyond situations in which a firearms authority has been granted. In these cases, officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s).

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary also agreed to a 12-month trial, from 1 September 2007, in 10 selected forces of use of tasers in similar circumstances by specially trained units who are not authorised firearms officers. The Home Office and ACPO will be conducting thorough assessments of the trial and seeking independent medical advice before any further decision on the extension of Taser is taken.

Schengen Agreement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what UK participation there will be in the Schengen information system II programme. [214157]

Meg Hillier: The Government are fully committed to the UK's participation in the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). In order to preserve our border controls, the UK does not participate in Schengen visa and immigration measures. This means that the UK will not have access to information on SIS II relating to third country nationals refused entry to the Schengen area. However, the UK will participate in all other SIS II measures. The information available via SIS II will allow UK law enforcement officers to locate missing persons, criminals and stolen property from across the EU, increasing our opportunities to deal with cross-border crime.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 477-78W, on surveillance: local authorities, how many cases the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has investigated *(a)* in total and *(b)* in relation to complaints against the use of surveillance by local authorities since its establishment. [217936]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* The Investigatory Powers Tribunal has issued determinations in respect of 554 complaints from 2 October 2000 to 31 December 2006, the most recent period for which published reports are available. Figures for 2007 are due to be published shortly. It is not the tribunal's practice to publish more detailed breakdowns by type or body of complaint, in order to preserve the confidence of people using it that their complaint will be handled confidentially. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal is independent of Government and subject to statutory rules which prevent it from disclosing information to an extent, or in a manner, that is contrary to the public interest.

Telecommunications: Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what conditions govern the access by local authorities to telecommunications data stored under the provisions of the Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2007. [219214]

Mr. McNulty: The EU Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2007 place an obligation on communications service providers to retain data which they acquire for lawful business purposes.

Local authorities can have access to communications data (service use and subscriber data) for the purpose of

preventing or detecting crime or preventing disorder through the provision in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the related statutory instruments and code of practice.

Terrorism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with police forces on the setting up of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; [198654]

(2) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals she consulted on the setting up of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism. [198759]

Mr. McNulty: A range of stakeholders were involved in establishing the Channel Project. At national level these included the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Department for Communities and Local Government. At local level the police, local authorities, other service providers and community organisations were consulted.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role her Department's Research, Information and Communication Unit has played in the development of the Channel Project for combating violent extremism. [198655]

Mr. McNulty: The Research, Information and Communications Unit has not played a role in the development of the Channel Project

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she will use to determine the effectiveness of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; and if she will make a statement. [198751]

Mr. McNulty: The Channel project will be evaluated to assess the lessons learned in setting up a partnership and the effectiveness of the referral process and interventions deployed.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Channel Project to combat violent extremism has spent on community groups; and how much it plans to spend in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [198753]

Mr. McNulty: There has been no money allocated to the Channel Project to spend on community groups.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local community groups the Channel Project to combat violent extremism *(a)* funded in 2007-08 and *(b)* plans to fund in 2008-09; and how those groups were selected for funding. [198754]

Mr. McNulty: There has been no money allocated to the Channel Project to spend on community groups.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism was in 2007-08; what the cost is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how those funds will be spent in each of those years. [198755]

Mr. McNulty: The cost of the Channel Project in 2007-08 was approximately £600,000. The Home Office has allocated £1 million for the project in 2008-09.

Funding for the pilot areas covers the cost of a full time co-ordinator for the project in each of the sites. Funding for future years will depend upon the scale of implementation.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of *(a)* the police, *(b)* her Department's staff and *(c)* the public are employed by the Channel Project to combat violent extremism in each of the areas in which it operates; and how many people in each category will be employed by the project in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [198756]

Mr. McNulty: In each area in which the Channel Project operates one person is employed by the police force to co-ordinate activity. In 2008-09 there are 10 areas operating the Channel Project which will extend to 20 areas by 2009. Precise roll out plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are under development.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which statutory agencies are taking part in the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; and if she will make a statement. [198757]

Mr. McNulty: As with other crime prevention programmes the police work with the full range of statutory partners at local level.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which areas of the country the Channel Project to combat violent extremism *(a)* operates and *(b)* is planned to operate; and how those areas were decided upon. [198758]

Mr. McNulty: In addition to two pilot areas, in London and Lancashire, that have been operating Channel since 2007, a further eight sites, in west Yorkshire, the midlands, London and Bedfordshire, will be operational in 2008. These sites have been identified through an assessment of local factors, such as strength of partnership working, and the presence of other funding like the Preventing Violent Extremism funding distributed by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Terrorism: Departmental Coordination

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the development of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism. [198752]

Mr. McNulty: My right. hon. Friends the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government meet frequently to discuss progress

on Preventing Violent Extremism. Officials in both departments regularly discuss and review progress on the Channel Project.

UK Border Agency: Property

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what property was *(a)* lost at and *(b)* stolen from the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each year since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [212356]

Mr. Byrne: Property lost or stolen from the UKBA and its predecessors for the period 2007-08 to 2003-04 is set out in the following table.

Information prior to 2003-04 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The agency has guidelines which should be followed in the event of a theft or loss. All reported thefts or losses are investigated and appropriate action is taken in the light of these investigations.

Known values of property lost or stolen

Financial year	*Lost items*	*Stolen items*
2007-08	3,842	3,126
2006-07	4,996	2,830
2005-06	3,281	3,265
2004-05	3,226	n/k
2003-04	4,950	n/k

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2002 had comments from chief police officers on otherwise clean reports, broken down by police force area. [220915]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 748W.

Vetting: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons under the age of 18 years have been the subject of Criminal Records Bureau checks in the latest period for which figures are available. [219175]

Meg Hillier: During the financial year 2007-08 the Criminal Records Bureau has issued 92,717 disclosures to applicants under the age of 18 years.

Work Permits: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many workers, issued with clearance by the Security Industry Authority, but without the right to work in the UK have been found to be working in Wales. [218776]

Mr. Byrne: Fewer than three workers issued with clearance by the Security Industry Authority but without the right to work in the United Kingdom have been found working in Wales. The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Our plans for enforcing the immigration laws in the United Kingdom's communities were published on 19 June 2008 in our enforcement business plan. This outlines our programme for delivery and reform in our enforcement business over the next year—removing those who have no right to be here or pose a threat to the UK, targeting the most harmful.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Pregnant Women

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports or complaints her Department has been informed of regarding pregnant women at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre receiving inadequate treatment for their condition. [220903]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics indicate that only one official complaint regarding a pregnant woman at Yarl's Wood has been received in 2008 and this related to the food provided at the centre. Data is not collected in respect of unofficial reports.

Young Offenders: Re-offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average number of days from arrest to sentence in cases involving persistent young offenders was in each police force area in the most recent period for which figures are available; [219050]

(2) how many persistent young offenders were registered in each police force area in each year since 1997; how many offences were recorded in each area where the offender was a persistent young offender in each of those years; and what percentage of total offences this represented in each year, broken down by police force area. [219055]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

A persistent young offender (PYO) is a young person aged 10-17 who has been sentenced guilty by any criminal court in the UK on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence, and within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has an information laid against them for a further recordable offence.

This definition was designed to monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. This pledge was first met over a full calendar year in 2002 and has been met in all but one calendar year since then. It is important to note that the definition was not designed to monitor overall levels of youth crime.

Table 1 shows the number of PYOs, and the number of offences committed by them, for each police force area from 1997 to 2007.

Young offenders are now being dealt with twice as quickly as they were prior to 1997, which means that there are much shorter intervals between sentencing occasions for those youths who repeatedly offend. Youth

sentencing is therefore more timely, and for repeat offenders more frequent, than it used to be prior to 1997.

Table 2 shows the total number of notifiable offences brought to justice, and the proportion of them that are attributable to PYOs, for each police force from 2000 to 2006 (the only years for which this data is available).

The Ministry of Justice publishes monthly National Statistics on the average number of days from arrest to sentence for PYOs at the following web address:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Table 1: Number of Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) and number of offences committed by PYOs, by police force area, 1997 to 2007

Number of persistent young offenders

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	179	167	166	213	245	268	270	268	308	334	354
Bedfordshire	59	68	76	113	78	74	90	116	98	108	109
Cambridgeshire	111	101	136	164	147	149	163	135	185	183	200
Cheshire	166	196	190	247	211	243	239	249	258	258	268
Cleveland	322	293	301	281	252	272	214	212	197	223	280
Cumbria	148	173	162	183	173	183	188	178	200	220	240
Derbyshire	144	162	193	210	234	244	232	235	244	246	281
Devon and Cornwall	127	154	145	191	222	257	279	324	290	296	356
Dorset	53	55	78	82	94	100	127	132	138	155	144
Durham	191	219	249	277	237	255	212	199	211	237	278
Dyfed-Powys	91	102	91	98	107	109	116	106	114	139	116
Essex	155	186	214	273	270	266	271	280	363	414	432
Gloucestershire	113	80	75	84	111	93	85	95	108	134	155
Greater Manchester	817	872	910	984	1,157	1,149	1,055	1,065	1,127	1,215	1,251
Gwent	122	141	146	198	187	176	203	223	209	211	206
Hampshire	234	358	516	553	566	605	599	616	610	609	688
Hertfordshire	104	91	101	143	128	132	162	187	186	207	228
Humberside	215	243	261	254	284	267	295	332	370	376	397
Kent	198	268	271	341	370	354	399	375	376	388	362
Lancashire	274	363	426	455	485	610	554	509	540	617	642
Leicestershire	145	192	203	218	234	243	264	204	259	259	281
Lincolnshire	119	138	114	137	123	122	143	142	111	110	122
Merseyside	377	426	429	458	496	514	538	557	458	449	520
Metropolitan	864	1,003	1,091	1,100	1,297	1,325	1,251	1,324	1,329	1,486	1,769
Norfolk	97	124	150	163	154	157	163	155	130	155	160
North Wales	108	112	121	182	185	212	237	239	214	225	204
North Yorkshire	120	126	155	184	161	158	167	188	182	203	252
Northamptonshire	102	100	142	158	148	163	129	121	125	115	153
Northumbria	588	669	800	729	811	778	810	771	839	869	908
Nottinghamshire	351	361	340	397	375	417	387	336	404	382	383
South Wales	412	466	496	522	546	522	493	482	435	371	348
South Yorkshire	333	331	349	414	381	412	417	432	409	381	385
Staffordshire	192	217	204	268	258	222	261	274	287	300	292
Suffolk	74	81	99	121	148	174	176	216	239	213	230
Surrey	71	76	86	115	128	115	111	117	126	139	138
Sussex	99	161	158	161	190	236	240	303	363	402	432
Thames Valley	254	251	262	291	316	358	325	303	356	415	442
Warwickshire	68	74	93	104	98	98	88	81	94	109	123
West Mercia	173	158	209	259	237	251	246	267	286	346	323
West Midlands	762	856	840	897	1,012	989	1,013	1,025	877	864	808
West Yorkshire	542	647	732	678	766	731	775	844	868	864	904
Wiltshire	71	85	88	107	108	107	123	126	127	120	131
England and Wales	9,868	11,079	12,014	13,233	13,854	14,244	14,244	14,492	14,827	15,528	16,512

Number of persistent young offender offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	250	233	251	314	449	496	483	456	564	612	691
Bedfordshire	89	101	134	160	142	127	161	226	189	172	213
Cambridgeshire	177	169	251	267	245	283	342	274	315	310	377
Cheshire	264	334	295	378	389	449	439	495	530	483	486
Cleveland	603	538	597	496	506	557	389	395	382	419	534

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number of persistent young offender offences										
Cumbria	238	283	293	305	300	318	337	322	352	415	407
Derbyshire	232	233	290	322	411	403	392	414	416	433	477
Devon and Cornwall	183	235	224	299	418	434	504	577	518	485	636
Dorset	75	99	130	109	141	183	219	216	243	274	272
Durham	302	359	457	545	464	506	418	328	382	457	534
Dyfed-Powys	156	180	165	158	212	225	243	199	228	264	238
Essex	230	288	350	455	479	470	451	515	654	736	854
Gloucestershire	182	142	116	135	183	188	196	199	215	285	314
Greater Manchester	1,431	1,536	1,704	1,875	2,290	2,165	1,868	1,889	2,101	2,251	2,336
Gwent	170	243	260	341	336	325	371	421	396	409	416
Hampshire	358	636	965	1,079	1,052	1,236	1,184	1,209	1,128	1,116	1,323
Hertfordshire	153	160	174	199	209	246	276	340	362	356	388
Humberside	287	385	382	412	494	419	502	626	647	653	709
Kent	273	416	424	480	614	619	715	655	673	686	684
Lancashire	451	588	724	830	843	1,089	1,038	944	1,078	1,216	1,279
Leicestershire	236	303	328	374	421	459	452	315	466	439	546
Lincolnshire	181	230	188	228	242	229	261	221	171	199	228
Merseyside	695	726	773	820	966	999	1,016	1,046	835	797	955
Metropolitan	1,504	1,801	1,995	2,001	2,291	2,236	2,081	2,208	2,133	2,549	3,128
Norfolk	155	219	243	268	278	256	294	258	220	271	294
North Wales	178	159	216	273	346	426	452	439	386	402	344
North Yorkshire	178	211	280	282	280	282	305	332	333	380	461
Northamptonshire	146	144	251	298	288	282	254	241	243	235	338
Northumbria	1,002	1,234	1,501	1,539	1,612	1,498	1,622	1,522	1,619	1,730	1,858
Nottinghamshire	507	497	505	669	689	687	672	583	703	709	678
South Wales	757	932	1,010	1,082	1,111	1,100	1,021	905	869	719	643
South Yorkshire	510	511	559	696	645	717	713	738	701	646	649
Staffordshire	285	310	319	400	464	419	517	511	517	515	519
Suffolk	116	116	191	213	285	363	391	447	491	423	435
Surrey	131	138	146	175	235	219	195	239	249	258	252
Sussex	157	259	239	242	335	414	465	617	762	828	855
Thames Valley	366	388	433	455	559	659	562	502	636	721	775
Warwickshire	133	118	174	145	193	172	147	142	177	225	245
West Mercia	257	263	374	392	414	458	445	501	508	628	586
West Midlands	1,306	1,501	1,546	1,663	1,839	1,759	1,810	1,745	1,456	1,401	1,378
West Yorkshire	797	1,034	1,275	1,367	1,327	1,309	1,432	1,626	1,676	1,575	1,696
Wiltshire	104	132	138	151	166	192	203	224	206	202	233
England and Wales	16,010	18,605	21,151	23,131	25,393	26,116	26,086	26,363	27,037	28,252	30,683

Table 2: Number of notifiable offences brought to justice, and percentage that were attributable to Persistent Young Offenders, 2000-06

Thousand

Police force area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number of notifiable offences brought to justice						
Avon and Somerset	125.2	119.3	131.8	129.3	136.9	167.7	201.9
Bedfordshire	10.2	10.0	10.1	10.8	11.8	12.6	12.9
Cambridgeshire	30.0	29.9	31.4	31.1	34.5	39.2	49.1
Cheshire	30.3	29.2	29.0	31.8	33.9	41.4	43.8
Cleveland	60.1	57.3	56.0	57.5	67.5	72.8	82.5
Cumbria	16.9	15.1	15.7	16.6	17.1	22.5	24.9
Derbyshire	40.4	40.6	40.8	42.6	38.5	40.8	48.5
Devon and Cornwall	12.7	13.0	13.7	12.8	12.1	13.4	15.5
Dorset	12.5	12.1	12.1	13.2	14.9	15.6	15.1
Durham	52.3	46.9	47.4	48.0	61.7	71.9	66.1
Dyfed-Powys	26.0	24.7	24.5	27.4	29.3	36.3	41.3
Essex	18.4	17.5	17.0	18.8	21.8	24.0	26.0
Gloucestershire	14.6	14.7	15.2	14.9	14.8	16.5	20.6
Greater Manchester	72.0	75.7	79.6	80.4	70.4	70.6	76.1
Gwent	22.4	20.8	23.3	23.4	22.9	25.8	28.0
Hampshire	20.5	21.7	22.1	22.2	24.1	27.6	29.5
Hertfordshire	6.9	8.1	7.7	8.6	9.1	10.5	12.4

Table 2: Number of notifiable offences brought to justice, and percentage that were attributable to Persistent Young Offenders, 2000-06

Thousand

Number of notifiable offences brought to justice

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Humberside	16.1	17.1	18.4	17.9	18.6	21.1	21.2
Kent	26.4	25.0	23.2	24.6	24.8	27.4	30.0
Lancashire	8.7	10.3	10.8	10.6	11.2	14.4	15.2
Leicestershire	17.7	19.0	17.9	19.3	22.1	25.0	27.4
Lincolnshire	14.0	13.2	12.5	12.9	13.4	12.1	15.0
Merseyside	11.9	10.9	12.2	13.0	12.4	15.6	17.5
Metropolitan	13.9	12.7	13.2	13.7	15.2	15.9	18.6
Norfolk	11.7	11.5	12.0	13.3	15.0	15.3	17.3
North Wales	10.3	11.4	11.6	11.0	11.9	13.3	13.6
North Yorkshire	13.4	13.7	14.9	16.2	19.2	18.8	27.0
Northamptonshire	20.0	21.1	22.0	23.4	25.4	33.2	37.7
Northumbria	30.3	30.9	34.2	32.4	36.2	53.7	51.4
Nottinghamshire	32.3	31.7	32.1	33.1	37.4	38.3	38.4
South Wales	10.5	12.2	11.5	12.8	17.8	15.7	17.5
South Yorkshire	26.6	25.2	24.5	28.3	29.2	33.9	36.6
Staffordshire	20.0	21.9	22.6	23.6	27.2	32.2	34.0
Suffolk	25.3	25.1	27.2	27.4	27.9	30.9	33.0
Surrey	25.9	25.9	27.1	26.8	26.1	34.3	38.3
Sussex	12.7	13.1	13.2	13.3	12.1	14.3	16.2
Thames Valley	10.6	10.9	10.0	11.3	11.5	12.1	12.1
Warwickshire	11.2	11.2	11.3	10.9	15.6	16.2	16.9
West Mercia	13.1	12.6	13.2	13.5	14.8	15.8	18.3
West Midlands	17.1	17.5	16.2	16.8	15.8	15.0	17.7
West Yorkshire	30.4	29.5	30.5	31.6	31.3	30.2	29.6
Wiltshire	11.0	11.3	11.8	12.5	10.9	13.0	13.7
England and Wales	1012.7	1001.3	1031.2	1059.7	1124.6	1277.0	1408.5

Percentage of notifiable offences brought to justice attributable to persistent young offenders

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	0.25	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.33	0.34	0.30
Bedfordshire	1.57	1.42	1.26	1.49	1.92	1.50	1.34
Cambridgeshire	0.89	0.82	0.90	1.10	0.79	0.80	0.63
Cheshire	1.25	1.33	1.55	1.38	1.46	1.28	1.10
Cleveland	0.83	0.88	0.99	0.68	0.59	0.52	0.51
Cumbria	1.80	1.99	2.03	2.03	1.88	1.57	1.67
Derbyshire	0.80	1.01	0.99	0.92	1.08	1.02	0.89
Devon and Cornwall	2.35	3.21	3.17	3.94	4.77	3.85	3.13
Dorset	0.87	1.17	1.51	1.66	1.45	1.56	1.81
Durham	1.04	0.99	1.07	0.87	0.53	0.53	0.69
Dyfed-Powys	0.61	0.86	0.92	0.89	0.68	0.63	0.64
Essex	2.47	2.73	2.77	2.40	2.36	2.72	2.83
Gloucestershire	0.92	1.25	1.24	1.31	1.34	1.30	1.38
Greater Manchester	2.61	3.02	2.72	2.32	2.68	2.98	2.96
Gwent	1.52	1.61	1.40	1.59	1.84	1.53	1.46
Hampshire	5.25	4.84	5.60	5.34	5.01	4.09	3.79
Hertfordshire	2.88	2.57	3.19	3.20	3.72	3.45	2.88
Humberside	2.56	2.89	2.28	2.81	3.37	3.06	3.07
Kent	1.82	2.46	2.67	2.90	2.65	2.45	2.28
Lancashire	9.59	8.19	10.06	9.76	8.43	7.50	7.99
Leicestershire	2.11	2.21	2.56	2.35	1.43	1.86	1.61
Lincolnshire	1.63	1.83	1.83	2.03	1.65	1.41	1.33
Merseyside	6.88	8.88	8.18	7.84	8.41	5.34	4.54
Metropolitan	14.44	18.04	17.00	15.19	14.56	13.42	13.70
Norfolk	2.29	2.41	2.14	2.21	1.72	1.44	1.57
North Wales	2.64	3.03	3.67	4.11	3.68	2.91	2.95
North Yorkshire	2.11	2.04	1.89	1.88	1.73	1.77	1.41
Northamptonshire	1.49	1.36	1.28	1.08	0.95	0.73	0.62
Northumbria	5.07	5.22	4.38	5.00	4.20	3.01	3.37
Nottinghamshire	2.07	2.17	2.14	2.03	1.56	1.84	1.85
South Wales	10.33	9.11	9.60	7.96	5.10	5.52	4.11
South Yorkshire	2.62	2.56	2.93	2.52	2.52	2.07	1.76

Percentage of notifiable offences brought to justice attributable to persistent young offenders

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Staffordshire	2.00	2.12	1.86	2.19	1.88	1.61	1.52
Suffolk	0.84	1.14	1.34	1.43	1.60	1.59	1.28
Surrey	0.68	0.91	0.81	0.73	0.91	0.73	0.67
Sussex	1.90	2.56	3.14	3.49	5.10	5.34	5.11
Thames Valley	4.29	5.15	6.57	4.97	4.37	5.26	5.96
Warwickshire	1.29	1.73	1.53	1.35	0.91	1.09	1.33
West Mercia	2.98	3.29	3.47	3.29	3.39	3.22	3.42
West Midlands	9.74	10.49	10.85	10.77	11.01	9.71	7.89
West Yorkshire	4.50	4.49	4.30	4.54	5.19	5.56	5.33
Wiltshire	1.38	1.47	1.63	1.62	2.06	1.58	1.47
England and Wales	2.28	2.54	2.53	2.46	2.34	2.12	2.01

TREASURY

Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were *(a)* the number of disposals, *(b)* the disposal values, *(c)* the chargeable gains net of in-year losses before the deduction of taper relief and *(d)* the chargeable gains net of both in-year losses and the deduction of taper relief were for assets held up to (i) six months, (ii) one year, (iii) two years, (iv) three years, (v) four years, (vi) five years, (vii) 10 years and (viii) over 10 years for (A) business assets and (B) non-business assets in each year since 1997. [162981]

Jane Kennedy: The following table provides a breakdown of disposals and chargeable gains. This does not include information for assets that changed type or where disposals resulted in a capital loss. Figures for earlier years are available only at disproportionate cost.

Numbers (thousand), amounts (£ million)

Range of holding period	*Business assets*				*Non business assets*			
	Disposal numbers	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]	*Tapered gains*[2]	*Disposal numbers*	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]	*Tapered gains*[2]
2002-03								
Up to 6 months	2	73	37	23	28	978	140	92
6 months 1 year	1	63	48	40	14	721	119	106
1 to 2 years	5	532	413	179	18	1,032	229	202
2 to 3 years	4	1,075	813	202	18	988	325	287
3 to 4 years	4	795	592	147	15	846	281	235
4 to 5 years	11	2,928	2,343	582	36	1,061	397	306
5 to 10 years	10	2,807	2,155	534	60	2,757	965	755
Over 10 years	16	6,765	5,504	1,380	61	3,327	1,645	1,188
Unknown	—	171	169	42	18	689	212	173
All	53	15,208	12,075	3,129	268	12,400	4,314	3,346
2003-04								
Up to 6 months	2	157	73	43	62	1,885	211	150
6 months 1 year	2	69	35	22	38	6,846	186	153
1 to 2 years	4	395	236	104	36	1,585	290	236
2 to 3 years	8	1,270	1,048	259	20	905	295	269
3 to 4 years	5	1,012	841	207	18	737	293	251
4 to 5 years	5	879	645	160	13	626	258	210
5 to 10 years	20	3,218	2,678	678	65	3,371	1,518	1,136
Over 10 years	14	5,894	4,927	1,214	88	4,324	1,954	1,439
Unknown	2	423	355	92	40	1,401	428	327
All	62	13,317	10,837	2,780	379	21,680	5,432	4,172
2004-05								
Up to 6 months	3	216	87	52	54	2,220	268	188
6 months 1 year	5	134	50	33	43	1,233	236	198
1 to 2 years	12	446	278	135	59	2,313	490	396
2 to 3 years	14	1,459	1,198	300	35	1,533	399	339
3 to 4 years	13	1,715	1,373	338	23	918	350	282
4 to 5 years	10	1,101	860	215	16	771	289	229

Numbers (thousand), amounts (£ million)

	Business assets				Non business assets			
Range of holding period	*Disposal numbers*	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]	*Tapered gains*[2]	*Disposal numbers*	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]	*Tapered gains*[2]
5 to 10 years	24	6,222	4,750	1,185	96	4,157	1,924	1,383
Over 10 years	17	7,467	5,441	1,343	73	3,655	2,262	1,567
Unknown	4	704	645	163	50	2,622	645	525
All	102	19,464	14,683	3,764	449	19,422	6,863	5,105

[1] Net of in-year losses but before deducting taper relief.
[2] Tapered gains are after the deduction of all losses and taper relief.
[3] Neg.

Bank of Credit and Commerce International

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which parts of the Sandstorm report have been released by his Department to the US authorities. [192011]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* the number of gains, *(b)* the amount of gains and *(c)* the amount of tax paid were on capital gains between (i) £1 and £9,999, (ii) £10,000 and £24,999, (iii) £25,000 and £99,999, (iv) £100,000 and £249,999, (v) £250,000 and £499,999, (vi) £500,000 and £999,999 and (vii) £1,000,000 and above for (A) business assets and (B) non-business assets in each year since 1997. [162982]

Jane Kennedy: The following table provides a breakdown of disposals and chargeable gains. It is not possible to attribute amounts of tax to separate disposals. Figures for earlier years are available only at disproportionate cost.

Numbers (thousand) amounts (£ million)

	Business assets			Non business assets		
Range of chargeable gain	*Disposal numbers*	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]	*Disposal numbers*	*Disposal value*	*Chargeable gains*[1]
2002-03						
£0 to £10,000	11	112	26	170	3,087	408
£10,000 to £25,000	4	188	70	58	2,989	922
£25,000 to £100,000	21	2,106	1,095	35	3,851	1,571
£100,000 to £250,000	9	2,160	1,369	3	979	490
£250,000 to £500,000	4	1,831	1,395	1	512	300
£500,000 to £1 million	2	1,655	1,399	[2]—	521	306
£1 million and greater	2	7,156	6,720	[2]—	460	317
Total	53	15,208	12,075	268	12,400	4,314
2003-04						
£0 to £10,000	12	155	41	268	9,951	551
£10,000 to £25,000	6	225	105	59	3,276	946
£25,000 to £100,000	28	2,453	1,504	45	5,006	2,002
£100,000 to £250,000	9	1,854	1,362	5	1,488	796
£250,000 to £500,000	3	1,394	1,200	1	986	443
£500,000 to £1 million	2	1,514	1,252	[2]—	361	261
£1 million and greater	2	5,724	5,373	[2]—	614	434
Total	62	13,317	10,837	379	21,680	5,432
2004-05						
£0 to £10,000	40	222	57	317	4,185	616
£10,000 to £25,000	9	325	152	70	4,133	1,144
£25,000 to £100,000	32	4,369	1,748	53	6,406	2,421
£100,000 to £250,000	12	2,615	1,807	7	2,075	949
£250,000 to £500,000	4	1,694	1,364	2	844	532
£500,000 to £1 million	2	1,969	1,728	1	659	455
£1 million and greater	2	8,270	7,828	[2]—	1,121	746
Total	102	19,464	14,683	449	19,422	6,863

[1] Net of in-year losses but before deduction of taper relief and Annual Exempt Amount.
[2] Neg.

Child Tax Credit

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of child tax credit on the economy. [219984]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits provide support to 20 million people including six million families and 10 million children. They have helped increase the number of people in work by almost three million since spring 1997, and since 1997 unemployment has reduced by 400,000. They have also helped lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1996-97.

Civil Service: Pay

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to undertake a comprehensive review of civil service pay arrangements. [221510]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy on civil service pay is reviewed annually, and is set out in the civil service pay guidance.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with the National Farmers' Union on his policy for the EU to remove import tariffs on food and abolish the Common Agricultural Policy. [210294]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* As the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out in his letter to the EU Commission,

"It is unacceptable, that at a time of significant food price inflation, the EU continues to apply very high import tariffs to many agricultural commodities. The Commission should give urgent consideration to extending the suspension of import tariffs that apply to other agricultural commodities"

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on council tax, how many notification changes have been made to the council tax list with a code of CL26 in *(a)* each year from 2003 to 2005 and *(b)* 2006-07. [218261]

Jane Kennedy: The number of properties, in England, reviewed and cleared with notification change code CL26 is shown as follows.

	Number
2003-04	36,652
2004-05	29,928
2005-06	31,147
2006-07	39,017

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on council tax, what proportion of the changes were made following *(a)* discovery of an error by the agency and *(b)* representations from householders. [218277]

Jane Kennedy: Approximately 57 per cent. of the alterations were made following banding alterations to nearby dwellings and approximately 43 per cent. were made following representations being made by householders.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case prepared for the council tax banding support tool. [218315]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the business case cannot be placed in the Library as it contains commercially confidential information in connection with third party contractors and is subject to the development of ongoing operational policy.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on Council Tax: Valuation, whether the automated valuation model is used by the Valuation Office Agency in England to value properties, in addition to the council tax banding support tool. [221282]

Jane Kennedy: In addition to the use of the banding support tool to support current council tax list maintenance, the Valuation Office Agency is using automated valuation technology to provide value estimates to assist with other valuation activities.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Combined Online Information System standard chart of accounts. [210999]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of the Combined Online Information System (COINS) Standard Chart of Account, showing each current code and associated description, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Combined Online Information System programme objectives and descriptions. [211000]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of the Department's Combined Online Information System (COINS) programme objects, including descriptions, has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220827]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have not been listed as the appellant in any House of Lords case over the last 10 years.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221580]

Angela Eagle: It is not the Department's policy to provide free or discounted room hire for events held in its buildings that are not related to its business.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies that was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215172]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215200]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212047]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221490]

Angela Eagle: The cost of mail services is monitored on a regular basis in the same way as other departmental expenditure.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221356]

Angela Eagle: Information on the independent reviews commissioned by the Treasury is published on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Independent_Reviews/independent_reviews_index.cfm

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221360]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the following HM Treasury website address, which directs the user to a list of all reviews and publications. This site further provides links to other consultations:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/recent_pubs.cfm

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214897]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214898]

Angela Eagle: Catering facilities in 1 Horse Guards road are contracted out to a caterer who is not prepared to release detailed spending information as it is considered commercially sensitive. Information on the origin of food procured for use in the Department could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold. However, data on the proportion of domestically produced food for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 were provided to Parliament and are available from

htip://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the automated valuation model is used for inheritance tax valuations of domestic dwellings by the Valuation Office Agency. [221248]

Jane Kennedy: Automated valuation models are not being used by the Valuation Office Agency in connection with inheritance tax valuations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the mapping information used by the Valuation Office Agency to distinguish the boundaries of each live locality within each billing authority area. [221276]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency does not use mapping information to distinguish the boundaries of each live locality within each billing authority area. It uses the expertise of its chartered surveyors and other local staff.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data export of the most recent numerical co-efficient value assigned to each of the live localities to reflect their value significance in the automated valuation model. [221277]

Jane Kennedy: The information concerned is commercially confidential.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 18 and page 35 of the Valuation Office Agency annual report and accounts 2007-08, HC 583, how many domestic dwellings received a visit from a Valuation Office Agency representative to check information in 2007-08. [221280]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007-08 approximately 135,000 domestic dwellings (out of 23 million) were visited to check information. The majority of these visits will have been undertaken without the need to go inside a person's home.

Import Duties: Occupied Territories

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in duties has been collected from companies importing produce into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the latest period for which figures are available. [220839]

Jane Kennedy: Between 1 February 2005 and 31 January 2008, HM Revenue and Customs have issued demands for approximately £338,000 customs duty on products imported into the UK from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory under the provisions of the EC-Israel Association agreement.

Inflation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have to reduce the effects of rising inflation on low income families. [221329]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 14 July 2008 by the Exchequer Secretary, *Official Report*, column 140W, and to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Minimum Wage

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employers have been found to have accrued minimum wage arrears on *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five or more separate occasions; and if he will make a statement. [221213]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available.

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have appealed against a minimum wage arrears enforcement notice in each year since the minimum wage was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [221211]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1126W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers accrued minimum wage arrears of *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* £5,000 to £25,000, *(c)* £25,000 to £50,000, *(d)* £50,000 to £75,000, *(e)* £75,000 to £100,000 and *(f)* over £100,000 in each year since the minimum wage was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [221212]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1279W, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

Office of National Statistics: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what income his Department received from the Office for National Statistics 0845 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217545]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury Department has not received any income from the ONS between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008 in respect of 0845 numbers.

Oil: Prices

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on global oil prices. [219983]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had various discussions with international counterparts in recent months regarding the economic effects of oil prices, including at G8 Finance Ministers Meeting in June 2008 and the July 2008 meeting of the European Economic and Financial Affairs Council.

Public Sector: Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the performance of the economy in the last six months on public sector construction projects, with particular reference to the Building Schools for the Future programme. [220880]

Yvette Cooper: The Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) has a strong pipeline, with local authority plans showing that 35 more new or refurbished schools will open during 2008-09, 115 more in 2009-10 and 165 more in 2010-11. BSF projects are continuing and there continues to be a strong interest in bidding for BSF work within the construction industry.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office in York. [220882]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published proposals on 11 June 2008 for the cluster of offices which includes Hilary house and Swinson house in York. These proposals envisage withdrawing from Swinson house and retaining Hilary house but no decisions have been taken. As with all HMRC's proposals, these will be subject to consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including MPs with a constituency interest, and detailed feasibility work will also be undertaken before final decisions are made. It is hoped to announce decisions on the future of all HMRC's offices by the end of the year.

Annie Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a full equality impact assessment was carried out on the effects on *(a)* staff and *(b)* service users of the proposal to close the HM Revenue and Customs Office in St. Albans. [221407]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is restructuring its business and estate across the whole of the UK in order to achieve business efficiencies and customer service improvements, and release surplus accommodation. On 11 June 2008, proposals were published which envisage withdrawal from the HMRC office at Beauver House, St. Albans. These proposals are under consultation and no final decision has been made. An overview impact assessment for the cluster of offices which includes St. Albans was published on the same day. Feasibility work undertaken by HMRC before recommendations are made include assessment of the impact of closure on staff, customers and the wider community. This includes any equality impacts.

If the final decision is to withdraw from St. Albans, an impact assessment will be published at that point, with an equality impact assessment as an appendix to that document.

The impact of closure on HMRC's customers will be minimal as enquiry centre services will remain in the current location or nearby.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the headcount of HM Revenue and Customs is; and what projections for the headcount have been made for the period till 2010. [220120]

Jane Kennedy: The headcount of HM Revenue and Customs at April 2008 was 90,296.

Forecasted headcount for HMRC is shown in the following table:

	Headcount
Required for April 2009	86,161
Required for April 2010	82,778

Note:
Figures given are to the nearest person.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in bonuses to staff working on tax credits at HM Revenue and Customs in 2007-08, broken down by tax credit office. [221655]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available for all staff working on tax credits. Staff in various parts of HM Revenue and Customs, not only the tax credit Office, may be deployed to tax credits work or deal with tax credits in addition to other work. It is not possible to isolate those in receipt of bonus payments.

Revenue and Customs: Recruitment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of placing recruitment advertisements for HM Revenue and Customs staff in each month of the last two year period for which figures are available. [221165]

Jane Kennedy: The costs of placing recruitment advertisements for HM Revenue and Customs for staff in each month of the last two year period for which figures are available are as follows:

Month and year	*Expenditure (£)— Administrative assistant to grade 6*	*Expenditure (£)— Senior civil service*
July 2006	42,566.71	—
August 2006	22,635.72	—
September 2006	30,115.23	—
October 2007	19,978.34	—
November 2006	70,591.36	—
December 2006	20,145.00	—
January 2007	24,466.54	—
February 2007	13,172.18	—
March 2007	11,230.65	—
April 2007	87,825.58	19,700.00
May 2007	36,681.20	91,478.95
June 2007	62,716.69	Nil
July 2007	90,347.71	Nil
August 2007	20,140.22	Nil
September 2007	65,993.24	6,574.76
October 2007	57,531.04	Nil
November 2007	66,432.72	5,440.72
December 2007	32,645.12	Nil
January 2008	108,609.66	4,995.00

Month and year	Expenditure (£)—Administrative assistant to grade 6	Expenditure (£)—Senior civil service
February 2008	36,859.09	5,043.86
March 2008	28,378.83	Nil
April 2008	104,146.29	Nil
May 2008	160,975.65	7,265.68
June 2008	123,158.87	13,238.28

Notes:
1. The costs shown are based on the figures which are available and are divided between external recruitment at civil service grades administrative assistant (AA) to grade 6 and senior civil servant (SCS). HMRC advertises in the press, radio and on the internet, using external agencies.
2. For SCS in HMRC the costs of placing recruitment advertisements are only available from April 2007.
3. Costs have also been allocated to the month in which the invoice was passed for payment, which does not necessarily relate to either to the date of the advertisement or the date of the invoice.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target HM Revenue and Customs has set for the time taken to respond to public enquiries; and what its success rate in reaching the target was in the last period for which figures are available. [216713]

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many phone calls to HM Revenue and Customs call centres went unanswered in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [219612]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's main channels for responding to public enquiries are through their telephone helplines and their network of enquiry centres.

In 2007-08, 94.5 per cent. of telephone callers were answered on the day they rang against a target of 95 per cent. In enquiry centres, 97 per cent. of customers were given an appointment within three days, against a target of 95 per cent. HMRC also receives enquiries via post, but it is not possible to distinguish these cases from other forms of customer correspondence, such as forms.

The following table provides the number of unanswered telephone calls for each of the last six months, including calls that received a busy message, the engaged tone or which were abandoned. The number of unanswered calls fluctuates according to the peaks in HMRC's business. The peak in demand in January reflects the self assessment filing date and demand has been high throughout the last three months as HMRC has approached the tax credits renewal deadline date.

Customers who do not get through on their first attempt often use the rapid redial facility on their telephone to make numerous successive calls, which increases the number of unanswered calls disproportionately. However, as the statistics below show, the vast majority of callers did get through on the same day they called.

Month	Call attempts	Calls offered	Busy	Engaged	Abandoned
January 2008	8,848,585	6,836,338	1746,712	107,149	919,133
February 2008	6,075,932	5,141,541	865,168	37,323	447,479
March 2008	6,675,938	4,984,449	1,605,989	69,972	618,777
April 2008	9,630,957	6,390,894	2,755,023	359,540	979,871
May 2008	11,564,829	6,211,032	5,024,026	162,421	1,139,916
June 2008	10,430,878	6,272,554	3,892,517	55,927	1,037,559
Total	53,227,119	35,836,808	15,889,435	792,332	5,142,735

Notes:
1. Call attempts—the number of calls made to the service.
2. Calls offered—the number of calls that are received by the telephone system and put into the queue to speak to an adviser.
3. Busy—where no adviser is available to handle the call, an appropriate advisory message is played.
4. Engaged—call attempts where the caller was played an engaged tone.
5. Abandoned—where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser but the call was terminated before the caller spoke to an adviser.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1263W, on HM Revenue and Customs: visits abroad, if he will break down the amount spent on overseas travel in 2007-08 by each HM Revenue and Customs office. [221189]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the *(a)* time and *(b)* resources of HM Revenue and Customs in England and Wales was allocated to tackling fuel smuggling in each of the last three years; [214996]

(2) how many and what percentage of HM Revenue and Customs staff in England and Wales work on oil-related anti-smuggling matters, broken down by region. [214997]

Angela Eagle: HMRC do not centrally record time and resources allocated to tackling illegal fuels smuggling in England and Wales.

On 1 April 2008, 99 full time equivalents were allocated to tackle oils misuse in Great Britain.

HMRC do not release the numbers of front line detection staff that they deploy at a local level as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in expenditure take-up rates for working tax credits to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218851]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in expenditure take-up rates for child tax credits to 100 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [218852]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in the caseload take-up rates for working tax credits to *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 per cent., *(c)* 80 per cent. and *(d)* 70 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [219150]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of an increase in the caseload take-up rates for child tax credit to *(a)* 100 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [219151]

Jane Kennedy: For families with children, take-up of tax credits was 82 per cent. by caseload and 91 per cent. by expenditure in 2005-06, rising to 96 and 97 per cent. respectively for families on the lowest incomes, significantly higher than for previous comparable systems of support.

It is estimated that complete tax credit take-up might reduce the child poverty rate by over one percentage point compared with 2005-06 take-up rates. Such estimates are subject to a number of uncertainties and simplifying assumptions, and should be taken as a broad guide only.

Estimates have been provided for complete take-up of tax credits overall as working and child tax credits are paid together where families are eligible for both.

Taxation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average percentage of the income of the lowest earning 10 per cent. of people is taxed; [219842]

(2) what average percentage of the income of the highest earning 10 per cent. of people in the UK is taxed. [219855]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the distribution of income of taxpayers and the income tax they pay is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income tax/menu.htm

The share of total income before tax and income tax paid by the top and bottom deciles of taxpayers ranged on total income can be found in table 2.4 "Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups".

The proportion of earnings paid in income tax by individuals at the top and bottom deciles of the distribution of earnings can be found in table 2.7 "Percentage of earnings paid in income tax".

Taxation: Domicil

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on UK gross domestic product if non-domiciles working in the UK were to be included in the UK income tax system; [219853]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue which would be raised by including non-domiciles in the UK income tax system. [219854]

Jane Kennedy: Non-domiciles working in the UK are included in the UK income tax system. Any income or gains earned in the UK by non-domiciles is taxed via the UK self-assessment or PAYE systems.

Valuation Office Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to page 56 of the Valuation Office Agency annual report and accounts 2007-2008, HC 583, what the total value of payments made to Rightmove.co.uk plc was in 2007-08; [221247]

(2) with reference to page 56 of the Valuation Office Agency annual report and accounts 2007-08, HC 583, if he will provide a breakdown by *(a)* supplier and *(b)* value the goods and services provided under the heading of Data capture. [221278]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the Valuation Office Agency annual report and accounts 2007-08, HC 583.

A copy of the contract, detailing the services provided, was placed in the Library on 26 July 2007.

Valuation Office Agency: Standards

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projects in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency sponsored by the Valuation Office Agency were subject to gateway services in each of the last five years. [220762]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies and representatives of the Valuation Office Agencys' redacting commercially confidential information. [218297]

Jane Kennedy: No such agreement exists between the Valuation Office Agency and Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies which are third party providers of automated valuation modelling software and support.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on Valuation Office: ICT, whether each locality is given a *(a)* name and *(b)* unique reference number. [218269]

Jane Kennedy: The capability exists to give each locality or name but its use is optional. Each locality is given a unique reference number.

Valuation Office: Photography

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on Valuation Office: manuals, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the best practice guide for taking and adding photographs and *(b)* the digital photography IT user manual referred to on page 28 of the council tax referencing manual. [218263]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2099W and 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1725.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on Valuation Office: video recordings, if he will place in the Library a copy of the start of year message video. [218271]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the video has been placed in the Library.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 151-2W, on welfare tax credits: overpayments, how many of the notices were for amounts *(a)* below £250, *(b)* between £250 and £500, *(c)* between £500 and £750, *(d)* between £750 and £1,000, *(e)* between £1,000 and £1,500, *(f)* between £1,500 and £2,000, *(g)* between £2,000 and £2,500, *(h)* between £2,500 and £3,000 and *(i)* above £3,000 in each month. [221271]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Wednesday 23 July and Friday 29 August 2008

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken to pass through security checks at each London airport was in the latest period for which figures are available. [218658]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's report on improving the Air Passenger Experience (November 2007) provided some indications of security waiting times at Heathrow and Gatwick based on BAA data. Average daily queues were less than 10 minutes for 95 per cent. or more of the time at Heathrow in August 2007.

No Government published data are currently available on average time taken to pass through security checks. The Department has also commissioned the Civil Aviation Authority to collect data on the average time taken through security checks at four selected UK airports.

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how she plans to measure the emissions from UK aviation when the sector is included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [218791]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK reports annually to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFGCC) estimates of emissions from UK sales of aviation fuels—known as "bunker fuels"—for domestic and international aviation. In doing so, the UK follows guidelines published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Estimates of emissions from fuel used for international aviation do not form part of the UK's national emissions inventory, as there has been no international agreement on how to allocate them to individual countries.

The Government will continue to press internationally for an approach that would allocate responsibility for international aviation emissions, and therefore require action to be taken globally to address them. Such allocation may be, for example, to countries or to the international aviation sector as a whole.

The inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) will not change directly international reporting arrangements. The Government do not believe that inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS will provide a suitable emissions allocation methodology. Responsibility for meeting the cap will be placed directly on airlines; responsibility for regulating airlines will be placed on member states, in a process designed to achieve administrative simplicity. As a result, the UK regulator will be responsible for administering airlines from the UK and other countries, some of whose flights will not pass through UK airspace or land at a UK airport.

The EU ETS will cap emissions from flights arriving in, or departing from, the EU. Any growth in emissions above that cap will require airlines to pay for equivalent emissions reductions from elsewhere within the scheme, thereby maintaining total emissions below the cap. The UK's reports to the UNFCCC on emissions from bunker fuels would not reflect achievement of the EU ETS cap. The differences between the UNFCCC and EU regimes reflect the different purposes for which they were established.

Aviation: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the financial *(a)* incentives and *(b)* disincentives to (i) airport operators and (ii) airlines to provide good passenger service. [216323]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Currently, airlines compete for customers on a number of factors including price, route and passenger service. They must also comply with the EU regulation on denied boarding, cancellation or long delay of flights (Reg (EC) 261/2004) by providing passengers with the requisite refreshments, accommodation, re-routing or compensation.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced a review of the economic regulation of airports on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 149-50WS. Among other aims this work will look at how best to provide incentives to improve passenger experience.

In addition, in November 2007 the Secretary of State for Transport wrote to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in its capacity as the Government's expert aviation adviser and in accordance with section 16(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, requesting advice on passengers' experience in two areas where responsibility for delivering a good passenger service lies with a combination of bodies. These areas were passage through airports, with particular reference to Terminal 5 at Heathrow, and the resilience of airports to recover from problems such as extreme weather conditions. Work by the CAA is under way.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions her Department and its predecessor instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220814]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held in the form requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the

last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether her Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221091]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is committed to achieving the published Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets, which include improving the energy efficiency of its estate by 15 per cent. by 2010 and by 30 per cent. by 2020. The target does not differentiate between rented and owned buildings.

The Department for Transport can confirm that by 2006-07 its energy efficiency performance had not improved in comparison to our baseline year of 2002-03. However, we fully expect the 2007-08 figures to show an improvement of at least 10 per cent. against the baseline, in the next Sustainable Development Commission annual report. The Department for Transport was formed in its current format under Machinery of Government changes in 2002. We therefore do not have figures prior to financial year 2002-03.

An initial step towards achieving the SOGE targets was the commissioning of a Carbon Management Energy Efficiency report by the Carbon Trust. This report centred on the five major areas of the Department which will give the highest reduction in Carbon emissions and subsequent improvement in energy efficiency. The Department is currently developing detailed implementation plans from the recommendations of this report.

Some of the specific steps being taken include:

The introduction of Smart metering at a number of the departmental sites;

The aim of achieving Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "Excellent" rating on all new builds and "Excellent" or "Very Good" ratings for all major refurbishments;

The adoption of Office of Government Commerce (OGC) "Quick Win" standards as a minimum requirement as part of our sustainable procurement action plan;

Extending Environmental Management Systems;

Improving Building Management System controls; and

Exploring the opportunities for self generated energy.

In addition the Department for Transport is actively participating in the Display Energy Certificate initiative being implemented by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account her Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221107]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is committed to purchasing new freehold offices with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A or B and aims to do the same for leased offices wherever practicable.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221589]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the last five years the following organisations have received free accommodation at Department for Transport buildings:

Benenden Healthcare
Charities Trust
Civil Service Benevolent Fund
Civil Service Healthcare
Civil Service Motoring Association
Institute of Civil Engineers
Medifit Healthcare
National Blood Service
PCS Trade Union
Prospect Trade Union.

The Driving Standards Agency provided the Friends of Cardington free use of the cinema at the Cardington training facility (Bedford) on 4 July 2008. The commercial value of hiring the cinema for an evening would be £275.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's Richard Ley Development Centre (Swansea) offers a Government/public sector 25 per cent. discount rate for use of its facilities. During the last five years the discounted rate has been offered to the following external organisations:

Arts Council of Wales
Environment Agency Wales
Mid and West Wales Fire Service
National Assembly
South Wales Police Authority
Swansea City Council
Swansea Council for Voluntary Services
Swansea Local Health Board
Swansea Local Education Authority.

Departmental Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215110]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(i) Government Communicators

The Department does not have a 'communicator' grade. Figures shown are for communications specialists engaged in a range of communications activities including news media, marketing, publicity, strategic communications, internal communications, e-communications and speechwriting. The full-time equivalent (FTE) number employed is estimated as follows using information readily available and dated February 2008.

	Estimated communicators February 2008
DFT Central	57.9
DSA	15
DVLA	34.3
GCDA	1
HA	24.8
MCA	5.5

	Estimated communicators February 2008
VCA	2.5
VOSA	9
DFT agencies	92.1

The DFT(C) figure is only for relevant staff working in the Department's Communication Directorate. DFT(C) also employs other staff who may perform communication roles but numbers are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Government Communication Network

All civil servants in the Department may register to access services of the Government Communication Network and those in a communication role may become a member and access additional network resources.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in her Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221289]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220733]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1672-73W, for percentage figures relating to 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The following tables show the percentage of paper containing recycled content used in 2007-08:

Percentage of photocopier paper with recycled content

	2007-08
DFT(C)	99.94
DVLA	100
DSA	99
GCDA	100
HA	100
MCA	100
VCA	100
VOSA	99

Percentage of paper with recycled content used in printed publications

	2007-08
DFT(C)	[1]100
DVLA	91
DSA	100
GCDA	95
HA	100
MCA	100
VCA	100
VOSA	75

[1] Figure refers to publication work carried out by central Communications Directorate only.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in her Department in each of the last three financial years. [221166]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department reimburses staff only for expenses necessarily incurred in the course of official business. Expenses reimbursed to press officers in the last three financial years are set out as follows where readily available.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
DFT Central	1,776	1,528	4,247
DSA	1,925	1,883	1,620
HA	12,387	13,978	14,568
VOSA	696	859	711

The Highways Agency has seven regional press officers to support its new traffic officer service and seven regional control centres. These press officers are employed to raise awareness of the traffic officers and the agency's role as network operator for England's motorways and major A roads. These press officers have to travel between the regional control centres, outstations and Highways Agency offices, as well as travelling to media opportunities and to accompany journalists during visits to the HA network and premises.

Press officer activities in most Executive agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. GCDA and VCA have no press officers, and DVLA and MCA are unable to identify press officer reimbursements without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Planning Applications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Horsham of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1184-86W, on departmental planning applications, what licensing hours the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency *(a)* applied for and *(b)* was granted. [221273]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities is:

Supply of Alcohol

Monday to Saturday—10.00 hours to 23.00 hours

Sunday—12.00 hours to 22.30 hours

As far as we are aware this is what the DVLA applied for and was granted.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221485]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport actively monitors the cost of its mail services on a regular basis, using the most economical delivery service wherever

possible, with the default for outgoing mail being second class post. Listed as follows are some examples of actions undertaken:

The Highways Agency monitors on a monthly basis locational spend against forecasted expenditure and has also reviewed the internal mail delivery service in order to ensure best value.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has already implemented a combination of software and mechanical sorting equipment to increase the volume of outbound mail discounts. Over the last 12 months DVLA has ensured that mail services contracts have been; managed robustly, and worked closely with Royal Mail and DX Group to ensure effective products have been utilised, and that both volume and price discounts have been maximised.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has undertaken a review of processes and highlighted potential for savings via improved supplier processes and shared best practice. VOSA's business design authority, will, in possession of these data, develop an improvement project which will deliver:

a single contract supplier of postal services

a single contract supplier of parcel services

centralised invoicing for parcels and franking machines

a best practice guide for all areas

reduced process costs

an opportunity to reduce spend by about £100,000.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220423]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport will consider on a case by case basis whether requesting a discount for accelerated payment terms is appropriate. However, the department is committed to prompt payment and states that it will pay valid invoices within 30 days of receipt so tenderers base their pricing in the knowledge of swift payment.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums her Department has held in each of the last two years; and what the (i) purpose, (ii) cost, (iii) private contractor and (iv) amount paid to the private contractor was in each case. [221340]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department engages with the public and its stakeholders on a wide range of subjects in a variety of ways. The Department is committed to further improve its engagement with its stakeholders and with transport users. In this engagement activity, sometimes private sector contractors are used and sometimes not.

Because of the wide range of engagement carried out by the Department and its agencies, this information is not held centrally.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list *(a)* the reviews and *(b)* public consultations initiated by her Department since 27 June 2007. [221366]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of the consultations and reviews initiated by the Department for Transport since 27 June 2007 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects her Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221617]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally and the collation of the information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if she will make a statement. [216169]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport, established in 2002, recorded the following annual returns in respect of sickness absence due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders:

	Total days	*Stress*	*Mental health and behavioural*	*Stress (Percentage)*	*Mental health and behavioural (Percentage)*
2003	164,127.00	13,977.50	23,385.50	8.52	14.25
2004	176,444.00	19,721.00	24,305.00	11.18	13.77
2005	185,137.00	21,916.00	26,679.70	11.84	14.41
2006	190,574.00	19,944.70	28,941.70	10.47	15.19
2007	203,360.00	21,760.30	29,194.80	10.70	14.36

The Government Car and Despatch Agency and The Vehicle Certification Agency could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested from the Department for Transport's non-governmental bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost also.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement. [216170]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport, established in 2002, recorded the following annual returns in respect of sickness absence due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders:

	Number of staff absence for stress	Number of staff absence for mental health/ behavioural	Total employees	Stress (Percentage)	Mental health/ behavioural- (Percentage)
2003	408	511	17,513	2.33	2.92
2004	514	577	19,791	2.60	2.92
2005	637	600	19,418	3.28	3.09
2006	636	715	19,824	3.21	3.61
2007	688	730	20,046	3.43	3.64

The Government Car and Despatch Agency and The Vehicle Certification Agency could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested from the Department for Transport's non-governmental bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost also.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [216171]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport, established in 2002, recorded the following average periods of sickness for stress and mental health and behavioural disorders related absence.

Stress

	Average duration (days)					
	DfTc	DSA	DVLA	HA	MCA	VOSA
2003	27.3	19.0	24.8	81.0	18.8	33.3
2004	38.8	27.0	27.8	88.9	27.8	26.9
2005	16.3	28.2	27.4	49.2	52.6	30.9
2006	20.1	24.2	22.7	55.2	44.2	34.0
2007	34.3	19.6	21.1	43.6	25.6	38.8

Mental health and behavioural disorders

	Average duration (days)					
	DfTc	DSA	DVLA	HA	MCA	VOSA
2003	38.9	18.0	44.2	58.1	14.4	29.2
2004	48.9	22.6	31.7	80.0	16.5	24.8
2005	56.5	20.5	35.2	44.7	30.5	33.4
2006	27.0	27.6	33.5	40.5	47.6	35.8
2007	22.1	32.1	25.5	38.3	25.9	35.1

The Government Car and Despatch Agency and The Vehicle Certification Agency could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested from the Department for Transport's non-governmental bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost also.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [216172]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following average durations of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in each of the last five years:

	Average duration (days)					
	DfTc	DSA	DVLA	HA	MCA	VOSA
2003	n/a	5.1	6.8	6.0	4.2	5.9
2004	8.5	6.2	7.0	7.0	4.7	5.7
2005	5.4	6.3	7.2	6.0	5.1	6.5
2006	4.6	7.3	7.5	7.0	6.1	7.6
2007	3.8	7.7	7.5	6.0	6.0	8.0

The Government Car and Despatch Agency and The Vehicle Certification Agency could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested from the Department for Transport's non-governmental bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost also.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218694]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Central Department and its agencies recorded the following employees who have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years:

	Number of staff with two or more periods of sickness of less than five days	Number of staff	Percentage of staff
2005	3,431	19,618	17.49
2006	3,206	20,080	15.97
2007	3,309	20,293	16.31

These figures exclude those of the Government Car and Despatch Agency who could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218974]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Central Department and its agencies recorded 682 employees who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years.

This figure excludes the Government Car and Despatch Agency who could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if she will make a statement. [216173]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement. [216174]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department travelled (i) by car, (ii) by rail and (iii) by air on Government business in each year since her Department's formation. [220513]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The information is not available in the form requested.

Driving Tests: Vetting

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were removed from the approved driving instructors register following a criminal conviction for a sexual offence in each of the last two years. [219454]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* In February 2007, the Home Office added the profession of 'driving instructor' to its Notifiable Occupation Scheme. This means that the Registrar of Approved Driving Instructors should be notified by the police when an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) is convicted of an offence and therefore has an early opportunity to take appropriate action.

Since March 2007, Potential Driving Instructors (PDIs) have been required to undergo criminal records checks when applying to start the qualifying process. At the same time, the Driving Standards Agency began checking criminal records of existing ADIs.

From October 2007 ADIs applying to re-register or renew their registration have had to undergo criminal records checks. (This system was in full operation by April 2008).

Eight ADIs have been removed from the register since March 2007 as a result of a criminal records check revealing a conviction for a sexual offence.

Information on ADIs removed from the register as a result of a conviction for a sexual offence where identification of the offence was not the result of a criminal records check could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Under The Influence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the proposals by the Government's Chief Medical Officer that a zero alcoholic drink driving limit should be set for drivers under the age of 20 years. [220445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have made no specific evaluation of this proposal, but the Government do not consider it feasible to introduce a zero alcohol limit for drivers of any age because it is possible for some alcohol to be present in the body from sources other than alcoholic drinks.

We are currently considering a range of options to make further progress in tackling drink driving and intend to publish a consultation document in the next few months.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of rail services on the East Coast Main Line; and if she will review the National Express franchise against that assessment. [217280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Franchise Agreement specifies performance benchmarks which are continuously monitored by the Department for Transport. National Express East Coast is currently meeting its contracted commitments.

High Speed Trains

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the environmental effects of modal shift arising from the creation of a new high-speed rail line to run alongside the current route of the *(a)* West and *(b)* East Coast Main Line. [219416]

Mr. Tom Harris: In developing the July 2007 rail White Paper Delivering a Sustainable Railway, the Department for Transport commissioned work on various inter-urban capacity options. One element of this work sought to establish how much shift from air to rail would be needed to make up for the emissions generated by a high speed line. It concluded that the scale of the transfer required depended on the route of a new line.

The recently announced Network Rail New Lines Programme, in examining options for increasing rail capacity, will assess the likely transfer of passengers to any new line. It will also consider whether if there is a need for new lines in the future and whether it would make sense to design these for conventional or high speed use.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which her Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218040]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mayor of London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings she had with the Mayor of London in the last 12 months. [217775]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has had three meetings in total with the Mayor of London in the last 12 months. For clarity, two of these were with the former Mayor and the other was with the present Mayor.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W to the hon. Member for Romsey, on cars: Hampshire, what the information is on car registrations in each local authority in the United Kingdom. [217523]

Mr. Tom Harris: A table showing the numbers of licensed cars at the end of 2007 registered in each local authority in Great Britain with carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the present Band F (186 to 225 g/km) and Band G (over 225 g/km) has been placed in the House Libraries.

Figures are not held centrally for Northern Ireland.

Motor Vehicles: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will develop policies to assist rural motorists who have no alternative to car transport in areas where petrol prices are particularly high. [219134]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury in response to the same question on 22 July 2008 (UIN 219135).

Motorway Service Areas: Public Lavatories

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides on the *(a)* provision and *(b)* cleanliness of public toilets at motorway service areas. [214209]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Department for Transport Circular 01/2008 requires motorway service area operators to provide toilets and hand washing facilities for all road users, free of charge, every day of the year. The number of toilets operators are required to provide is linked to the traffic flow on the motorway which the facility serves.

Circular 01/2008 encourages motorway service area operators to comply with the Charter of the British Toilet Association.

Parking: Fines

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will establish a mechanism whereby members of the public can request independent investigation of car park operating companies in respect of *(a)* alleged breaches of the relevant code of practice and *(b)* appeals against the issuing of parking fines. [218336]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has no power to establish such a mechanism relating to the use of private land for parking.

The independent British Parking Association publishes the voluntary code of practice for car park operating companies. Details are on the Association's website at:

www.britishparking.co.uk

I am aware that the Home Office and the Security Industry Authority are currently considering the regulation of companies involved in vehicle immobilisation on private land.

Railways: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure an increase in the *(a)* number of trains stopping per day and *(b)* number of carriages per train stopping at (i) Chorley and (ii) Adlington. [214099]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently no plans to increase the level of services calling at Adlington. However, from December, First TransPennine Express will provide one additional service to Manchester calling at Chorley, together with additional capacity on two evening services.

Tamworth to Birmingham Railway Line

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to facilitate an increase in the number of trains travelling between Tamworth and Birmingham. [215773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The service planned by Arriva Trains Cross Country (ATCC) to operate from 14 December 2008 complies with the Department for Transport's specification for services on this route.

From this date, ATCC will provide a half-hourly service between Birmingham and Tamworth as part of the half-hourly Birmingham—Nottingham service, supplemented by one call every two hours in the Plymouth—Edinburgh service.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotments there are in each local authority area in Gloucestershire. [218170]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not require local authorities to provide figures for the number of allotments in their area, so it is not possible to easily provide the answer. Allotments can be in the control of many different parties: borough, district, parish, town councils, church bodies and private societies.

However, we have been able to obtain some information, which is summarised in the following table.

Authority	*Findings*
Gloucester City Council	11 sites found on web, unable to find information on number of plots.
Tewkesbury BC	No information available.

Authority	Findings
Cheltenham BC	18 sites: Two church owned, one with unknown number of plots and one with ten. One private site with 80 plots. Remaining 15 sites contain 810 plots.
Cotswold DC	Allotments are managed by town and parish councils, no central data available.
Gloucestershire County Council	No reply within available time.
Forest of Dean DC	Allotments are managed by town and parish councils, no central data available.
Stroud DC	Allotments are managed by town and parish councils, no central data available.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation a local authority is required to undertake before any significant change is made to management arrangements with an arm's length management organisation; what consultation is required before an arm's length management organisation is established; and if she will make a statement. [219788]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under s105 of the Housing Act 1985 local authorities are required to consult with their tenants on any significant change in housing management arrangements. We would expect any such consultation to be as comprehensive as that undertaken to set up the ALMO. Tenants will have been fully involved in the decision to set up an ALMO, both as part of the options appraisal process and the consultation on the ALMO option itself.

We debated during passage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill whether a statutory ballot of tenants should be part of this consultation process. I did pledge during the passage of the Bill, that, although I disagreed with the amendments relating to this topic, when we look at the renewal of guidance, we might need to look at this issue again.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on the resolution of failings in an arm's length management organisation through discussions between the organisation and the Audit Commission. [219789]

Mr. Iain Wright: Departmental ALMO guidance, updated in June 2006, and the "Review of Arms Length Management Organisations", also published in June 2006 together with two other relevant documents, the "ALMO re-inspection framework", and the "ALMO support framework" set out the Department's expectations around failing services in ALMOs.

The Audit Commission is one of a range of stakeholders who may be able to offer help should performance be an issue of concern to either the parent local authority or the ALMO itself. Local authorities can request this assistance on behalf of their ALMOs. The Commission has experience of offering such services to a wide range of local housing authorities that are looking at ways to improve their performance.

The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 establishes the Tenant Services Authority (TSA). Initially, the TSA will only regulate housing associations but the Bill includes an enabling power to allow it to regulate across the social housing domain via secondary legislation. In the longer term ALMOs will, via their parent local authority, be subject to the same regulatory regime as all social housing providers.

Carers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to paragraph 3.11 in the Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided by her Department over each of the next two years. [220302]

John Healey: Resources for breaks for carers will be made available by the Department of Health.

Community Relations: Extremism

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forums on extremism have been established by her Department in the last five years. [221535]

John Healey: Forums on extremism established since the commitment made in the 2006 Local Government White Paper, were listed in an answer given to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 619-20W. However, we recognise that local partners need arrangements suited to the needs and circumstances of their areas and that there are many approaches that can be adopted to engage effectively with communities. Many areas are taking forward alternative arrangements that involve forums which tackle broader issues linked to preventing extremism, some of which were listed in the answer of 30 June.

Council Housing: Offenders

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on council housing: offenders, what advice has been given on housing such individuals near residential areas with family dwellings. [221307]

Mr. Iain Wright: Relevant advice was included in guidance issued to local housing authorities in November 1999 about their role in the management of risks presented by sex offenders. This was placed in the Library of the House in November 2000.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on council housing: offenders, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter to the housing authorities. [221308]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance has been provided to local authorities on the application of the Limitation Act 1980 to repayments by local billing authorities for council tax bills in cases where there has been an error in the banding of a domestic dwelling; [221223]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the limiting of backdated claims for over-paid council tax in cases where the domestic property was incorrectly banded by the Valuation Office Agency. [221229]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government has issued no guidance to local authorities on this matter. Decisions about the payment of backdated claims for over-paid council tax are a matter for individual billing authorities.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether her Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [220469]

Caroline Flint: The Department's policy on improving energy efficiency of the buildings it rents and owns is included in its Sustainable Operations Policy, a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House.

Numerous changes have been made to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings occupied over the last five to 10 years. Our records do not identify the years during this period in which specific measures were taken.

In 2006-07, the Department reported an energy efficiency improvement of 4 per cent. and 18 per cent. in the buildings occupied by its London HQ and its Executive agencies respectively, compared to 2002-03 levels.

The Department has mandatory energy efficiency targets which apply to all central Government Departments and their Executive agencies. These targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate require the Department to:

increase energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010 and by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and

reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, and by 30 per cent. by 2020 relative to 1999-2000 levels.

The Department also intends to act upon those opportunities identified in the Advisory Reports for its Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates as a further means to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings it rents and owns.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information technology projects initiated by her Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221715]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable), of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1644W. The Department has nothing further to report by way of cancelled information technology projects since.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in her Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221183]

Caroline Flint: The amount claimed in travel and subsistence by press officers in the Department and its predecessor Department, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, for each of the financial years has been:

Financial year	£
2005-06	[1]3,951
2006-07	3,022
2007-08	2,676

[1] ODPM

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220439]

Mr. Iain Wright: The primary Departmental Procurement Policy is to achieve value for money.

Procurement therefore considers a range of measures to achieve value for money, including the attainment of discounts in return for prompter payment of invoices.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead, of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1499-1500W, on departmental publication participation, if she will place in the Library a copy of the research and reports produced in relation to *(a)* the code for sustainable homes, *(b)* home information packs, *(c)* accountability of local services and *(d)* employee engagement workshop. [221306]

Caroline Flint: The following have been placed in the Library:

Code for Sustainable Homes, trade interviews

Home Information Packs, attitudes among buyers, sellers and estate agents

Accountability of Local Government Services omnibus poll, tables of the responses

Employee Engagement workshop: The workshop was part of a wider employment engagement survey with the Cabinet Office. The workshop outcomes were debriefed verbally to the Cabinet Office as an aid to the design of the questionnaire for the survey.

Eco-towns: Nature Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what means the Eco Towns Challenge Panels plans to take account of expertise in biodiversity and wildlife management and protection in the course of its work; [219527]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that the establishment and development of eco-towns does not undermine the preservation and protection of biodiversity. [219528]

Caroline Flint: The preservation of important wildlife and landscape assets is one of the key criteria for new eco-towns. The Eco-town Challenge Panel is an independent group of people with expertise in various aspects of urban and sustainable development. The Panel exists to encourage bidders by challenging them to improve and develop their proposals to the point where they can be regarded as truly exemplary projects, which fit well within their surroundings, demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainable development and represent a 'step change' beyond what would currently be regarded as best practice. Of the members of the Challenge Panel, three are experts in environmental issues.

Natural England, Government's agency working to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment, was fully involved in the initial assessment and shortlisting of the eco-town proposals. Furthermore, there will shortly be a second Government consultation on a sustainability appraisal, which provides a more detailed assessment of locations, and a draft Planning Policy Statement, before we identify a final list. These locations will then need to go through the planning process and be subject to full public scrutiny, where impacts on biodiversity and natural assets will be key considerations at all stages.

The sustainability appraisal will consider the environmental, economic and social impacts of eco-towns policy both nationally and in the proposed locations. This will take account of work that local authorities may have already undertaken to test development options in their area and as part of the testing process we will also consider the habitats directive.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what reports her Department has received of cases of intentional property demolition to avoid empty property business rates in the latest period for which figures are available; [221222]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1637W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, if she will list each of the possible incidences reported to her Department, including the location and the nature of the alleged deliberate dilapidation. [221309]

John Healey: As I indicated in my answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1637W, the Government have asked local authorities to provide information about how reforms to the empty property rate are working. The information provided will be based on the informed judgment of individual local authority officers and is being gathered as a broad indicator of the scale of possible avoidance activity and not a detailed survey. We will set out in an appropriate form our general findings in due course.

Housing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes are planned to be built in *(a)* North Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the next five years. [206832]

Caroline Flint: Over 2008-12, the adopted East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy sets out plans for 13,405 net additional dwellings in North Northamptonshire. Regional Spatial Strategies are currently under review to ensure delivery against the national target of 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016, as set out in last year's housing Green Paper.

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the housing density is of Bournemouth. [220397]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on housing density is not compiled centrally.

We do however have the density of new build dwellings averaged over a four-year period. These are provided at local authority level on the CLG website in Live table P232. The web address for Live table P232 is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/xls/822906.xls

The average density of new build dwellings for the period 2003 to 2006 for the unitary authority of Bournemouth was 70 dwellings per hectare.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local planning authorities can meet their house building targets by proposing development of land in other counties; and what powers they have of compulsory purchase in such circumstances. [221508]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The regional strategy preparation process, which involves input from local authorities, sets housing numbers for districts. These take into account the need and demand for housing within housing market areas and the strategic availability of land within individual districts. Therefore these numbers should be planned for by individual districts but we encourage joint working between districts in doing this.

The Local Government Act 1972 gives local authorities a qualified right to purchase land compulsorily outside their areas. Whether this is possible in any given case will depend on the specific enabling power to be used.

Housing: Immigrants

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of economic migrants entering the UK in each of the last five years have been housed in the *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* social rented and *(c)* private rented sector. [219524]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the current housing tenure of economic migrants who entered the UK during the past five years is not available.

However, the Department has information from the Survey of English Housing for 2005-06 and 2006-07 on the total number of recent migrant householders by housing tenure. It is estimated that of all migrant householders who arrived in the UK during the past two years and are currently living in England: 3 per cent. are in owner occupation; 7 per cent. are in the social rented sector; and 90 per cent. are in the private rented sector.

Housing: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to assist first-time buyers with property purchase; and which of these are available to those seeking to buy property in West Lancashire constituency. [221743]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Low Cost Home Ownership programme helps to make home ownership more affordable to first time buyers, and enables purchasers get a foot on the property ladder through its HomeBuy products: New Build HomeBuy, Open Market HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy.

New Build HomeBuy enables people to buy a minimum 25 per cent. share of a newly built property, paying a rent on the remainder. This includes the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Open Market HomeBuy enables people to buy a property on the open market with the help of an equity loan of up to 50 per cent.

Social HomeBuy enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a minimum 25 per cent. in their current home at a discount and pay rent on the remainder.

We have helped over 65,000 people into home ownership over the last three years, and as set out in the Housing Green Paper, we aim to help 75,000 more householders on to the property ladder over the next three years. The Government have recently announced a package of new initiatives to help more first time buyers, nationally, into affordable home ownership.

From 1 April two new equity loan products have been available through the Government's Open Market HomeBuy scheme. The loans provide first time buyers with more flexibility in the percentage of the value of their home that can be borrowed—to a maximum of 50 per cent., and more choice in the mortgage they can take out.

A new cash grant of £1,500 is available to the first 2000 purchasers who take-up the new equity loans to help with the costs of purchasing their first home. From 14 May we:

expanded the Open Market HomeBuy scheme to help 2,500 first time buyers to purchase a new build home in 2008-09;

introduced flexibility for purchasing unsold stock from housebuilders for social rent or low cost home ownership;

expanded the flexibility criteria so that all first time buyers with a household income under £60,000 will be eligible for our HomeBuy scheme.

Finally, last week we announced a new 'Rent to HomeBuy' scheme to support first time buyers into affordable home ownership by renting first and buying later.

Our Low Cost Home Ownership products, including the recent package of new initiatives, are available to first time buyers in West Lancashire.

Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District which were heated by (i) gas and (ii) electricity in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [220769]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data are not available for Leeds, West constituency but the Department publishes new build completions by district on its website. The number of new build completions as reported for the Leeds local authority area in 2007-08 is 3,052. The Department's statistics for new home completions do not include details of the form of heating used.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of social housing in each London borough is not of Decent Homes standard. [219277]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department collects information on non-decent social sector homes from local authorities through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) annual return. Figures are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Non-decent homes owned by local authorities[1] at 1 April 2007, by London borough

	Non-decent homes	*Percentage of total local authority stock non-decent*
Barking and Dagenham	6,727	34.2
Barnet	3,388	30.5
Bexley	[2]—	[2]—
Brent	0	0.0
Bromley	[2]—	[2]—
Camden	11,321	47.7
City of London	679	35.9
Croydon	2,117	15.0
Ealing	4,439	32.1
Enfield	2,864	24.1
Greenwich	9,446	38.2
Hackney	8,776	37.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,183	31.7
Haringey	7,099	42.7
Harrow	3,680	72.5
Havering	3,397	31.4
Hillingdon	918	8.6
Hounslow	0	0.0
Islington	11,996	44.8
Kensington and Chelsea	1,657	23.9

Table 1: Non-decent homes owned by local authorities[1] at 1 April 2007, by London borough

	Non-decent homes	Percentage of total local authority stock non-decent
Kingston upon Thames	1,129	23.2
Lambeth	8,528	29.2
Lewisham	12,152	46.8
Merton	1,289	20.1
Newham	10,842	58.1
Redbridge	1,357	28.8
Richmond upon Thames	[2]—	[2]—
Southwark	13,608	33.1
Sutton	4,088	56.2
Tower Hamlets	9,257	59.0
Waltham Forest	6,846	64.4
Wandsworth	138	0.8
Westminster	0	0.0

[1] Retention authorities and Arm's Length Management Organisations only.
[2] LSVT—Large Scale Voluntary Transfer. One of the three options set out by Government for those authorities that need extra funding to meet the required Decent Homes standard. LSVT aims to deliver improved performance and services ensuring the extra money is spent cost-effectively. The council is free to focus on more strategic housing functions.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA).

These data are published by Communities and Local Government and can be obtained from the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/databyregion/

Equivalent figures for registered social landlords (RSLs) are displayed in Table 2. These figures are published and available on the Housing Corporation's website:

http://www.rsrsurvey.co.uk/

Table 2: Non-decent homes owned by RSLs at 31 March 2007, by London borough

	Non-decent homes	Percentage of total stock non-decent
Barking and Dagenham	67	2.1
Barnet	444	6.5
Bexley	1,216	9.5
Brent	949	6.5
Bromley	4,348	23.7
Camden	757	7.0
City of London	52	9.6
Croydon	1,073	10.9
Ealing	398	4.1
Enfield	483	7.4
Greenwich	1,470	13.8
Hackney	1,033	4.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,319	10.7
Haringey	1,333	12.7
Harrow	328	9.1
Havering	194	8.3
Hillingdon	254	4.6
Hounslow	650	9.9
Islington	1,546	11.0
Kensington and Chelsea	1,611	12.1
Kingston upon Thames	110	4.7
Lambeth	4,372	21.6
Lewisham	1,380	12.6
Merton	268	5.7
Newham	912	7.8
Redbridge	302	6.6
Richmond upon Thames	662	6.8
Southwark	1,464	10.2
Sutton	280	7.6
Tower Hamlets	3,974	16.6
Waltham Forest	828	7.8
Wandsworth	956	9.7
Westminster	1,703	10.8

Source:
Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) Part O.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will incorporate accessible housing standards into her definition of sustainable communities. [219797]

Caroline Flint: Accessible housing is already reflected in our current definition of a sustainable community which includes a place that is inclusive to all and meets the diverse needs of all residents. Our commitment to this is reflected in our national planning policy in Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) which is clear about creating places, streets and spaces which are inclusive and respect the diverse needs of communities and the special needs of particular sectors of the community.

In February 2008, we published, "Lifetime Homes. Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society", which sets out a clear strategy for encouraging the development of 'Lifetime Homes Standards'(LHS). LHS aim to make housing accessible for all by making it more functional for everyone including families, disabled and older people and adaptable to peoples changing circumstances throughout the whole lifetime of the home. Our aspiration is to see all homes built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2013 and we will ensure that all publicly funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2011. It is currently a mandatory element of the Code for Sustainable Homes at code level 6 and will become mandatory at code levels 4 and 5 from 2010 and code level 3 from 2013. We will continue to work with stakeholders to encourage take up of the standards across all sectors and progress will be reviewed in 2010.

Local Government: Administration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of new leadership models in local government by *(a)* tier and *(b)* type of council. [221524]

John Healey: The timetable, specified by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, for the introduction of new leadership models in local government, provides that in any council with the old style leader and cabinet model, the new model must be implemented three days after the ordinary election day in the year shown in the following table.

Type of local authority	*Year for introduction of new model*
County council	2009
Metropolitan district council	2010
London borough council	2010
Non-metropolitan district council	2011

The Act also provides that a council operating the mayor and council manager model must implement a new leadership model in 2009, and that councils operating alternative arrangements may choose to adopt a new leadership model and introduce it in 2011.

In addition, where a council is introducing a new leadership model following a referendum, the model is implemented three days after the first ordinary election of councillors to the authority held after the council resolves to adopt the model, which must be within 28 days of the referendum being held.

Local Government: Contracts

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Office of Government Commerce monitors local authorities' compliance with its relevant codes of practice during the tendering process for local government contracts. [221687]

John Healey: Subject to their legal duties local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. In doing so, they must work within the legal framework governing public procurement. They also have regard to policy and guidance on public procurement set out by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), as appropriate. The OGC does not directly monitor local authorities' compliance with the legal framework or with its policy and guidance.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1361W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how sub-location is quantified; and what geo-spatial datasets and neighbourhood modelling is used for *(a)* business rate valuations and revaluations and *(b)* the new Automated Valuation Model for business rates. [221157]

John Healey: A sub-location for a class of property for non-domestic rating is an area within which values are related and a valuation scheme can be applied. They vary in size depending on class of property and locality. The geo-spatial datasets used for non-domestic rating and revaluations are (i) Property Address and Postcode and (ii) Sublocation.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1301W. A new automated valuation (AVM) model is not being used by the VOA for business rate valuations or revaluations.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance from the public purse is available to individuals who wish to challenge planning decisions. [221657]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no financial assistance from the public purse available to individuals wishing to appeal against planning decisions to the Secretary of State or third parties wishing to put forward representations in relation to these appeals. In these cases, parties are expected to meet their own costs.

Although it does not provide financial assistance, Planning Aid offers free, independent planning advice to individuals and community groups (including small charities, voluntary groups and tenants' organisations).

Individuals who wish to challenge planning decisions in the courts may be able to receive financial assistance from Legal Aid, if they are eligible to do so.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure of *(a)* regional assemblies and *(b)* the English regions network was in 2007-08. [221216]

John Healey: Central Government grant to regional assemblies in 2007-08 was £21,192,290. Grant to the English Regions Network was £244,000. Most regional assemblies receive additional funding through local authority member subscriptions. Total expenditure will be reflected in their published accounts.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its agencies have given to local authorities on the use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for planning enforcement purposes. [221227]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. Local authorities' access to communications data and use of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources is governed by secondary legislation made under the 2000 Act. This restricts local council access and use of these techniques to the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or disorder in the carrying out of their functions. RIPA requires that their use is necessary and proportionate with regard to human rights and that the information they are designed to obtain cannot be obtained by less intrusive means.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the minutes of the Valuation Office Agency local

authority liaison group meeting of 17 May 2007, if she will place in the Library copies of each edition of the BA Newsletter from the last 36 months. [221224]

John Healey: These IT Newsletters to Billing Authorities are available on the Valuation Office Agency website www.voa.gov.uk.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's E-Bars Project Post Implementation Review report as sent to members of the local authority liaison group. [221225]

John Healey: A copy of the Electronic BA Reports (E-BARS) Post Implementation Review Report has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the Valuation Office Agency local authority liaison group meeting of 23 July 2008 when they are available. [221226]

John Healey: Minutes of the Local Authority Liaison Group meetings are already available on the VOA website at

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/index.htm.

Valuation Office: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 54 of the Valuation Office Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, HC 583, to which organisations council tax information is sold; and what categories of property data is sold. [221532]

John Healey: All of the income from Sale of Rating/ Council Tax information reported on Page 54 of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 is derived from the sale of compilations of the published non domestic rating list and summary valuation data.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1365W, on Valuation Office: databases, whether the property information being scanned in includes *(a)* the plot size of a property, *(b)* dimensions of gardens and *(c)* internal layouts of domestic dwellings. [221152]

John Healey: Such information is included in the scanning only to the extent that it appears on the hard-copy record being scanned. This may include details about the internal layout of dwellings but it is rare for information about plot size and/or the dimensions of gardens to feature in individual records.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Business: Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Office of National Statistics' survey into business spending cost; what the cost per question was; how many responses have been received; and what action is being *(a)* taken and *(b)* planned as a result of the survey. [218590]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 September 2008:

As national statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning how much the ONS Business Spending on Capital Items Survey (BSCIS) cost; what the cost per question was; how many responses have been received; and what action is being *(a)* taken and *(b)* planned as a result of the survey.

(218590)

The BSCIS is one of the measures introduced by ONS to improve the quality of official statistics as part of the departmental spending review (DSR) package of surveys agreed in 1998-99. The survey was set up to monitor spending on capital expenditure in more detail. It is a small annual survey consisting of a sample of 2,500 businesses covering most sectors of the economy. Questionnaires are not sent to businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

Table of survey information:

	Number
Questionnaires sent per year	2,500
Questionnaires received per year (Approx 80 per cent. response)	2,000
Questions per questionnaire	101

Table of survey costs

	Total	*To business*	*To ONS*
Cost per survey[1] (£'000)	270	140	130
Cost per questionnaire (£)	105	55	50
Cost per question (£)	1.0	0.5	0.5

[1] Business cost as published for 2006-07

The information collected from the BSCIS is used to improve the estimate of gross domestic product (GDP). The information is used to break down capital expenditure estimates to a product level to allow more accurate deflation, seasonal adjustment and supply-use balancing of the national accounts. There is no alternative data source that can be used to produce the consistent and coherent detail required.

The results from the survey are published in January of each year on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8167&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Cancer: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with cancer in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* Buckinghamshire in each of the last five years. [214948]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with cancer in (a) Milton Keynes and (b) Buckinghamshire in each of the last five years. [214948]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer are for the year 2005. Figures requested are given in the table below.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1] registered in Milton Keynes unitary authority and Buckinghamshire county, 2001 to 2005

Persons

	Milton Keynes	*Buckinghamshire*
2001	837	2,149
2002	793	2,170
2003	779	2,171
2004	915	2,340
2005	820	2,236

[1] All cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): C00-C97 excluding C44

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Civil Service: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he will publish the 2007-08 resource accounts for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. [221172]

Mr. Watson: The 2007-08 Resource Accounts for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme will be laid after the House returns in the autumn.

Cost of Living

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the average increase in *(a)* fuel prices, *(b)* food prices, *(c)* house prices and *(d)* salary in each English region in each of the last five years. [219579]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average increase in (a) fuel prices, (b) food prices, (c) house prices and (d) salary in each English region in each of the last five years. (219579)

Fuel and food prices for items included in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) are collected each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Estimates are not produced at a regional level. Average increases at a national level for the last five years can be found at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=mm23

Average increases in house prices are recorded and published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This information can be found via Live Table 593 at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/livetables/

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

A table showing the percentage increase in median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in each English region for the years 2003-2007 is attached. A table giving mixed-adjusted house price inflation is available from the House of Commons Library.

Percentage increase in median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in each English region for the years 2003-07

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and The Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
2003	1	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	5
2004	7	5	5	3	5	4	5	4	3
2005	4	3	2	6	3	2	3	1	2
2006	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4
2007	2	4	3	0	4	2	2	3	3

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaby of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1569-70W, on cost of living, what assessment the UK Statistics Authority has made of the effect of higher council tax on the cost of living since 1997. [221284]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 September 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what assessment has been made of the effects of council tax on the cost of living since 1997. (221284)

Retail Prices Index (RPI) and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), both measure the change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption by the vast majority of households in the UK. Of these the RPI is the only measure which includes council tax and rates.

For the period between June 1997 and June 2008 the council tax and rates increased by 95.9 per cent. Over the same period the RPI increased by 37.7 per cent.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what measures are in place in the Cabinet Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219606]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219947]

Phil Hope: All proposals to purchase alcohol for hospitality purposes need the prior approval pf the Cabinet Office Finance Director. The purchase of alcohol, which may be via the Government Procurement Card, by invoice or by a staff claim is monitored by the Cabinet Office Financial Management Team.

Departmental Energy Efficiency

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221081]

Mr. Watson: The Department's energy policy is to meet the sustainable operations in government SOGE targets and ensure value for money.

The Cabinet Office has participated in the Carbon Trust Carbon Management programme for all buildings that it has influence or control over. It has developed an ongoing action plan which includes projects such as installing lighting controls and improving insulation.

Any major refurbishment or new build the Cabinet Office undertakes will endeavour to meet BREEAM excellent standard wherever this is possible in the context of the historic listed nature of much of the Department's estate.

It currently purchases either green or CHP energy for all its buildings.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221097]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has no plans to acquire any new freehold or leased property. In the event that this was to be considered energy efficiency would be an important factor in the decision-making process.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221718]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office initiated one major IT project that was cancelled prior to completion in the last five years. For information regarding this project I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bridgwater (Mr. Liddell-Grainger) on 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2057-58W, by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Murphy).

In respect of the SCOPE Programme I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 862W by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong). However, we have recently informed the Phase 2 contractor of SCOPE that a different approach to the delivery of those capabilities is needed.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214679]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office's records do not distinguish the cost of internet web design and hosting; and print media design from our overall budget. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Significant advertising campaigns in support of specific policies are managed centrally through Cabinet Office Communications and placed through the Central Office of Information (COI).

Details of campaigns involved broadcast media are shown in the following table:

	£
Preparing for Emergencies 2004-05	
Gross television airtime budget	2,009,550
Gross radio airtime budget	532,606
Direct Gov—Consumer Campaign	
Gross television airtime budget 2005-06	343,869

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221299]

Mr. Watson: The cost of overtime payments paid to Cabinet Office staff in each of the last 12 months broken down by grade is detailed in the following table:

£

	2007						2008					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
A	14,541	16,392	4,368	8,917	15,585	14,293	10,833	9,823	10,704	12,981	9,882	10,200
B2	12,237	10,859	10,501	11,361	21,696	14,163	20,254	13,585	17,423	17,364	14,543	17,136
B-Fst	1,973	1,709	2,604	1,261	2,338	3,154	2,611	3,334	3,897	1,998	1,915	2,749
B1	27,547	27,480	20,791	20,669	41,266	29,857	30,011	28,669	33,449	31,015	33,220	34,265
C	21,778	22,508	23,044	19,635	24,575	21,218	26,278	19,269	22,186	21,560	24,043	29,453
TIS	13,425	14,264	16,010	12,381	13,234	12,223	14,635	12,053	11,496	14,335	9,647	13,173

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 12 months. [221236]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The number of hours overtime worked by the Cabinet Office staff in each month from April 2007 to March 2008 broken down by grade is detailed in the following table:

Number

	2007									2008		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
A	954	781	733	1,457	1,025	781	585	1,217	662	937	1,144	1,239
B2	1,481	1,212	1,387	1,842	1,858	1,283	1,345	1,918	1,387	883	1,948	1,538
B-Fst	160	141	212	243	121	31	210	597	215	337	296	288
B1	2,192	1,800	2,143	2,658	2,881	1,821	1,940	2,457	2,370	1,621	2,510	2,506
C	1,352	1,704	1,929	2,040	1,985	1,882	1,530	2,311	1,815	1,691	1,852	1,729
TIS	855	724	710	877	880	505	697	889	538	428	675	785

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what externally accredited qualifications are included in the development programme available to Government Communication Network members. [215154]

Mr. Watson: There are no externally accredited qualifications included in the development programme.

National School of Government

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much remuneration *(a)* Cabinet Ministers, *(b)* Ministers of State, *(c)* Parliamentary Under-Secretaries and *(d)* Parliamentary Private Secretaries received in respect of lectures given to the National School of Government and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years, broken down by department. [220070]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National School of Government. I have asked the National School's Chief Executive and Principal to reply.

Letter from Robin Ryde, dated 28 July 2008:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the National School of Government.

No serving Ministers (Secretaries of State, Ministers of State or Parliamentary Secretaries) have been paid to contribute to events run by the National School since its establishment in 2005. This is also true for predecessor organisations for the period 1998-2005.

No Parliamentary Private Secretaries have been paid to contribute to events run by the National School since its establishment in 2005. The then Civil Service College paid £120 to one Parliamentary Private Secretary to contribute to a course in 1999. This is the only instance of which we are aware in 1998-2005.

Voluntary Organisations: Learning Disability

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the potential contribution that third sector organisations can make to the delivery of public services for those with learning difficulties. [221676]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The extensive consultation we carried out for Valuing People Now included members of the public and third sector organisations. We are planning to publish the final "Valuing People Now" in the autumn after everybody's responses have been fully considered. This policy is in line with the Department's work to promote a greater plurality of provision (including service providers from the third sector) to increase capacity, encourage innovation, improve user responsiveness and ultimately improve health and wellbeing.

A great deal of work has been undertaken by the Department to remove barriers to third sector organisations

entering the market and ensuring that there is a fairer playing field through the work of the Third Sector Commissioning Taskforce.

The National Director for Learning Disabilities chairs the learning disability task force, which includes representatives of the nation forum for people with learning disabilities and key third sector groups, including MENCAP.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Foreign Companies

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has made an estimate of the number of foreign-owned businesses in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [217550]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning the number of foreign-owned businesses in the United Kingdom. (217550)

At March 2007 there were approximately 25,400 enterprises live in the UK owned by a foreign company. This estimate is taken from the UK response to the 2007 Eurostat Registers Questionnaire, submitted to the European Commission. Analysis is based on the national identity of the ultimate owner of an enterprise group.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value is of illegal drugs seized by British troops in Afghanistan in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [221396]

Des Browne: The Afghan authorities have the lead for counter-narcotic activity, but under the terms of the current NATO Operational Plan (OPLAN), ISAF forces may support them, including through support to interdiction operations. ISAF forces hand over any drugs, associated equipment, and traffickers to the Afghan authorities at the earliest possible opportunity.

In the absence of any ISAF requirement to record details of narcotic seizures, UK forces have to date not retained a central record of drug seizures, and any attempt to provide one would come at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 62W on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what types of projects were covered by the term 'other' in the table; and whether each project is completed, ongoing or planned. [210912]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The projects listed as 'other' in my previous answer referred to projects involving bridge construction, bazaar regeneration, water towers, repair or construction of Government buildings, repair or provision of essential services, and projects aimed at supporting social and economic development. Of these projects, 61 per cent. are completed, 10 per cent. are on-going and 29 per cent. are planned.

In researching this answer it was identified that the table in my previous answer to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) was incorrect. The correct number of projects is shown in the following table:

		Location			
Type of Project	*Status*	*Lashkar Gar*	*Gereshk*	*Sangin*	*Musa Qal'eh*
Education	Completed	6	4	1	0
	Ongoing	2	1	1	1
	Planned	0	4	0	1
Security and Rule of Law	Completed	20	4	1	0
	Ongoing	8	6	4	2
	Planned	5	3	1	1
Health	Completed	8	3	0	1
	Ongoing	1	1	0	1
	Planned	2	2	1	0
Roads	Completed	0	1 (25km)	0	1 (6.4km)
	Ongoing	2 (4km)	1 (5km)	1 (0.3km)	1 (0.6km)
	Planned	0	2 (2km)	1 (2.2km)	0
Mosques/ religious centres	Completed	1	1	0	5
	Ongoing	1	1	1	1
	Planned	0	4	0	0
Other	Completed	27	13	7	2
	Ongoing	1	1	1	5
	Planned	0	14	8	1
Total	Completed	62	26	9	9
	Ongoing	15	11	8	11
	Planned	7	29	11	3
Grand total		84	66	28	23

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on an increased deployment of their armed forces in Afghanistan. [220073]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* I discuss regularly with my NATO counterparts force levels in Afghanistan, including at a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers on 12-13 June.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions live munitions have been launched from MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles controlled by the RAF over Afghanistan; and how many *(a)* combatants have been killed and *(b)* non-combatants have been killed and injured as a result of such launches. [220468]

Des Browne: UK Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles operating over Afghanistan have been used successfully to launch munitions on seven occasions. I am withholding details of these engagements as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours have been recorded by unmanned aerial vehicles in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* elsewhere in each of the last four quarters, broken down by vehicle type. [220476]

Des Browne: The flying hours recorded for unmanned aerial vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan are shown as follows.

	Hermes 450	*Reaper*
Iraq		
Q3 2007	1,143	—
Q4 2007	1,270	—
Q1 2008	1,113	—
Q2 2008	1,127	—
Afghanistan		
Q3 2007	270	500
Q4 2007	1,351	500
Q1 2008	1,412	500
Q2 2008	1,582	500

The figures shown for Reaper are average figures.

The Army also operates Desert Hawk III unmanned aerial vehicles, but flight times are only recorded as a total figure and not in the format requested. The total hours flown in each theatre for the same period are 1,871 in Iraq, and 1,217 in Afghanistan.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent reports he has received on the impact of attacks on convoys to Musa Qala, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on water supplies for British troops serving in that Province. [221395]

Des Browne: I have received no reports suggesting that attacks on convoys to Musa Qala, Helmand Province, have had an impact on drinking water for British troops serving in that Province.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quick impact projects have been undertaken by the Royal Engineers and the Army in Afghanistan since 2001. [218450]

Des Browne: The Royal Engineers, through their construction supervision cell, have managed 201 Quick Impact Projects since 2001, including building schools, medical clinics, roads, irrigation channels and electrical networks.

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what companies contribute to the running costs of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme; and how much each contributed in the last period for which figures are available. [220704]

Derek Twigg: We are grateful to the sponsors of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, Augusta Westland and their predecessors) who have contributed £45,000 each for this year, and to Sir Neil Thorne for the very considerable moral and financial support he has lent the scheme since inception in 1989.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme cost to run in the last financial year; and how much external sources of funding contributed towards this cost. [220756]

Derek Twigg: The MOD receives no outside funding assistance for its activity in support of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. The costs to the Department of running the scheme are not recorded separately.

Armed Forces: Contracts

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reconsider his Department's decision to award the contracts for *(a)* the Future Rapid Effects System and *(b)* the Defence Training Rationalisation to US firms in the light of the US Administration's decision to reopen the US Air Force air tanker contract. [220852]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The US decision is a matter for the US Government. Contract awards for FRES and the DTR were based on the best value for money for the UK taxpayer.

Armed Forces: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans there are to use armed forces personnel in the event of a *(a)* fire service strike, *(b)* terrorist incident and *(c)* influenza pandemic; and what changes have been made to those plans since the coming into force of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. [221392]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces provide assistance to the civil authorities at their request and primarily when the civil authorities lack the necessary capabilities. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 has mandated that civil authorities should have contingency plans in place to deal with a range of civil crises. As a result civil authorities have developed their capabilities to deal with a wide range of challenges.

In relation to strikes in the fire and rescue service, responsibility for contingency planning rests with the fire and rescue authority, and not the Secretary of State for Defence. Fire and rescue authorities are required to have in place a contingency plan which does not rely upon support from the armed forces. Accordingly the armed forces do not have any contingency plans in place, but Defence Ministers would consider any requests from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the lead Government Department responsible for the Fire and Rescue Service on a case by case basis.

The Home Secretary is primarily responsible for the safety and security of the UK population including protecting the public against terrorism. The police and other first responders have a wide range of capabilities to deal with terrorist incidents. The armed forces do provide some niche capabilities, for example Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams, and have contingency plans in place to make specialist capabilities available should they be required by the police or other civil authorities.

Planning for the effects of an outbreak of pandemic influenza is ongoing and cross government plans are being developed. The magnitude of Defence assistance that could be provided during any outbreak would of course be dependent on how badly the armed forces have been affected by the outbreak.

Armed Forces: Food

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment has been made of the effects of the Pay As You Dine scheme on nutrition of young soldiers; and what steps he is taking to ensure that young soldiers reliant on the Pay As You Dine scheme consume an adequate diet; [207569]

(2) what assessment has been made of whether the Pay As You Dine scheme has promoted healthy eating; [207570]

(3) what customer satisfaction surveys of the Pay As You Dine scheme have been undertaken and if he will publish the results of the surveys. [207571]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Andrew Murrison:

My colleague, the Under Secretary of State for Defence, undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 2 June 2008, (Official Report, column 669-670W) about Pay As You Dine (PAYD) for Service personnel. I am responding as the Duty Minister.

Prior to the introduction of PAYD, all Service personnel living in Single Living Accommodation paid a fixed food charge to cover three meals per day, irrespective of the number of meals that they actually ate. Inspection showed that on average 50 percent of meals or less were being taken. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body during their annual round of discussions with Service personnel identified strong support, particularly from amongst the junior ranks, for a replacement system which would enable personnel to pay only for food that they ate. In 2005, the MOD gave approval for each of the Services to implement PAYD and this they are now doing in a manner appropriate to meet their individual Service needs. PAYD is part of a concept of integrated catering, retail and leisure services that aims to improve the quality of life for Service personnel. It gives our Service personnel greater freedom by giving them the choice over when, where and how they eat and promotes fairness by ensuring that Service personnel pay only for the meals that they consume.

The PAYD scheme incorporates a core menu which conforms to the Tri Service Menu Policy. Indeed, the three core meals under PAYD are designed to be broadly to the same standard (ie to provide the required calories and nutritional balance if all three meals are taken) as those specified under the old regime with the cost of the core menu being exactly the same as the current Daily Food Charge. The MOD undertakes to provide a variety of healthy palatable food and beverages to all military personnel to enable them to adopt healthy eating habits, a balanced diet and to ensure optimal fitness and performance. Contract Caterers who deliver PAYD are required to provide food at the point of service that meets these requirements. In addition we continue to encourage all personnel to eat in a healthy and balanced manner. However, whether Service personnel are at a PAYD site or not, the ability to ensure that young serving personnel eat a healthy and balanced diet is somewhat limited. The menus at each meal offer healthy options but we do not have the ability to force people to choose that option. With the introduction of PAYD and choice there comes with it a certain degree of personal responsibility in terms of what they eat. There is also a mechanism in place to ensure that nobody is denied a meal if they run out of funds and special dietary and religious eating needs continue to be accommodated.

Your first question referred to the impact on young soldiers. Due to the special circumstances of the nutritional needs of young trainees (of all the Services), Phase one trainees and some Phase two trainees do not participate in PAYD, but continue to pay the Daily Food Charge and are entitled to the core menu to ensure they receive a balanced and nutritional diet which includes appropriate supplements to cater for high activity levels (although it is still the individual's choice as to what they put on their plate at meal times). Trainees receive specifically targeted booklets, lifestyle lectures and guidance during training to ensure that they appreciate the importance of adequate and appropriate eating habits in relation to their professional and personal activities. In addition new recruits are also taught how to budget for PAYD.

In terms of assessing whether or not the PAYD scheme has promoted healthy eating—all contract Caterers are required to provide healthy options at each core meal. Contracts provide for cereals, yoghurt and fruit as part of the breakfast menu and for lunch and dinner salads and fresh vegetables are available. Where concerns are raised, these are addressed directly with the Contractor and alternative healthier options to various meals are introduced. PAYD was introduced to give people choice; it does this by offering a wide variety of meals at varying prices. Healthy options (as part of the core meal) are available if chosen by the individual.

In addition, Defence Food Services has issued all Commanding Officers with a pan-Service booklet "A Guide to Healthy Eating" to complement and reinforce the policy. The Expert Panel of Armed Forces Feeding (EPAFF), in consultation with QinetiQ, has also produced and issued a Recruits Guide to Nutrition, a Servicewoman's Guide to Health and Performance, and an Armed Forces Personal Guide to Nutrition. All of these publications recognise the potential change to individual food choice as a result of the introduction of PAYD and are designed to provide individuals with the necessary guidance and advice to enable them to choose the right foods so that they can more easily cope with the physical demands of military training, operations and competitive sports. The single Services continue to reinforce the healthy eating message through various single Service publications.

The single Services monitor the PAYD scheme through a regular programme of meetings between the Services and Contractor both locally and at HQ level. For the Royal Navy, the contracts require that the contractors undertake regular Customer Surveys and provide returns for assessment by the Royal Navy commercial branch and the Catering Services subject matter experts. The Army has a survey under way which began in late April 2008, the responses to which are still being received. Over 4,000 questionnaires were distributed with the results becoming available over the next few months. The RAF which has only three PAYD sites has monitored feedback on its trial sites via customer feedback forms. However since the start of 2008, focus groups have been held and are currently being completed to indicate consumer views. In addition, a sample of RAF personnel has been completing food diaries over a period of a month to gauge eating patterns. A formal independent assessment by a Market Research company is

currently being carried out at comparable PAYD and non PAYD units. Centrally, feedback is received via the various Continuous Attitude Surveys undertaken by the Single Services. The first UK Tri-Service Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey 2007 was published on 9 July 2008 and is available at:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/donlyres/E4D829FFFD4D46F8B9B403837353F6B1/0/afcasresults_2007.pdf.

A copy is also available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Fuel

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [217238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 23 July to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Letter from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 June 2008, (Official Report, column 1095W) about fuels. I apologise for the delay in replying, but the way we purchase and account for fuel is complex, and it has taken some time to assemble the information you requested.

In my reply on 7 February 2008, (Official Report, column 1492W) I stated that fuel price changes (predominantly affecting maritime and aviation fuel) were estimated to have added outturn costs of around £80 million over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 to the Department's fuel bill. This figure was based on a costing model. More up-to-date information now available indicates, through this cost model, that the additional cost incurred by the Department over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 through fuel price rises was some £120-130M.

The table below provides the amount the MOD spent on fuel in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08, broken down by type of fuel. The information is derived from Top Level Budget Holders' submissions to the overall Departmental Resource Accounts.

			£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aviation fuel[1]	255	265	270
Fuels (non-utility)[2]	200	255	305
Totals	455	520	575

[1]For 2005-06 and 2006-07, some aviation fuel expenditure was accounted for in the Stock Consumption line of the published Departmental Resource Accounts for those years. [2] Defined as petroleum-based liquid fuels meeting internationally recognised specifications that are used to power ships and vehicles.

I would stress that these figures cannot be comprehensive, as local purchase arrangements are not always visible at higher levels of accounting: for example, while systems are in place to ensure propriety by recording local purchase of fuel for military vehicles at commercial petrol stations, these do not feed into higher financial management systems. Additionally, the figures do not include utilities (for example, natural gas and heating oil used to heat buildings), which are accounted for separately. There may also be other, smaller elements of fuel expenditure which Departmental financial management systems do not enable us to identify.

Assuming that volumes consumed in core Defence activity such as non-operational exercising have remained broadly constant or increased only marginally over the period, a large proportion—possibly around two-thirds—of the estimated outturn cost increase of £120-130M is likely to be attributable to Request for Resources 2 (RfR2—the Department's claim against the Reserve for operations). I would stress that this is an estimate, not an absolute measure of the impact of fuel price increases on either Defence or the Exchequer.

Where fuel prices increase, there will naturally be an impact on the cost of operations, depending on the volume of consumption at the time and the extent to which any local purchasing arrangements reflect global $ price increases: a broad estimate suggests that this effect could be around £1-2M for every US $1 increase in the price of crude oil.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what expenditure incurred on fuels for the Armed Forces and Defence Fuel Groups was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [219234]

(2) what estimate he has made of the financial effects on the defence budget of a rise in crude oil price of $1 per barrel. [219235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 23 July to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

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Armed Forces: Holiday Leave

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of annual leave was not taken by service personnel in each year since 2001. [215837]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 175W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department may lease properties where the freehold is owned by Annington Homes to civilians; whether the terms of his Department's contract with Annington Homes prevent long-term leases; and what other restrictions there are on the terms upon which his Department may lease such properties to tenants. [218007]

Derek Twigg: Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in the UK is primarily provided to house entitled Service personnel and their families. Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian key staff and some members of the MOD Police also have an entitlement to occupy SFA.

The MOD supports the leasing of temporarily surplus SFA to eligible civilians in accordance with wider Government policies on empty homes, however this can only be done where it does not prejudice the need to provide homes for entitled personnel. The rules on eligibility can be found in the Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations, available online at:

www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/jsp

In addition to this, the MOD is currently exploring options regarding the leasing of temporary surplus accommodation.

Where there is no long term requirement for SFA, the properties would be returned to AHL and are normally sold on the open market. The onward sale or disposal of these properties is a matter for the company.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* requirement and *(b)* actual number of (i) unit welfare officers and (ii) padres in each service is. [219997]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State gave on 21 April 2008 to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

The Royal Navy has a requirement for 70 chaplains and by the end of the financial year will have 65 in post.

The Army has a requirement for 159 chaplains and have 146 in post.

The RAF has a requirement for 76 chaplains and currently have 64 in post.

Armed Forces: Olympic Games

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces competed in each Olympic Games for which records are available. [220298]

Derek Twigg: The following tables show the number of personnel from each service who competed in the summer and winter Olympic games for which records are available:

Summer

	Royal Navy	Army	Royal Air Force
1948	[1]—	19	8
1952	1	12	2
1956	0	8	11
1960	0	6	3
1964	0	5	0
1968	2	7	1
1972	2	3	2
1976	2	3	0
1980	1	1	1
1984	2	3	3
1988	1	7	2
1992	0	2	0
1996	0	3	0
2000	1	1	1
2004	0	2	0

Winter

	Royal Navy	Army	Royal Air Force
1964	[1]—	7	1
1968	[1]—	7	3
1972	[1]—	8	2
1976	[1]—	6	0
1980	[1]—	15	0
1984	1	15	2
1988	0	12	3
1992	1	11	0
1994	0	9	0
1998	1	4	1
2002	1	7	3
2006	3	3	2

[1] No record.

Armed Forces: Young People

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people under 18 years old serving in the armed forces have been court-martialled in each of the last five years; and what charges were brought at each court-martial where proceedings have been completed. [220314]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of people under 18 serving in the armed forces who have been court-martialled in each of the last five years; and what charges were brought at each court-martial where proceedings have been completed.

	Number of under-18s who have been court-martialled	Charges
Royal Navy		
2003	0	—
2004	0	—
2005	0	—
2006	1	2 x assault by beating
		1 x attempting to unlawfully and maliciously wound
2007	0	—
Army		
2003	1	2 x absence without leave
	1	1 x aggravated vehicle taking
	1	1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
	1	1 x handling stolen goods
	1	1 x indecent assault on male person
Total	5	
2004	1	1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
	1	1 x unlawfully inflicting grievous bodily harm
Total	2	
2005	1	3 x conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline
	2	Each charged: 1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
	1	1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm and 1 x common assault
	1	1 x battery
	1	1 x unlawful wounding and 1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
Total	6	
2006	1	1 x absence without leave
	1	1 x affray and doing an act tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice
	1	1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
Total	3	
2007	1	2 x absence without leave
	1	2 x fighting
	2	Each charged: 3 x battery
	1	3 x sexual assault
	3	Each charged: 1 x assault occasioning actual bodily harm
	1	1 x battery
	1	1 x harassment
	1	1 x inflicting grievous bodily harm
Total	11	

As the table shows, some individuals had more than one charge brought against them.

The number of people under 18-years-old serving in the Royal Air Force who have been court-martialled in the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unladen weight, *(b)* carrying capacity by weight, *(c)* external measurements, *(d)* internal measurements of working space and *(e)* cubic capacity of working space is of the (i) Snatch Land Rover and (ii) Force Protection Cheetah. [220773]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Snatch 2 Land Rover has an overall length of 4,800 mm including the spare wheel, an overall height of 2,370 mm and an overall width of 2,000 mm with mirrors folded. I am withholding the information relating to the weight, internal measurements of working space, cubic capacity of working space and vehicle carrying capacity as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The Cheetah series of vehicles is produced by the US company Force Protection Inc. The Department does not have any of these vehicles in service and therefore cannot issue what constitutes proprietary information on this vehicle. The hon. Member may, though, be interested in looking at a brochure on the Force Protection Industries website which contains information on the Cheetah's specifications. The address is:

www.forceprotection.net/models/cheetah/specs/cheetah_brochure.pdf

Army Criminal Legal Aid Authority

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to change the way the Army Criminal Legal Aid Authority

operates following the proceedings on the death of Mr. Baha Musa in Iraq in British custody and the legal aid provided to the defendants. [220888]

Des Browne: No specific issues arose out of the proceedings on the death of Mr. Baha Mousa in Iraq in British custody that indicated the need to change the way in which the Army Criminal Legal Aid Authority (now the Armed Forces Criminal Legal Aid Authority) operates.

Separately, a number of changes have been made to the administration of armed forces legal aid to reflect the interim changes to the civilian criminal legal aid scheme resulting from the Lord Carter's Review of Legal Aid Procurement. Further changes emerging from the review will be considered for adoption in due course. This will allow the Armed Forces Criminal Legal Aid system to continue to reflect the legal aid system operated by the Legal Services Commission.

Defence Estates

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the value of his Department's disposable land as identified in the defence estates development plan. [220494]

Derek Twigg: Market value estimates are only made once sites are released for disposal.

I am withholding the estimated value of released sites within our disposal plans as their release would prejudice commercial interests.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220820]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses on the Ministry of Defence estate will be refurbished in each of the next five years. [217308]

Derek Twigg: Refurbishment of property is not readily distinguishable from other maintenance or upgrade expenditure when compiling costings and planning for service families accommodation (SFA).

We intend to spend in excess of £8 billion on accommodation over the next decade, of which over £3 billion will be on improvements and upgrades.

Based on current funding levels, the MOD plans to upgrade at least 600 of the worst condition SFA properties in the United Kingdom to the highest Standard for Condition in 2008-09 and at least 800 properties each year until Financial Year 2012. The upgrade programme prioritises those properties identified as being in the greatest need.

In addition, we will carry out routine works, on SFA, including maintenance and replacement of bathrooms, kitchens and boilers, which while not sufficient to upgrade a property to the next level or higher, will significantly improve the quality of life for the occupants.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years; [221095]

(2) what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221111]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to meeting the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets for improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon dioxide emissions from buildings relative to 1999-2000 levels and achieving carbon neutrality on its office estate by 2012.

In 2006-07, the last period for which published figures are available, we achieved an improvement in energy efficiency per metre squared of 29 per cent., and reduced carbon dioxide emissions from buildings by some eight per cent., against the relevant SOGE reduction targets of 30 per cent., by 2020 and 12.5 per cent., by 2010-11, respectively.

In addition, the MOD has gone further than the 12.5 per cent., reduction in carbon dioxide emissions required by 2010-11 and has put in place a 15 per cent., reduction target relative to 2004-05 levels, which is to be achieved through increased energy efficiency and greater use of renewable and low carbon technologies.

Where existing buildings are being considered for acquisition or rental, the energy efficiency information provided by the Energy Performance Certificate will be taken into account.

Where new build is concerned, the MOD integrates carbon reduction and sustainable development considerations into its building design and construction projects.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217414]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the number of Ministry of Defence civilian employees who have been *(a)* dismissed in the last two financial years.

Financial year	Headcount Number of MOD civilian employees dismissed[1]
2006-07	120
2007-08	100

[1] Includes all non-industrial, industrial and trading fund MOD civilian personnel but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on exit dismissals is available.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The following table shows the number of Ministry of Defence civilian employees who have been *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. It includes all discipline and restoring efficiency cases; this can vary from poor attendance to excessive sick absence.

	Financial year	
Level 1	2006-07[1]	2007-08
Open cases	—	[2]1,030
New cases	—	[2]200
Closed cases	—	[2]140

[1] Data for financial year 2006-07 are not available.
[2] Numbers are provisional.

Note:
Data provided by PPPA.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217759]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219254]

Derek Twigg: We report expenditure on hospitality and entertainment in our annual report and accounts.

Copies of our annual report and accounts are available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2007-08; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [213304]

Derek Twigg: The number and value of annual appraisal-related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds and agencies), in 2007-08, are listed in tables 1 to 3 as follows. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table 4. The final table (5) shows the total value of all bonuses paid in cash terms; it is not possible at this time to give the percentage of the work force to which this refers and this will be advised at the end of July.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	186
Value of bonuses paid (£)	1,325,700
Highest bonus payment (£)	17,600

Table 2: Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	[1]16
Value of bonuses paid (£)	333,915
Highest bonus payment (£)	50,000

[1] There is one outstanding bonus payment still to be agreed.

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS (excluding MOD trading fund agencies

	2007-08
Number of bonuses paid	52,193
Value of bonuses paid (£)	39,695,110
Highest bonus payment (£)	4,695

Table 4: Special bonuses (excluding MOD trading fund agencies)

	2007-08
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	8,428
Value of bonuses paid (£)	3,455,124
Highest bonus payment (£)	2,000

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

Total	2007-08
Value of all bonuses paid (£)	44,589,288
Percentage of total civilian work force	[1]—

[1] Staff numbers taken from departmental end year accounts not yet available.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Vincent Cable:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 21 July 2008, (Official Report, column 842-843W) about bonus payments.

I am now able to provide the percentage of the workforce who received a bonus payment in 2007-08. An updated Table 5 is shown below:

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

Total	2007-08
Value of all bonuses paid	£44,589,288
Percentage of total civilian workforce	72.5

The figures in the table represent bonuses paid to members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS), fixed term appointees, and to civil servants, covered by the MOD main pay deal, below the level of the SCS.

For the SCS, under the current arrangements delegated to departments from the Cabinet Office, bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year, and are based on a judgement of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The intention is that the best performers receive the biggest bonuses.

For the grades below the SCS, bonus awards are made on the judgement of local managers of an individual's contribution to the year's business objectives, relative to those of colleagues in the same pay band or skill zone. Individual recommendations for or against awards are made by line managers in accordance with corporate criteria and are subsequently reviewed and validated by senior officers.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215231]

Derek Twigg: Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the MOD policy manual and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

As temporary civil servants special advisers are subject to the same rules.

The following table contains the total amount of reimbursable expenses claimed by MOD special advisers over the last 10 years.

Financial year	*Total expenses (£)*
1997-98	321.54
1998-99	444.33
1999-2000	1,685.83
2000-01	50.00
2001-02	182.42
2002-03	3,699.02
2003-04	3,040.12
2004-05	3,465.12
2005-06	1,104.57
2006-07	0
2007-08	44.00

These reimbursable expenses cover costs associated with travel, parking, accommodation, subsistence and the incidental expenses allowance claimed while on duty in UK and abroad.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221181]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Where authorised, reimbursable expenses are provided in line with MOD Guidance and wider Government regulations.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221479]

Derek Twigg: The MOD dispatches relatively little mail externally. Official mail within the Department is primarily distributed by the internal Defence Mail Service, provided by the British Forces Post Office, while mail for personnel serving overseas is usually distributed by RAF air transport. The cost of the mail service is monitored daily by the BFPO budget manager and evaluation meetings are held monthly with the Commander Defence Postal Services.

Most external mail is sent through the Royal Mail Group, or, exceptionally through other approved carriers, the cost of which is met and monitored by individual budget holders. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215212]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has a central enabling contract with a journal supplier which all staff are encouraged to use to purchase discounted subscriptions to non-recreational periodicals in order to achieve best value for money. The contract is open to all MOD units, civilian and military, worldwide. It is primarily used for the purchase of medical, technical and academic journals in support of military health care, the equipment programme and education and training. Expenditure under the contract for the period June 2006 to May 2008 is shown in the following table:

Month	*Expenditure (£)*
2006	
June	16,900
July	13,167
August	7,130
September	36,572
October	[1]233,66
November	64,248
December	[1]329,737
2007	
January	61,683
February	32,829
March	28,053
April	59,569
May	62,797
June	17,288
July	[1]270,089
August	10,861
September	38,019
October	[1]180,107
November	25,091
December	33,859
2008	
January	12,847
February	[1]371,188
March	76,095
April	7,059
May	74,847

[1] Units may choose to pay by monthly or annual payment. Annual payments account for periodic cost variations.

As use of the contract is not compulsory, some units may be using alternative suppliers. Information on expenditure under such local arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220437]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is the Department's policy to meet its payment obligations promptly within agreed contract terms and acquisition teams are bound under HM Treasury rules to choose or negotiate payment terms that represent good value.

The Department is making greater use of e-tools to secure better deals and speed up the payment process in pursuit of better value for money.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221585]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's main estimate in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms on the same basis as in his answers to the hon. Member for Aldershot on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2346W and 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2284W. [218334]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Gerald Howarth:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 168W, requesting a breakdown of the Department's main estimate in near cash and non-cash terms on the same basis as previous replies on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2346W and 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2284W.

I attach tables which provide a detailed breakdown of the Department's Main Estimates for 2008-09.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Breakdown of Main Estimates

TLB	*Estimate type*	*£000*
RfR1		
Commander-in-Chief Fleet	DEL near cash	2,199,338
	DEL non cash	2,555
	Grants	10,462
	Operating A-in-A	-41,157
	Total DEL	2,171,198
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget grants	2,253
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total non Budget	2,253
	CDEL	25,033
	CDEL non operating A-in-A	—
	AME non operating A-in-A	—
	Total capital	25,033
Total Commander-in-Chief Fleet		2,198,484
Commander-in-Chief Land		
	DEL near cash	6,479,727
	DEL non cash	31,532
	Grants	59,658
	Operating A-in-A	-107,762
	Total DEL	6,463,155
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget grants	15,138
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	15,138
	CDEL	260,985
	CDEL non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	260,985
Total Commander-in-Chief Land		6,739,278
Commander in Chief Air Command		
	DEL near cash	2,888,118
	DEL non cash	10,918
	Grants	3,099
	Operating A-in-A	-168,113
	Total DEL	2,734,022
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget grants	7,189
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	7,189
	CDEL	111,675
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—

Breakdown of Main Estimates

TLB	*Estimate type*	*£000*
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	111,675
Total Commander-In-Chief Air Command		2,852,886
Chief of Joint Operations		
	DEL near cash	433,968
	DEL non cash	28,915
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	-25,489
	Total DEL	437,394
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	68,258
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	68,258
Total Chief of Joint Operations		505,652
Central		
	DEL near cash	1,727,297
	DEL non cash	206,095
	Grants	168,562
	Operating A-in-A	-335,848
	Total DEL	1,766,106
	AME near cash	—
	AME Grants	—
	AME non cash	-12
	AME A in A	—
	Total AME	-12
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget grants	750
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	750
	CDEL	87,088
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-12,115
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	74,973
Total Central		1,841,817
Defence Equipment and Support		
	DEL near cash	5,678,284
	DEL non cash	9,179,048
	Grants	1,051
	Operating A-in-A	-192,471
	Total DEL	14,665,912
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	-84,762
	AME A-in-A	—
	Total AME	-84,762
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget A-in-A	-4
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	-4
	CDEL	7,310,755
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	7,310,755
Total Defence Equipment and Support		21,891,901
Science, Innovation Technology		
	DEL near cash	622,507
	DEL non cash	-5,284
	Grants	4,204
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	621,427
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	0
Total Science, Innovation, Technology		621,427
Defence Estates		
	DEL near cash	1,209,571
	DEL non cash	1,486,735
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	-371,944
	Total DEL	2,324,362
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0

Breakdown of Main Estimates

TLB	*Estimate type*	*£000*
	Non Budget near cash	3,026
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	3,026
	CDEL	221,366
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-203,000
	Capital Non Budget	2,019
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	20,385
Defence Estates Total		2,347,773
Administration costs		
	DEL near cash	2,294,141
	DEL non cash	—
	Grants	—
	Operating A-in-A	—
	Total DEL	2,294,141
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget near cash grants	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	—
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	0
Total Administration costs		2,294,141
Total RfR1		
	DEL near cash	23,532,951
	DEL non cash	10,940,514
	Grants	247,036
	Operating A-in-A	-1,242,784
	Total DEL	33,477,717
	AME near cash	0
	AME Grants	0
	AME non cash	-84,774
	AME receipts	0
	Total AME	-84,774
	Non Budget near cash	3,026
	Non Budget Grants	25,330
	Non Budget non cash	0
	receipt	-4
	Total Non Budget	28,352

Breakdown of Main Estimates

TLB	*Estimate type*	*£000*
	COEL	8,085,160
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-215,115
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Non Budget Capital	2,019
	Total Capital	7,872,064
Total RfR1		41,293,359
RfR2		
Operations and Peace-Keeping		
	DEL near cash	89,566
	DEL non cash	—
	Grants	—
	Operating A-in-A	—
	Total DEL	89,566
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	—
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	0
Total Operations and Peace-Keeping		89,566
RfR3		
War Pensions and Allowances		
	Admin budget	—
	DEL near cash	—
	DEL non cash	—
	Grants	—
	Operating A-in-A	—
	Total DEL	0
	AME near cash	—
	Grants	1,015,602
	AME non cash	-512
	Total AME	1,015,090
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	—
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	—
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	—
	Total Capital	0

Breakdown of Main Estimates

TLB	Estimate type	£000
Total War Pensions and Allowances		1,015,090
MOD Total		42,398,015

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221377]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number of reviews and public consultations conducted by MOD is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216090]

(2) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [216093]

(3) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216105]

Derek Twigg: The Department reports absences listed for mental health and behavioural disorders against the standard ICD 10 Code—Mental and Behavioural Disorders (PSD).

Data for staff in the Ministry of Defence are listed in the following table.

Sick days recorded against ICD 10: Mental Health and Behavioural Disorders (PSD)

	Personnel			Total working days lost	
12 months ending	Number	Percentage	Average days duration	Number	Percentage
31 December 2005	3,920	5.0	22.1	134,670	18.3
31 December 2006	3,980	5.3	21.9	128,030	19.4
31 December 2007	3,830	5.4	22.5	124,950	19.9

Sick days recorded against ICD 10: Mental Health and Behavioural Disorders (PSD)

	Personnel			Total working days lost	
12 months ending	Number	Percentage	Average days duration	Number	Percentage
31 March 2008	3,770	5.4	22.4	122,440	20.4

Notes:

1. Data exclude staff in Trading Funds, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and Locally Engaged Civilians for whom sickness absence data are not readily available.
2. Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person in any one year, and exclude absence days that occurred on weekends, annual leave and bank holidays.
3. Totals have been rounded to the nearest 10, totals and sub totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.
4. The percentage of working days lost is calculated as a percentage of the total working days lost due to sickness absence.

Information prior to calendar year 2005 is compiled on a previous definition for monitoring sickness absence which is not consistent with figures for calendar year 2005 onwards.

Data for the Ministry of Defence's agencies and non-departmental bodies are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mental health and behavioural disorders such as anxiety and depression are often stress-related and MOD classifies all such absences under the same code. MOD is committed to protecting the health, safety and well-being of its employees and has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work.

A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work. Online health promotion material on stress avoidance techniques is also available.

It is also MOD policy to seek the early advice of occupational health professionals in cases of sick absence due to stress-related illnesses.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218965]

Derek Twigg: The number of MOD civilian personnel who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007, was 2,620 (rounded to the nearest 10).

Information prior to calendar year 2005 is compiled on a previous definition for monitoring sickness absence which is not consistent with figures for calendar year 2005 onwards.

MOD is totally committed to the effective management of sickness absence and consistently performs well in this area. This is achieved by a combination of methods including the setting and monitoring of absence reduction targets for business units and actively involving line managers in the process. Early referral of persistent absentees for occupational health advice is also encouraged as early referrals usually result in an earlier return to regular attendance.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216092]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216106]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1492W, on fuels, (1) what percentage of the £80 million was paid for from the Treasury Reserve; [204557]

(2) how much his Department spent on fuel in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08, broken down by type of fuel; [204558]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the cost of British military operations abroad of each US $1 increase in the price of oil. [210640]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are currently collating the necessary information. I will write to the hon. Member once this process is complete.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 June 2008, (Official Report, column 1095W) about fuels. I apologise for the delay in replying, but the way we purchase and account for fuel is complex, and it has taken some time to assemble the information you requested.

In my reply on 7 February 2008 (Official Report, column 1492W) I stated that fuel price changes (predominantly affecting maritime and aviation fuel) were estimated to have added outturn costs of around £80 million over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 to the Department's fuel bill. This figure was based on a costing model. More up-to-date information now available indicates, through this cost model, that the additional cost incurred by the Department over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 through fuel price rises was some £[illegible]30M.

The table below provides the amount the MOD spent on fuel in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08, broken down by type of fuel. The information is derived from Top Level Budget Holders' submissions to the overall Departmental Resource Accounts.

			£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aviation fuel[1]	255	265	270
Fuels (non-utility)[2]	200	255	305
Total	455	520	575

[1] For 2005-06 and 2006-07, some aviation fuel expenditure was accounted for in the stock consumption line of the published departmental resource accounts for those years.

[2] Defined as petroleum-based liquid fuels meeting internationally recognised specifications that are used to power ships and vehicles.

I would stress that these figures cannot be comprehensive, as local purchase arrangements are not always visible at higher levels of accounting: for example, while systems are in place to ensure propriety by recording local purchase of fuel for military vehicles at commercial petrol stations, these do not feed into higher financial management systems. Additionally, the figures do not include utilities (for example, natural gas and heating oil used to heat buildings), which are accounted for separately. There may also be other, smaller elements of fuel expenditure which Departmental financial management systems do not enable us to identify.

Assuming that volumes consumed in core Defence activity such as non-operational exercising have remained broadly constant or increased only marginally over the period, a large proportion—possibly around two-thirds—of the estimated outturn cost increase of £120-130M is likely to be attributable to Request for Resources 2 (RfR2—the Department's claim against the Reserve for operations). I would stress that this is an estimate, not an absolute measure of the impact of fuel price increases on either Defence or the Exchequer.

Where fuel prices increase, there will naturally be an impact on the cost of operations, depending on the volume of consumption at the time and the extent to which any local purchasing arrangements reflect global $ price increases: a broad estimate suggests that this effect could be around £1-2M for every US $1 increase in the price of crude oil.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

General Staff Briefing Team

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chief of the General Staff Briefing Team report of July 2008. [220661]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 832-33W. A copy of the most recently published report, for the second half of 2007, is available in the Library of the House. The next report is not expected to be finalised until later in the year for publication in early 2009.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215103]

Derek Twigg: As at 30 June 2008 there were 115 staff working in communications roles directly employed by the Department's Media and Communications Directorate.

The Department does not retain central lists of communicators employed across the wider Department and its agencies.

Additionally, other civil servants may have communication as a core part of their role as good communication is integral to supporting the Department.

The GCN is open to all civilian and military staff in the Department performing communications work to register. As at 1 May 2008, the total number who has self-registered to the GCN in MOD was approximately 270.

HMS Ontario

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government has ownership of the wreck of HMS Ontario; and if he will make a statement. [212600]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Gordon Prentice:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 July 2008 (Official Report, column 1040W), about the ownership of HMS ONTARIO, whose wreck has apparently been discovered by a Canadian dive group at the bottom of Lake Ontario on the US-Canada border.

HMS ONTARIO, a 22 gun sloop, foundered in a storm on Lake Ontario on October 31 1780 during the American Revolutionary War—it is uncertain how many lives were lost (estimates range from 88 to over a 120) as the ship may have been carrying some American prisoners of war in addition to British soldiers and her British and Canadian crew. There were no survivors. The dive group, who located the wreck using side-scanning sonar and an unmanned submersible, say that it is virtually intact, it is thought that the cold, fresh water of the lake has acted as a preservative with the lack of light and oxygen slowing decomposition of the ship's timbers. In addition to being effectively the last resting place of those who perished in the sinking, the remains of the ONTARIO undoubtedly represent an important item of underwater cultural heritage. The dive group apparently have no plans to attempt to raise the wreck or remove artefacts from it and have not publicised its position.

The ONTARIO was launched from Carleton Island shipyard on Lake Ontario in May 1780. A King's Ship, she was part of the Provincial Marine, a coastal protection service on the Great Lakes operated and staffed by the Royal Navy. This service with the Provincial Marine complicates the question of ownership as it is possible that rights to the wreck may have transferred to Canada when she became an independent nation and the assets of the Provincial Marine were made over to it. This issue is being investigated but as you can appreciate, it is likely to take some time to resolve.

That said, the issue of who actually owns the wreck may, in this case, be moot. The remains of HMS ONTARIO appear to lie in United States territorial waters and the United States have already indicated that they are willing to use US legislation to protect the wreck from unauthorised interference—a stance that the United Kingdom is entirely comfortable with. The United Kingdom is unlikely to object to appropriate archaeological investigation of the find—however, any such investigation would be a matter for the Canadian and United States authorities in the first instance given that these two countries control access to the site. We shall of course continue to monitor developments and liaise with our Canadian and United States counterparts, but it seems clear that all State parties involved are united in their wish to see the wreck of HMS ONTARIO properly protected.

HMS Superb

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future deployment of HMS Superb. [220473]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Superb will be conducting a series of tests and trials prior to her planned Decommissioning date in October 2008.

Horsea Island Dive Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Horsea Island diving facilities have been closed to the public; whether they will be re-opened to the public; and if he will make a statement. [220136]

Derek Twigg: The decision to close the Horsea Island facility to regular commercial use is the result of an increased training requirement for both Army and Royal Navy personnel, and a security review of the site which concluded that an armed security presence was required. Organised commercial diving activity is therefore no longer compatible with the operational and security arrangements required at this site.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how long it took to train and mentor the 10th division of the Iraqi army; [220316]

(2) how long on average it has taken to train and mentor each division of the Iraqi army; [220317]

(3) how long he estimates it will take to complete *(a)* training and *(b)* mentoring of the 14th division of the Iraqi army. [220318]

Des Browne: UK forces trained and mentored the 10th Division of the Iraqi army from the establishment of its Headquarters in Basra in May 2005 until its move to Dhi Qar province in September 2007. Since then, our Coalition partners have performed a residual mentoring role with the 10th Division.

The appropriate duration and shape of the training and mentoring support that the Coalition provides to the Iraqi army is determined by a range of factors specific to each Division. These factors include the previous military experience of the Division's recruits, the timing of the Division's formation, the security challenges it faces and the availability of equipment. The Coalition does not therefore seek to calculate an average period for the full training and mentoring of Iraqi army Divisions.

As the Prime Minister said in his statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 660-3, subject to conditions on the ground, our military commanders expect the 14th Division in Basra to be fully trained during the first months of next year. On completion of our remaining military tasks in Basra, we aim to make the transition to a long term bilateral relationship with Iraq, the details of which we will be discussing with the Government of Iraq over the coming months.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff vehicles have been blown up in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003; and what the date was of each incident. [218445]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in ensuring British armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are appropriately equipped. [219915]

Des Browne: Excellent progress has been made in ensuring British forces serving on operations are provided with world class equipment. We have delivered equipment valued at more than £10 billion to the armed forces in the last three years, with over £3.6 billion of Urgent Operational Requirements being approved for Iraq and Afghanistan since the beginning of operations, including for vehicles, personal protection and Electronic Counter Measures.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-4W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether it is the policy of the Government that a renewed mandate for coalition forces in Iraq should include a timetable for withdrawal of coalition forces. [220044]

Des Browne: We have always made clear that adjustments to UK force levels in Iraq are made on the basis of progress in fulfilling our main military tasks and the conditions on the ground, and not on arbitrary timetables.

As the Prime Minister set out on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 662-63, we expect—subject to conditions on the ground—to be able to make the transition to a long-term bilateral military relationship in the first months of 2009, following the completion of our main military tasks.

Assessments of progress in completing our tasks will form part of the ongoing discussions with the Iraqi Government and our coalition partners on the legal basis for our military presence after 2008.

Met Office: Telephone Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what income his Department received from the Met Office 0870 number in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [217541]

Derek Twigg: No revenue has been received by MOD from the Met Office 0870 numbers.

Military Aircraft

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* aircraft, broken down by type and *(b)* tanks were withdrawn from service in each year since 1997. [165066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides details of the number of main battle tanks withdrawn from service with the armed forces in each year since 1997:

Equipment	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Challenger 1 (CR1 MBT)	0	0	14	74	90	88	96	53	8	3	0
Challenger 2 (CR2 MBT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	[1]40	0

[1] 20 CR2 MBT are being used as a source of spares. A further 20 remain in storage pending a disposal decision.

I will write to the hon. Member with the corresponding information for aircraft and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Mike Penning:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 580-781W, about the numbers of aircraft, broken down by type that were withdrawn from service each year since 1997. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Information on the numbers of aircraft withdrawn from service in each year is not held centrally in a consistent format. Nevertheless, determined efforts were made to collate available information. This exercise revealed a number of discrepancies in the data and despite a detailed and prolonged analysis, it was not possible to resolve these.

Definitive information is known to exist in the engineering files for individual aircraft; however, to extract this information would require the retrieval from archive and examination of several hundred files and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

However, I am able to provide information on aircraft withdrawals for 2005-06 and 2006-07. This is shown in the table below.

Aircraft type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Sea Harrier	8	0
Harrier GR	0	1
Jaguar GR	0	19
Jaguar T	0	1
Canberra T Mk 4	1	0
Tornado GR4	0	1
Tornado F3	25	8
Hercules C-130J	0	1
Hercules C-130K	0	1
Tucano	30	0
Dominie	1	0
Nimrod MR2	0	5
VC-10 C1K	1	0
VC-10 K4	2	0
Puma Mk1	1	0
Gazelle AH1	0	6
Lynx Mk3	1	0
Lynx Mk7	4	4

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* unit cost and *(b)* in-service date of the (i) Harrier GR3, (ii) Sea Harrier FRS1, (iii) Tornado F3, (iv) Harrier GR5, (v) Jaguar GR1 and (vi) Tornado GR1 was. [218238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The aircraft listed entered service between the mid-1970s and late 1980s. Because of the long period of time that has since elapsed, the unit cost

of these aircraft is no longer centrally recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Official in-service dates are similarly no longer centrally recorded. Such information as is available is provided in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Date entered service*
Harrier GR3	1976-77[1]
Sea Harrier FRS1	1979[2]
Tornado F3	July 1986[3]
Harrier GR5	1987-89[1]
Jaguar GR1	May 1973[3]
Tornado GR1	January 1982[4]

[1] Delivery dates for first tranche of aircraft.
[2] First squadron became operational.
[3] First aircraft entered service with Operational Conversion Unit.
[4] First aircraft entered service with No. 9 Sqn.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unmanned aerial vehicles in operation or on order have an attack capability; what weapons they are equipped to carry; and how much has been spent to acquire a munitions inventory for such vehicles. [220527]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Reaper is the only unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in operation or on order that has an attack capability. Reaper UAVs are capable of carrying 500 lb laser guided bombs and Hellfire air-to-surface missiles. Reaper's weapons are being procured from the United States Government through a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case and the actual costs will depend on operational use.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on research into unmanned aerial vehicles in 2007-08; and how much is budgeted to be spent in 2008-09. [220528]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately £34.7 million was spent on research into unmanned aerial vehicles during 2007-08. I am withholding further details as its release would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the programme cost of the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle is represented by *(a)* research and development, *(b)* the air vehicle, *(c)* the sensors package, *(d)* ground stations and *(e)* through-life support. [220529]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information relating to the costs of the Watchkeeper programme is not held in the format requested. Where available, details of the programme costs are as follows:

The Watchkeeper Concept and Assessment Phases (equivalent to the latter stages of research) cost £65 million.

The total cost of Watchkeeper air vehicles (excluding sensors) is £50.99 million.

The total cost of sensors is £30.4 million.

Ground control stations are included in the overall costs of the demonstration and manufacture contract.

I am withholding information on expected costs for through-life support as its release would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unmanned aerial vehicles of each type are *(a)* in service and *(b)* on order. [220530]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the table as follows:

Type of UAV	*In-Service*	*On Order*
Desert Hawk III	89	42
Hermes 450	10[1]	0
Watchkeeper	0	54
Reaper	2	1

[1] Hermes 450 UAVs are provided by Thales Aerospace under a service provision contract. The contract specifies monthly flying hours rather than numbers of air vehicles but the required service is typically achieved with 10 air vehicles.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the initial operating capability for Watchkeeper is expected to be achieved; and what the definition of that capability is. [220532]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Watchkeeper Initial Operating Capability is expected to be achieved no later than February 2011. The current programme forecast is December 2010. Initial Operating Capability is defined as 'one (Army) sub-unit trained and equipped to support a Medium Scale of Effort deployment'.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* armoured vehicles of each type are (i) under repair and (ii) redundant or not repairable. [214380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of helicopters of each type under repair or redundant or not repairable as of 1 June 2008 was as follows:

Type	*Under Repair*[1]	*Redundant*[2] *or not repairable*
Apache	7	0
Chinook Mk2/2A	8	0
Lynx Mk3/8	16	8
Lynx Mk7/9	15	13
Merlin Mk1	9	4
Merlin Mk3	7	0
Merlin Mk3a	0	0
Gazelle	5	40
Puma	7	5
Sea King HAR Mk3	5	0
Sea King HAR Mk3a	1	0
Sea King HC Mk4	5	0
Sea King HU Mk5	1	0
Sea King HAS Mk6	0	13
Sea King Mk6c	0	0
Sea King Mk7	1	0

[1] Under repair refers to those aircraft in depth maintenance/repair excluding those on modification/upgrade.
[2] Redundant refers to those aircraft which are awaiting re-classification as surplus or those already declared surplus awaiting disposal.

The number of armoured vehicles of each type under repair or redundant or not repairable as of 3 July is as follows:

Type	Under repair[1]			Redundant or not repairable[2]	
	Undergoing repair	Awaiting repair	Undergoing conversion	Redundant	Hulls beyond repair
Challenger 2 MBT	9	11	0	38	0
Warrior	58	61	0	0	0
FV430 (including Bulldog)	74	88	42	0	7
CVR(T)	59	82	0	0	19
Vector	1	0	0	0	8
Mastiff	1	0	0	0	3

[1] Repair is defined as the equipment either undergoing base overhaul (programmed work) or specified work (work not possible in unit lines). Vehicles awaiting repair/collection or undergoing planned conversion are also included.
[2] Redundant vehicles are those over and above the total fleet requirement and 'not repairable' refers to those that are beyond economic repair.
[3] One hull awaiting a repair decision.

Military Corrective Training Centre: Young People

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people under 18 years old have been detained with adults in the Military Correction Training Centre in Colchester in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* ethnic origin and *(d)* disability. [220315]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of individuals under 18 years of age who have been detained at the Military Corrective Training Centre in each of the last five years, broken down by sex, is as follows:

1 April to 31 March each year	Number of detainees		
	Male	Female	Total
2003-04	7	2	9
2004-05	16	1	17
2005-06	3	0	3
2006-07	12	0	12
2007-08	4	1	5

All of these detainees were aged 17, and their ethnic origin was White British; none were disabled.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which customers purchased *(a)* spare capacity training and *(b)* spare capacity resources from RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217587]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF has had a contract with HORIZON to market spare training capacity at RAF Halton since 2001. I am withholding the list of HORIZON'S customers as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. Details of customers for spare capacity at RAF Halton prior to 2001 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Since financial year 2004-05, approximately 1,500 customers have purchased spare resource capacity from RAF Halton. I will write to the hon. Member with the names of these customers.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 14 July 2008, (Official Report, column 177W) that asked for a list of customers who purchased spare capacity training and spare capacity resources from RAF Halton in each year since1998.

The list of customers who have purchased spare resource capacity is detailed below, as promised. RAF Halton holds records of these customers from the beginning of Financial Year 2001-02.

However the IT system at the station was not working when I originally answered this question. Using this newly accessible information, officials have clarified that the number of different customers is in fact around 260 since 2001-02 rather than 1,500 since 2004-05 quoted previously. On further investigation, the information in the original answer turned out to be the number of enquiries the station received concerning spare resource capacity rather than the number of actual customers. I apologise for this error.

Included within these figures are some 80 individuals who have purchased spare resource capacity from RAF Halton whose names have been withheld from this list in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Records before 2001-02 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Customers who have purchased spare resource capacity from RAF Halton since Financial Year 2001-02

1st Seaton Scouts
2 Shires Ambulance
Active Sports Bucks
Adidas
Age Concern Bucks
Aid for Aid
Aircrew Association
Alliotts Accountants
Ambulance Service
AMS Facilities Management
APPSS
Archive Acumen
Aylesbury Canine Training Society
Aylesbury Disabled Club
Aylesbury Grammar School
Aylesbury Hockey Club
Aylesbury Rugby Club
Aylesbury Schools
Aylesbury Swimming Club
Aylesbury Table Tennis Club
Aylesbury Town FC
Aylesbury United
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Aylesbury Vale Primary Schools
Aylesbury Vale Schools Cross Country
Aylesbury Vale Volleyball Club
Aylesbury Young Carers
BA Forensic Odontology
BAES
BBC Childrens TV
BBC History Unit
BBC TV
BBOWT
BCC Green Park Centre
Babcock
Berkhamsted College

Berkhamsted Collegiate School
Bierton CofE School
Blundell
BSI—Product Services
Buckinghamshire County Council
Bucks Archery Association
Bucks Carers
Bucks Colts Rugby
Bucks County RFC
Bucks County Youth Rugby
Bucks Cricket Board
Bucks Economic Partnership
Bucks Fire & Rescue
Bucks Hockey Association
Bucks Hockey Development
Bucks Hockey U16 girls
Bucks RFU
Bucks U13 Girls Cricket
Bucks U15 Rugby
Calibre Cassette Library
Canada Womens Rugby
Caravan Club
Carnival Films
Celtic Warriors
Cherry Tree Nursery
Chesham United Football Club
Chilterns MS Centre
Cliff Productions
DAF Trucks
Danesfield (Thames) Club
Dangerous Films
DARA
DE Havilland Moth Club
Doncaster Lakers
DP&A
Dr Challoner's Grammar School
Dutchess Productions
Endamole
ESKI (UK)
ESS
Euresi
FARO
Flames Netball Club
Fleet Support
Friends of Florence Nightingale
Fleet Support
Fly Boy Films Ltd
Granada Screen Ltd
Greenlit Productions
Green Park Centre
Green Park Sub-aqua
Green Park Youth Service
Halton Aeroplane Club
Halton Brownies
Halton Parish Council
Halton Singers
Halton Tennis Centre
Halton Voluntary Band
Heckler & Koch
Henley Rugby Club
Hertfordshire District Sea Scouts
Holby City
HOSDB
Hughes of Beaconsfield
Ian Rennie Hospice
I Mech E
Inovus
Intelligent Archives Ltd
International Model Exhibition
Irish Colleges Rugby
Jaguar Drivers Club
John Colet School
Joint Services Physio School
KBO Productions
Knowledge Pool
Kudos Hustle Ltd
Landmark Support Services
Leighton Buzzard Swimming Club
London Weekend Television
Map Action
Michael Turner Art
Motivation Group
Netjets
North Bucks County Netball
OHES Environmental Consultancy
Outline Productions
Paper Plane (IoM) Ltd
Pathe Films
Peregrine's Tennis Club
Pilot Warehouse
PMRAFNS Association
Principal Actor Film
PSDB
RAFA Aylesbury
RAF Tennis Centre
Regt Officers Fund
Risborough Rangers
Rogue Male Films
Rotary Clubs of Aylesbury
Rothschilds Arms
Royal College of GPs
Rugby Canada U19
Rugby Football Union
Rugby Football Union England U18
Rugby Football Union for Women
Serco
Shudokan Club
SMG Media Group
SOCA
Society of Local Council Clerks
South Central Ambulance Service
SSAFA
SSVC
St John's Ambulance
St Michael's Church
Straight Talking
Sweden Womens Rugby
Symbiotics

Thales
Thames Valley Police
The Caravan Club
Tring Athletic Football Club
Tring Corinthians
Tring Hockey Club
Tring Town Football Club
Two Men Went to War
Turner Art Exhibition
USA Women's National Rugby Team
Vale of Aylesbury Athletic Club
Vale of Aylesbury Hunt
Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride
Victoria Paints Ltd
Warner Bros
Wasps Rugby Club
Watford Junior Football Club
Wendover Badminton Club
Wendover Choral Society
Wendover Football Club
Wendover Harriers
Wendover Junior Football Club
Wendover Scouts
Weston Turville Cricket Club
Wright Football
Wycombe Wanderers Football Club
Zephyr Films

Around 80 bookings from individuals (Details withheld under the Data Protection Act)

RAF St. Athan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on RAF St. Athan, whether it is planned to make the Defence Technical Academy available to military personnel from friendly foreign states; and what accommodation facilities are planned for the academy. [221331]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces have a long tradition of delivering military training to foreign students and it is likely that this arrangement will continue at the Defence Technical Academy at St. Athan. The Defence Training Review Package 1 project has a requirement to provide a full range of service accommodation for all entitled service personnel who are either attending courses or serving on the staff of the Defence Technical Academy St. Athan.

Wind Power

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning applications for onshore wind turbines have been objected to by his Department in the period 1 January to 30 June 2008; and what percentage this represented of the number of onshore wind applications to which his Department had been invited to respond during that period. [217946]

Derek Twigg: Between 1 January and 30 June 2008 the Department objected to only 18 planning applications for onshore wind turbines (see following table). These represented 18 per cent. of the total number of onshore wind turbine applications about which we were consulted during that time.

Site name	*Consenting authority*	*Reason for MOD objection*
South Denes	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Holding objection issued as awaiting details of proposal from Council
Dusty Drum	Angus Council	Interference with Air Traffic Control (ATC) radar
Hawthorn	District of Easington Council	Interference with Air Traffic Control (ATC) radar
Waun Garno	Powys County Council	Interference with Low Flying
Sedborough	Torridge District Council	Interference with National Air Traffic Services (NATS) radar
Normanton	Wakefield District Council	Interference with ATC radar
Redland	Caradon County Council	Interference with ATC radar
Hook Moor	Leeds City Council	Interference with ATC radar
Kings Lynn Wind Park	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council	Interference with ATC radar
Glittering	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Interference with ATC radar
Gwyndy Quarry Gaia 1	Isle of Anglesey Council	Interference with ATC radar and Low Flying
Rothes Extension	Scottish Government	Interference with ATC radar
Shipping Hill Plantation	Pembrokeshire County Council	Interference with ATC radar
Kingthorpe Stables	West Lindsey Council	Interference with ATC radar
St. Fergus Wind Turbine	Aberdeenshire Council	Interference with Air Defence Radar (ADR)
Withernwick	East Riding Council	Interference with Air Defence Radar (ADR)
The Firs	Aberdeenshire Council	Interference with Air Defence Radar (ADR)
Brunel University	Hillingdon Council	Interference with ATC radar

Since 2001 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has raised no objection to planning applications for almost 5,600 turbines (both onshore and offshore) which would, if all were consented and built, generate approximately 14.5 GW of electricity.

The MOD fully supports the Government's renewable energy policies and targets and considers every application received individually. We continue to work closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the British Wind Energy Association and other stakeholders in seeking solutions to problems.

The MOD is one of the signatories to the recent Memorandum of Understanding between the wind energy industry and Government and we were also heavily involved in producing the recent BERR sponsored Aviation Plan which sets out a structured way forward for addressing the need to try to find solutions for the effects of wind turbines on radar and other aviation interests. We are also represented on the newly formed Aviation Management

Board and Aviation Advisory Panel which will oversee the work contained within the Aviation Plan.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 190452, tabled on 26 February 2008, on theft of military supplies in transit from Pakistan to Afghanistan. [220122]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1051-52W.

TREASURY

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215223]

Angela Eagle: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. The cost of expenses for advisers travel for their travel in the company of Ministers is included in the annual list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers.

Information regarding special advisers' expenses for domestic travel could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code".

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221605]

Angela Eagle: As there is no clear definition of what constitutes a "think tank" it is not possible to answer the first part of the hon. Gentleman's question. Information relating to project work done by charities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209238]

Angela Eagle: HMRC's green travel strategy is contained within the Department's Sustainable Development Action Plan, which was published in 2007. HMRC also encourages the development of regional green travel plans that are administered on a local level and can be tailored to suit local staff and business needs. HMRC is in the process of updating its plan to reflect revised baselines and new actions in support of Sir Gus O'Donnell's recent response to feedback from the Sustainable Development Commission. I am willing to place a copy of this revised plan in the Library.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) does not have a separate transport plan. The VOA is included in HMRC's Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), which includes a green transport strategy, published in 2007.

The Royal Mint introduced its green transport plan in 1999. A copy has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Office of Government Commerce, OGC Buying Solutions, Government Actuaries Department, National Savings and Investments do not currently have a green transport plan.

HM Treasury does not have a green transport plan, but has included detailed information on transport in the 2007-2008 Annual Report.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of overseas visits made by members of staff in his Department in each of the last three years. [221408]

Angela Eagle: In 2007-08, overseas travel and subsistence costs for the Treasury were £1,420,000. In respect of total cost for earlier years, I refer to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Mortgage Interest Relief at Source Scheme

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on tax relief under the Mortgage Interest Relief at Source scheme in each of the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [221262]

Kitty Ussher: Information on the cost of mortgage interest relief is published in table 5.1 "Mortgage Interest Relief" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mir/menu.htm

Motor Vehicles: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will develop policies to assist rural motorists who have no alternative to car transport in areas where petrol prices are particularly high. [219135]

Angela Eagle: The Government recognise the pressure that record high fuel prices are placing on motorists, particularly those in rural areas. It is for this reason that the UK continues to lead international efforts to address inefficiencies in the international oil market and increase oil price stability.

In addition, it is for this reason that the Chancellor has announced that the planned 2p per litre increase in fuel duty has been postponed for this year. Fuel duty therefore remains at 50.35p per litre, 17 per cent., lower in real terms than in 1999, when the fuel duty escalator was abolished.

National Income

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of calculating the UK's gross domestic product. [220692]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning the annual cost to the Exchequer of calculating the UK's Gross Domestic Product. (220692)

GDP is just one output of the process to compile UK National Accounts, and is based on a large number of data sources. It is compiled according to three approaches—the production, income and expenditure measures—each of which uses different methods and sources. The three approaches are balanced, so that a single estimate of GDP is published in both cash (current prices) and real (constant prices) terms. It is difficult, therefore, to estimate the cost of producing GDP figures alone, but, including the cost of its component sources, we estimate that GDP costs ONS around £10 million to produce.

Details of the full ONS operating costs are available in our annual report.

Oil: Prices

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the assumed price of oil was, in dollars, on which the 2008 Budget was based. [211919]

Jane Kennedy: The oil price assumption at Budget 2008 can be found in box C1 of the Budget 2008.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1625-6W, on stamp duties, (1) whether an energy performance certificate can be used to indicate compliance with zero-carbon status for stamp duty purposes; [218309]

(2) how many dwellings have been subject to stamp duty tax relief on zero carbon homes. [218417]

Kitty Ussher: Between October 2007 and June 2008 a total of 13 dwellings have claimed the stamp duty relief for a new zero carbon home. The purpose of the tax relief is to provide more new energy efficient technologies in homes. The Government expect the numbers of qualifying homes to be low in the first few years, but to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief are developed.

The Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) level 6 and zero carbon home standards are related but not identical. Therefore, while an EPC itself does not specify whether or not the home meets the standard for a zero carbon home, in many cases the information it contains may be sufficient to demonstrate that the zero carbon homes standard has been met. In this case a further inspection of the building is not required for the purpose of the zero carbon home certification.

Tax Yields: Sustainable Development

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to his Department from *(a)* climate change levy receipts, *(b)* the non-fossil fuel obligation, *(c)* the auction of EU Emissions Trading Scheme allowances, *(d)* transport fuel duty, *(e)* the fuel duty escalator, *(f)* increased airport passenger duty and *(g)* other financial measures designed to effect a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [201593]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury routinely publishes the details of current receipts in successive pre-Budget and Budget reports. The latest information can be found in Table C6 of the 2008 Budget report at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

Unemployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce unemployment. [221330]

Angela Eagle: The Government's economic objective is to build a strong economy and a fair society, where there is opportunity and security for all. Since 1997 the Government have introduced a series of reforms, which have had a significant impact in tackling unemployment. As a result, the majority of JSA claimants move into work quickly—around three-quarters move off benefit within six months. For those who remain on JSA, the flexible New Deal will be introduced from October 2009, replacing the existing New Deal programmes with earlier, more intensive and personalised support.

On 21 July 2008, the Government published their Welfare Reform Green Paper, setting out a major package of welfare reform, with increased support in return for additional responsibilities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of birds which have died from avian influenza in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West region and *(d)* England in the last two years. [221680]

Jonathan Shaw: I assume the hon. Member means both wild birds and commercial poultry. It is extremely difficult to give an accurate estimate of birds that have died as a result of avian influenza infection. Although some birds tested positive for avian influenza by laboratory tests, they may not have died as a result of the disease (e.g. wild birds may have died as a result of predation, cold weather or a number of other natural causes).

The following table shows the number of commercial poultry, by species, that were culled as a result of DEFRA's disease control policy, or, wild birds that were submitted as part of the Avian Influenza surveillance programme and that were positive for AI by laboratory

testing. In both cases, not all birds would have died from AI infection. Many of the commercial poultry that were culled would have been infected but alive and many not infected at the time of culling, but killed to manage the risk of disease spread because they were part of the same epidemiological unit and had been clearly exposed to infection. Many wild bird and water fowl species may act as carriers for the virus but do not show clinical signs of illness so it is not possible to provide or estimate the number which may be killed by the virus in the wild.

This information is based on the number of commercial poultry culled during outbreaks of Avian Influenza since July 2006 and the number of AI-positive wild birds submitted to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency for testing as part of the on-going AI surveillance programme.

Location	*Number of wild birds*	*Number of poultry*
Cornwall	0	0
Each constituency in Cornwall	0	0
South West region (Dorset)	11	0
England	14	Turkeys: 193,714 Peacocks: 3 Geese: 4,572 Ducks: 52,118 Laying hens: 24,895
Total birds culled in England in the last two years		275,302

Although the data in this table give an indication of the number of birds killed by AI in the last two years, this number represents a relatively low proportion of the commercial poultry industry. Due to the current high level of vigilance in the poultry industry, suspect Avian Influenza cases are notified very quickly, enabling a rapid response by DEFRA and Animal Health, so we have been able to control this disease quickly and effectively where it is identified in commercial poultry flocks.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on his policy on bovine tuberculosis. [220058]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has discussed the content of the recent bovine tuberculosis announcement with Commissioner Vasilliou. DEFRA officials also engage with the Commission regularly in discussions about control of the disease.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the pilot badger cull in combating bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [220020]

Jonathan Shaw: The ministerial decision in Wales allows Welsh Assembly officials to consider all the options for culling badgers as part of an 'intensive action area'. Final decisions on what this will involve are not expected before the end of the year. No discussions have been held.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister in Wales on the effectiveness of the pilot badger cull in combating bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [220328]

Jonathan Shaw: The Minister of Rural Affairs in Wales' decision allows the Welsh Assembly to consider all the options for culling badgers as part of an 'intensive action area'. Final decisions on what this will involve are not expected before the end of the year. No discussions have yet been held.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers the EU has in relation to the control of bovine TB in the UK. [221528]

Jonathan Shaw: The requirements under European law to control the spread of TB are set out in EU directive 64/432/EEC, a trade directive covering health requirements for cattle and pigs.

In addition, directives 77/391, (as amended by directive 82/400), and 78/52, set out the requirements for member states in relation to eradication plans for a number of endemic diseases, including bovine TB.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from Sir David King on his policy on bovine TB; and if he will make a statement. [221529]

Jonathan Shaw: Sir David King has not made any representations to the Secretary of Sate since the latest TB announcement. However, the Secretary of State met with him as part of the decision-making process leading up to the announcement.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis have occurred in Lancaster and Wyre constituency since 2005. [220651]

Jonathan Shaw: Bovine tuberculosis data are collated on a county or regional basis. It is not possible to break the data down to a constituency level.

A full county breakdown of TB herd and animal statistics is published on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to hold discussions with the European Commission to initiate a vaccination of cattle strategy against bovine tuberculosis. [220059]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has discussed vaccination of cattle in a phone conversation with Commissioner Vasilliou. They agreed to keep in touch on the issue but no further discussions are planned at this time. DEFRA officials have also had initial discussions with Commission officials on cattle vaccination and will continue to engage with the Commission as any cattle vaccination strategy is developed.

Carbon Emissions: Developing Countries

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on his policy on amending the Linking Directive of the European Emissions Trading Scheme to enable the inclusion, under the scheme, of carbon credits from forest projects in the developing world. [219540]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* We are currently consulting on changes to the European Union emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) in light of the European Commission's proposed climate and energy package. Credits from reforestation and afforestation projects require a robust monitoring system, an understanding of the potential impact on the EU ETS allowance price, and assurance that non-permanent credits would not damage the environmental integrity of the scheme, before they can be included in the EU ETS.

It is not currently possible to credit projects that seek to avoid deforestation as this is not provided for within the scope of the Kyoto protocol. However, we recognise the importance of addressing this issue and we are working through the international climate negotiations for an agreement on reducing emissions from deforestation for post-2012. I welcome the provision contained in the European Commission's proposal for new crediting mechanisms under an international agreement which would give the flexibility to include credits from avoided deforestation and other land use activities in future phases of the EU ETS.

Climate Change: Research

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of spending from the public purse on research into climate science in the last three years. [221444]

Mr. Woolas: Government expenditure on research which relates to climate change in 2006-07 (latest available figure) was approximately £139 million. The majority of this amount was provided through the research councils. DEFRA's total expenditure on climate change research (including projects of a cross-cutting nature which are of relevance to climate change) over the last three years was £79.4 million (£23.7 million in 2005-06, £24.7 million in 2006-07, and £31.0 million in 2007-08). DEFRA's spend on climate science research over the last three years totalled £52.7 million (£15.7 million in 2005-06, £17.4 million in 2006-07 and £19.6 million in 2007-08).

The UK's leading role in delivering climate change policy has been built on its world-leading research and DEFRA is committed to continuing support in this area.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217867]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier reply of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 721-22W, on departmental ICT.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217397]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff in DEFRA and its agencies who have taken early retirement in the past two years is shown in the following table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*
DEFRA	231	657
AH	0	6
CEFAS	6	9
CSL	2	1
GDS	0	0
MFA	3	1
RPA	5	14
VLA	2	0
VMD	0	0
Total	249	682

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215537]

Jonathan Shaw: Departmental records show that the Department, including its executive agencies, has *(a)* submitted 30 planning applications and *(b)* made one licensing application in respect of its property holdings.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213525]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is given in the following table.

£

Financial year	Furniture expenditure	Art expenditure
2007-08	140,268.65	—
2006-07	90,347.49	—
2005-06	1,114,962.40	11,591.28

It is the policy of DEFRA, its agencies, non-departmental public bodies and, where appropriate, its sponsored organisations to make financial redress in accordance with the guidance set out in Chapter 4.12, Annex 4.14 of HM Treasury's publication 'Managing Public Money'.

The capital expenditure on vehicles, as disclosed in DEFRA's Resource Accounts, for the last three financial years, is as follows:

	Core Department—Vehicle Capital Expenditure (£000)
2005-06	770
2006-07	674
2007-08	97

As indicated, the expenditure is for vehicles purchased by the Core Department only. Information for DEFRA's Agencies and NDPBs is not held centrally by the Department, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has a standard retirement age; and how many employees have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218217]

Jonathan Shaw: When the new age legislation came into force on 1 October 2006, the Department, along with all of its Agencies, changed its retirement policies. With the exception of Animal Health and the Central Science Laboratory, there is no longer a set retirement age for employees below the senior civil service. Members of staff can work as long as they wish subject to the normal performance, conduct and attendance requirements.

Animal Health and the Central Science Laboratory currently have a retirement age of 65. However, employees are entitled to request to work beyond 65.

The current retirement age for members of the senior civil service is 65. If an employee wishes to stay beyond 65 they can do so, provided it has been agreed by the Permanent Secretary or the relevant agency chief executive.

Three members of staff below the SCS in core DEFRA have retired on or on the day before their 65th birthday since October 2006, when new age legislation came into force. However, it is not possible to differentiate between those staff who have chosen to retire on reaching 65 years of age and any staff who may have been asked to retire.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff working in his Department were on secondment from *(a)* the British Wind Energy Association, *(b)* RWE and *(c)* AEA at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the (i) name, (ii) job title, (iii) primary function and (iv) remuneration is of each such staff member. [217717]

Jonathan Shaw: There are currently no staff working in DEFRA who are on secondment from RWE or AEA. Two individuals are on secondment from member organisations of the British Wind Energy Association (Shell and npower).

(i) We are withholding the names of the individuals as we consider that disclosure would not be fair and would, therefore, breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. (ii) and (iii) One individual works within the office of climate change at grade 6 and the other in the domestic climate change and energy directorate at grade 7. (iv) The individuals are not remunerated by DEFRA so we do not hold this information.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [215608]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of electronic passes recorded as lost and stolen from core DEFRA and its agencies between 1 January 2006 to 1 June 2008. The table has been compiled from information that was readily available. All electronic passes reported as lost or stolen are cancelled immediately on the access control system making them invalid. Losses of paper escorted and unescorted visitor passes (which are not able to activate access control points) are rare and are not recorded.

	Lost	Stolen
DEFRA Core Department	364	28
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	20	0
Central Science Laboratory	16	1
Veterinary Laboratories Agency/ Veterinary Medicines Directorate	35	1
Rural Payments Agency	120	17

Note:
Losses and thefts relating to passes issued to the Marine Fisheries Agency, the Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate are included in the figures for DEFRA core Department. Figures do not include Animal Health as information is not available.

Domestic Wastes: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on domestic wastes: contracts, when each of the projects will be placed in the Library. [211664]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that projects WR0107, WR0112, WR0512 and WR0601 were placed in the House Library on 9 May.

Projects WR0103 and WR0104 are now also complete and I am making arrangements for them to be placed in the House Library as well. WR0106 is in the final stages of peer review, while project WR0506 is still ongoing and unlikely to be ready for a few months.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1658W, on domestic waste: waste management, and 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on domestic wastes: contract, on what date his Department received the report Potential health risks to humans from birds, mammals and insects associated with UK waste management operations: Final Report; and what steps he has taken in response to the evidence in the report on the links between fortnightly and weekly rubbish collections and public health risks. [217819]

Joan Ruddock: An early draft of research report WR0601 was submitted in December 2005. The report was completed in January 2006 and was published as part of the new science information system which went live on the DEFRA website in February 2007. This scoping report provided suggestions for further research, one area being further investigation of any health-related implications of changes to waste collection routines.

Further work was commissioned in 2006 by Wycombe district council with funding being provided by the DEFRA Waste Implementation Programme (WIP)[1]. This work reported in February 2007 and is available electronically on the contractor's website. It provides a review of the potential for health impacts to occur from alternate week waste collection schemes, principally in comparison with weekly collection schemes, using the scheme operated by Wycombe district council as a case study. The study was carried out to investigate any issues relating to odours, insects, rodents and the risks of disease. The research literature consulted provided no evidence that alternate week residual and biodegradable waste collection will cause any significant health impacts for residents, or that any health impacts are likely to be significantly greater than those associated with weekly collections. This is consistent with wider studies of the health effects of waste management, which indicate that all methods of waste management can have at most a minor effect on health[2]. The Wycombe study goes on to recommend some common-sense steps that can be taken to alleviate amenity issues (e.g. keeping containers clean, not shredding or chopping kitchen waste before disposal, keeping containers outdoors, avoiding shelter opportunities for rodents, waste wrapped or in containers etc.).

Subsequently, in July 2007, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) published guidance for local authorities on the design and implementation of alternate weekly collection services, in order to provide practical advice for waste managers and elected members within local authorities[3]. This report references the Enviros 2007 report in commenting on health and amenity issues.

All further relevant research undertaken will be published on the DEFRA website.

[1] Enviros (2007) Health Impact Assessment of Alternative Week Waste Collections of Biodegradable Waste. A report by Cranfield university and Enviros Consulting. DEFRA Waste Implementation Programme—Wycombe district council. Report DE0110102 A, Enviros Consulting Ltd. (February 2007)

[2] DEFRA (2004) Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management: Municipal Solid Waste and Similar Waste. A report by Enviros in association with the university of Birmingham. Product code PB9052A.

[3] WRAP (2007) Alternate weekly collections guidance (Project code: ROT 028) ISBN: 1-84405-337-7.

Energy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many meetings he and his officials have had with representatives of *(a)* the nuclear energy and nuclear waste industry and *(b)* the combined heat and power industry since January 2007; who attended each meeting; when each such meeting was held; and what matters were discussed; [220583]

(2) what research his Department has commissioned on *(a)* nuclear energy and nuclear waste and *(b)* combined heat and power in the last two years for which figures are available; and what the budget was for each piece of research. [220584]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* DEFRA Ministers and officials regularly meet representatives of the nuclear waste and nuclear energy industry, including the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), its site operating companies and British Energy to discuss issues including radioactive waste management, radioactive discharges, legislation and regulation.

DEFRA Ministers and officials also regularly meet with representatives of the combined heat and power (CHP) industry, including the Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA), to discuss a range of issues.

DEFRA has not commissioned any specific research on nuclear energy and nuclear waste in the last two years. We recently published the 2007 "UK Radioactive Waste Inventory" with the NDA and this was commissioned in 2005. The inventory is available on the NDA's website.

In the last two years DEFRA has commissioned five research studies on CHP, copies of which are available on the DEFRA website.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2723W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are available for purchase in his Department's staff catering facilities; what value of Fairtrade produce was purchased in his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of total revenue this represented. [208701]

Jonathan Shaw: Fairtrade products available at Baxterstorey operated DEFRA staff restaurants, total value purchased as well as percentage of total revenue Fairtrade products represented from February 2005 to February 2008.

Products	Percentage	Value (£)
Fairtrade pulses	0.25	3,726
Fairtrade fruit and nuts	3.25	48,440
Fairtrade chocolate and snacks	2.25	33,536
Fairtrade fruit juice	0.75	11,179
Fairtrade tea and coffee	23.00	342,808
Fairtrade sugar	3.75	55,893
Fairtrade soft drinks	0.75	£11,179
Total Fairtrade	34	£506,759

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2723W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [208708]

Jonathan Shaw: Total hospitality spent and percentage of Fairtrade.

	Hospitality spent (£)	Fairtrade percentage	Fairtrade value (£)
2005	199,863.00	58	115,920.54
2006	456,631.00	52	264,845.98
2007	492,804.00	55	285,826.32
Total	1,149,298.00	55	666,592.84

Farms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in discussions with farmers and farming organisations on cost-sharing. [221527]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the completion of the work of the UK Consultative Forum (comprising the main UK farming unions and Government representatives from the devolved administrations and DEFRA), the Government intend to consult this autumn on specific proposals for implementing responsibility and cost sharing for animal health and welfare.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking to stop the practice of discards in fisheries; and if he will make a statement on the pilot scheme that has been undertaken for inshore vessels. [221423]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the EU's cod recovery programme, the UK is trialling a real-time closure mechanism designed to ensure vessels avoid significant concentrations of the species, particularly of spawning and juvenile fish—and thus reduce the need to discard. In addition, commercial trials are being undertaken to identify how certain gears can be made more selective. We will provide encouragement for the widespread deployment of those found to be effective amongst our fleet—and will press the Commission for them to be applied Community-wide.

The initial phase of the Irish Sea Data Enhancement Pilot was completed recently. Fisheries dependent data are being cross-checked against observer data collected from vessels in the same fishery. This validation process is essential to ensure that the estimates of discards that result from the project are both realistic and representative.

I announced in February 2008 an environmentally responsible fishing pilot research project. The aim of the 12-month project is to quantify all components of the environmental footprint of commercial fishing vessels targeting quota stocks in inshore waters of the North sea off England. The project will collect data across a range of indicators associated with the fishing operation, marketing and ancillary services and will make an important contribution to the implementation of Fisheries 2027, DEFRA's long-term vision for sustainable fisheries. Around 30 fishing vessels from Hartlepool, Lowestoft and the Thames estuary have been invited to take part. Training and installation of vessel monitoring equipment and is expected to start in July with all participating vessels operating under the scheme from August.

Flood Control: Somerset

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure of internal drainage boards in the Somerset Levels and Moors has been since 1987. [219928]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show a breakdown of *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure of internal drainage boards in the Somerset Levels and Moors since 1999, the earliest period for which figures are available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Capital expenditure

£

Capital	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Lower Axe IDB	5,494	3,236	2,733	8,241	32,323	24,685	[1]—	—
Lower Brue DDB	59,130	54,800	104,952	89,811	137,509	41,159	[1]—	—
Upper Axe IDB	—	—	—	—	—	2,591	[1]—	—
Upper Brue IDB	—	—	—	—	—	7,753	[1]—	—
West Mendip IDB	—	—	25,576	7,794	18,925	70,305	[1]—	16,697
North Somerset IDB	7,082	3,358	—	14,011	3,436	16,940	[1]—	13,949

[1] Information not collected.

Other expenditure

Other	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
								£
Lower Axe IDB	78,777	76,934	106,151	103,455	112,501	150,132	[1]—	—
Lower Brue DDB	194,732	208,233	225,267	242,299	258,254	221,712	[1]—	—
Upper Axe IDB	40,200	39,822	44,339	45,207	47,466	52,785	[1]—	61,273
Upper Brue IDB	123,263	128,559	155,502	149,961	160,913	176,193	[1]—	184,859
West Mendip IDB	108,238	113,933	121,380	185,796	164,417	162,207	[1]—	186,796
North Somerset IDB	68,040	79,715	93,582	103,460	97,923	97,069	[1]—	152,108

[1] Information not collected.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* local environment agency plans, *(b)* catchment flood management plans, *(c)* water management studies and *(d)* other catchment studies have been undertaken by the Environment Agency and its predecessors in the Somerset Levels and Moors since 1987. [219930]

Mr. Woolas: I have placed the requested information in the Libraries of the House.

Marine Bill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* Government departments and *(b)* stakeholders responded to the Marine Bill consultation. [221548]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department received 3,929 responses to the public consultation on the Government's draft Marine Bill. In addition, approximately 11,000 postcards were received from the Ramblers' Association supporting the coastal access provisions.

Of the 3,929 responses, 3,504 were campaign responses from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Friends of the Earth. The remaining 425 responses were received from stakeholders including members of the public, public bodies and bodies representing environmental, fisheries, local government, ports, energy, heritage, shipping, aggregates and recreational issues.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Marine Bill will fully implement the provisions necessary to implement the EU Marine Strategy Directive. [221646]

Jonathan Shaw: The marine strategy framework directive sets the overall goal of achieving good environmental status for Europe's seas by 2020.

The directive entered into force on 15 July 2008 and member states have two years from that date to transpose it into UK law. The UK will transpose the directive to this timetable using regulations under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

Although the Marine Bill will not be used as the legislative vehicle which transposes the directive, the draft Bill includes a range of specific measures and tools to better protect and manage UK marine waters. These will contribute to the directive's goal of achieving good environmental status. The two pieces of legislation can therefore be seen as complementary.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216682]

Jonathan Shaw: The highest 10 payments made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it over the last 12 months are as follows:

	£
1. Claim in relation to a fall from height during a cleaning and disinfection operation	135,500
2. Claim in relation to injury sustained from a falling object	48,000
3. Claim in relation to an injury sustained in handling livestock	40,000
4. Claim in relation to an injury caused by a slip on a wet floor	17,000
5. Claim in relation to an injury caused by a trip	5,600
6. Claim in relation to an injury sustained in an office	5,000
7. Claim in relation to an injury sustained in handling livestock	4,857.08
8. Claim in relation to an injury caused by a fall	4,133
9. Claim in relation to a hand injury	3,000
10.Claim in relation to repetitive strain injury	2,750

None of these cases were contested in court.

Poultry: EU Action

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects secondary legislation to be brought forward on the transposition of the EU Broiler Chicken Directive into UK law; [221260]

(2) if he will consider the case, when bringing forward secondary legislation to transpose the EU Broiler Chicken Directive into EU law, for setting the UK maximum stocking density at 30kg per square metre; [221269]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the transposition of the EU Chicken Broiler Directive into UK law on the level of UK animal welfare standards. [221270]

Jonathan Shaw: We welcome EU directive 2007/43/EC setting out minimum standards for the welfare of broiler chickens, which was agreed in June 2007. The directive

will deliver real welfare benefits for broilers while balancing economic, social and environmental impacts.

Legislation to implement the directive into UK law will be produced to meet the directive implementation date of 30 June 2010.

There is no maximum stocking density for intensive meat chicken production currently set down in domestic law. A full public consultation will be undertaken early next year on the proposed legislation, including provisions on stocking density.

Recycling

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage recycling with the use of financial incentives. [220041]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities in England to pilot waste incentive schemes, to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

It will be up to local authorities to decide whether they wish to apply to be a pilot and the form of their proposals, including whether for reward only or charge and reward schemes. All schemes must encourage householders to reduce the amount of waste they produce and increase the amount they recycle.

Rural Payments Agency

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the fee imposed for stage 2 appeal applications against decisions taken by the Rural Payments Agency; and whether he plans to amend the fee structure for such appeals. [221741]

Jonathan Shaw: An appellant is required to provide a cheque for £100 if they proceed to stage 2 of one of the formal appeal procedures administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). This fee is refunded if the appeal is fully or partially successful. The payment is enabled under the Statutory Instruments that support the appeal procedures.

RPA has occasionally been asked the reason for charging the fee.

There are no plans to amend the fee structure for such appeals.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the impact on proposed UK offshore Special Areas of Conservation sites of fishing vessels from *(a)* the Netherlands, *(b)* Belgium, *(c)* Norway, *(d)* Denmark, *(e)* Germany, *(f)* Spain, *(g)* France, *(h)* Ireland and *(i)* Portugal is being assessed. [221637]

Jonathan Shaw: JNCC advise that a preliminary assessment of the sensitivity of proposed SACs habitats to a range of human activities, including fishing, was made in drawing up the draft Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operations for each site published with the public consultation documents.

This did not include an assessment of the impact of fishing vessels from individual countries.

If the proposed SACs are submitted to the European Commission and adopted as sites of Community importance a further assessment of the impacts of fishing vessels, along with all potentially damaging human activities, will be made in order to produce final Conservation Objectives and Advice for Operations for all adopted sites.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what budget allocations have been made by the Learning and Skills Council for *(a)* schools and *(b)* further education colleges in each London borough (i) in each of the last three financial years and (ii) for each of the next two financial years; and if he will make a statement. [220248]

Mr. Lammy: The total LSC Adult Skills budget for London has increased as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	588
2008-09	603
2009-10	619
2010-11	672

Details of the budget allocations made by the Learning and Skills Council for each of the London boroughs, relating to the last three financial years and for the next two is not collected at this level of detail by my Department. This is an operational matter for the LSC; decisions are made following discussions with local providers, partners and other organisations. This ensures that the needs of the local communities are met and that the activity delivered supports the council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 1 September 2008:

In response to your question to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, I am able to provide information about the allocations made by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to school sixth forms and FE colleges in London.

The LSC makes annual allocations to schools and FE colleges on an academic year basis. Funding for schools is allocated through the parent local authority. I have enclosed two summary tables in response to your question. Table A sets out the academic year funding allocations for all local authorities with school sixth forms in London in 2008-09, and for the previous three years. Allocations are made on an annual basis, one year in advance, and so the allocations for 2009-10 will be made in February 2009.

The LSC does not fund academies, which are funded by DCSF directly, and these figures do not include academy funding. You will note that funding for School sixth forms in London has increased by over 9 per cent. in 2008-09 and has allowed us to fund over 5 per cent. more places.

Table B sets out the funding that FE providers have received in 2008-09, and the three previous years. It should be noted that this table classifies funding by provider borough: many FE providers operate across multiple boroughs and attract significant volumes of learners from other parts of London.

I hope that you find this information useful. Should you require further information, please contact:

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(a) School sixth form in London

LEA name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ 2008-09*
Camden London Borough Council	13,363,527	14,228,986	14,196,273	15,048,442
Islington London Borough Council	2,548,334	2,566,643	1,671,080	1,948,062
Lambeth London Borough Council	4,119,264	4,249,041	3,971,045	4,789,225
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council	4,032,391	4,163,738	2,895,405	3,099,103
Southwark London Borough Council	3,196,301	3,194,087	2,075,434	1,934,597
Wandsworth London Borough Council	11,705,825	11,954,019	10,189,836	11,763,082
Westminster City Council	8,211,566	7,508,399	5,742,366	6,437,139
Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council	8,694,536	10,013,979	10,283,007	11,883,986
Bexley London Borough Council	12,477,632	14,393,922	14,154,339	16,223,918
Common Council of The City of London	5,948	7,487	—	—
Greenwich London Borough Council	13,878,339	17,229,890	16,202,977	16,606,173
Havering London Borough Council	6,114,777	6,485,657	5,845,493	6,476,417
Lewisham London Borough Council	7,953,073	8,649,210	8,597,369	8,660,846
Newham London Borough Council	3,899,957	4,179,464	3,760,402	4,192,002
Redbridge London Borough Council	21,408,562	24,401,134	25,001,139	26,314,878
The Learning Trust (Hackney)	3,112,548	3,803,358	3,982,414	4,145,91.
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council	8,262,137	9,561,778	8,903,638	11,395,646
Barnet London Borough Council	20,458,574	21,619,992	19,981,388	21,618,507
Enfield London Borough Council	17,826,820	19,036,321	18,671,996	18,638,905
Haringey London Borough Council	8,430,212	8,613,205	10,384,226	11,303,487
Waltham Forest London Borough Council	4,804,494	5,201,448	3,831,362	4,342,236
Bromley London Borough Council	22,228,765	24,657,822	24,290,187	26,230,619
Croydon London Borough Council	5,507,256	5,956,759	7,411,577	7,282,380
Merton Borough Council	3,770,099	4,217,242	3,511,097	3,023,358
Richmond Upon Thames Borough Council	360,743	401,567	—	—
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames Council	11,231,079	12,103,387	12,043,258	13,290,990
Sutton London Borough Council	16,278,170	17,129,916	17,568,390	18,932,818
Brent London Borough Council	17,716,462	19,902,997	18,801,282	20,554,764
Ealing London Borough Council	12,331,369	12,747,445	12,111,189	14,372,600
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council	7,528,563	8,118,577	7,182,701	7,379,008
Harrow London Borough Council	677,454	766,559	—	6,102,981
Hillingdon London Borough Council	16,297,800	17,884,981	16,875,189	17,801,925
Hounslow London Borough Council	16,140,730	17,483,785	16,947,820	17,178,897

(b) FE Colleges

Borough	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ 2008-09*
Barking	19,968,043	21,174,741	21,920,138	23,020,360
Barnet	32,410,895	33,059,377	34,211,226	34,009,807
Bexley	10,369,460	9,743,442	9,833,560	9,080,839
Brent	29,828,693	28,229,661	26,914,860	27,044,348
Bromley	24,581,006	24,730,461	24,665,705	24,993,535
Camden	13,077,251	12,649,100	12,866,165	13,104,999
Croydon	36,460,857	39,364,090	40,703,887	40,663,608
Enfield	28,530,401	30,329,506	30,764,048	31,314,647
Greenwich	13,833,420	13,863,845	13,628,983	13,151,366
Hackney	45,598,018	45,795,803	45,059,909	44,411,749
Hammersmith and Fulham	41,479,000	41,508,407	41,436,257	42 966,868
Haringey	24,633,015	24,397,304	24,430,925	25,713,127
Harrow	29,661,000	31,711,662	34,360,611	32,136,826
Havering	31,340,968	32,745,168	34,139,136	34,911,646
Hillingdon	19,204,000	19,730,834	20,615,144	22,430,805
Hounslow	16,507,000	17,410,402	17,870,623	18,483,282
Islington	36,123,186	36,611,300	36,714,671	38,354,767
Kensington and Chelsea	9,604,919	9,253,040	9,029,740	10,238,068
Kingston	20,831,054	20,970,647	21,273,894	21,412,623

(b) FE Colleges

£

Borough	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Lambeth	35,683,709	35,213,169	35,299,215	36,525,662
Lewisham	36,920,881	37,920,520	38,681,642	40,063,395
Merton	12,426,918	12,718,567	12,866,441	13,904,143
Newham	45,977,076	46,503,779	48,290,147	47,640,789
Red bridge	10,624,598	12,000,884	12,291,740	12,710,661
Richmond	28,264,265	28,770,992	29,228,386	30,773,885
Southwark	21,678,393	22,115,664	22,734,932	23,871,707
Sutton	14,976,290	15,367,548	15,605,932	15,940,469
Tower Hamlets	23,302,396	23,554,084	23,767,773	22,396,198
Waltham Forest	37,425,688	38,606,687	39,485,062	39,920,921
Wandsworth	26,889,108	27,899,794	28,280,172	31,214,031
Westminster	72,204,673	75,193,554	76,800,931	80,167,187

Adult Education: Crafts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department makes available for adult courses in craft work in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [220027]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to ensuring that learning serves the needs of the whole community and that everyone can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in work, education and society as a whole. Our recent consultation on Informal Adult Learning has been looking closely at learning that helps develop families and communities by meeting the basic human need for creativity and stimulation. It has started a discussion which will lead to a new vision of Informal Adult Learning for the 21st century and we will publish our response to the consultation in September.

The exact funding, makeup and distribution of learning provision at local level are matters for local Learning and Skills Councils and their partners in colleges and other providers, according to their assessment of local needs and priorities. Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive will write to the hon. Lady with more detailed information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 16 July 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; how many students received monies from Learning Skills Council funding in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

There are only a limited number of programmes where LSC funding is received directly by students and these are within the Learner Support range of programmes.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is an income assessed weekly allowance paid to learners from low income households to support them in learning undertaken beyond the statutory school leaving age. The allowance is paid on a 'something for something' basis and the learner may also receive bonuses where the learner remains on their learning programme, makes good progress and achieves the standards of behaviour and effort agreed with the learning provider. The table below shows the number of students who have received this allowance:

Education maintenance allowance

Area type	Area name	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08[1]
National	England	297,259	429,627	527,319	542,710
LSC	North Yorkshire	2,684	5,161	6,219	6,293

[1] Year to date—28 August 2007 to 31 May 2008.

Adult Learning Grant (ALG) is, subject to a financial assessment, a weekly payment payable to adults aged 19+ undertaking full time studying towards their first full level 2 / 3 qualification. The table below shows the number of students who have received this grant:

Adult learning grant

Area	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08[1]
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	[2]225	300

[1] As at 21 May 2008.
[2] 1st year of national rollout.

Adult Education: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* Hemsworth constituency and *(b)* Wakefield District have been enrolled in adult education courses in each of the last five years. [215876]

Bill Rammell: Our planned and continuing strategy is to realign funding from a high number of very short and low quality courses to qualifications such as Skills for Life, full level 2 and full level 3 that offer the greatest opportunity for adults to gain the skills for employability and further progression in learning.

The following table shows the total number of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded learners aged 19+ resident in *(a)* Hemsworth constituency and *(b)* Wakefield district from 2003/04, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Number of LSC funded adult learners resident in Hemsworth constituency and Wakefield district

Academic year	Hemsworth constituency	Wakefield district
2003/04	8,640	29,230
2004/05	8,600	28,750

Number of LSC funded adult learners resident in Hemsworth constituency and Wakefield district

Academic year	*Hemsworth constituency*	*Wakefield district*
2005/06	7,890	25,370
2006/07	7,650	25,500

Notes:
1. Numbers in the table have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures cover Further Education, Work Based Learning, Adult Safeguarded Learning and Train to Gain provision (TTG started in 2005/06, with full rollout in 2006/07).

Source:
Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

We understand that as well as increasing skills, education is also about meeting the basic human desire for intellectual stimulation. That is why we have safeguarded £210 million each year through to 2010-11 to support informal adult learning. Through our recent consultation we have led discussion on a new vision for informal adult learning for the 21st century.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase the scope and quality of apprenticeships. [221032]

Mr. Lammy: Expanding provision and raising quality are integral to our ambitious plans set out in World-class Apprenticeships. We are establishing the National Apprenticeship Service from April 2009 to ensure the growth of high quality provision of apprenticeships in England. The service will have responsibility for broadening the flexibilities of the Apprenticeship programme to enable employers to develop new apprenticeship frameworks, and to improve and encourage the range of frameworks available.

The Learning and Skills Council will assess performance against minimum levels of performance for apprenticeships; develop a new apprenticeship blueprint which defines the core elements of an apprenticeship and specific training requirements; and work with the new Learning and Skills Improvement Service to secure continuous improvement in the provision of apprenticeships.

Last week the Government published a draft "Apprenticeships Bill" to underpin and help sustain the improvements in the quality of the programme. This draft Bill will ensure that apprenticeships are a badge of quality skills for young people and adults and for employers. It will drive forward the provision of sufficient apprenticeship places to meet the entitlement for our young people to have an offer of an apprenticeship place by 2013

The Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families look forward to receiving comments on the draft Bill from hon. and right hon. Members and all those committed to providing high quality skills for people and employers.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each year since establishment; and if he will make a statement. [217870]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is a new department which has been in existence for just over one year. All DIUS staff are issued with laptops which are turned off and stored securely when not in use; there are circa 950 such laptops across the DIUS estate.

The Department also has 50 modern energy saving desktops, primarily used by those individuals who, for a variety of reasons, cannot use their laptop on a particular day. Staff are advised to switch these off when not in use and by default these devices enter an energy saving mode when unattended.

The cost of devices left on overnight has not been calculated.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department has been from recycled sources. [220737]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established on 28 June 2007 and as such can report only on one year of activity for which the Department has been in operation.

The percentage of paper from recycled sources used in the last financial years was:

	Percentage
Sheffield and London Reprographics	97
National floor copiers (all 4 sites)	100
Printed publications	75

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the estimated total cost to the public purse will be of all private finance initiative/public private partnership contracts for which his Department is responsible. [216702]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not have any private finance initiative contracts or public private partnership contracts. The cost to the public purse will be nil.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213529]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Since the Department's creation the following has been spent on:

	£
(a) New furnishings	376,780
(b) Art	0
(c) New vehicles	0

Departmental Publications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what planned publication dates there are for *(a)* statistical and *(b)* other publications of his Department. [219339]

Mr. Lammy: Details of forthcoming National Statistics publications can be found in our publication schedule, which is available on the Research and Statistics Gateway via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/cgi-bin/rsgateway/search.pl?cat=9&subcat=9&q1=Search

Details for other publications of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are listed in the following table:

	Other publications
August-September 2008	UK Innovation Survey Commissioned Research Papers
October 2008	Scoping Study for Matched Employer-employee Data
October 2008	Alternative Routes into and Through HE
August-September 2008	Design in innovation
August-September008	Management Innovation and Economic Performance
August-September 2008	Interdependence of Management and Technological Innovation
July-August 2008	British Ethnic Minority Graduate Entrepreneurship
August-early September2008	Impact of Skills for Life Learning: Longitudinal Survey of Adult Learners on College-based Literacy and Numeracy Courses
August/early September	Mapping Postgraduate Participation
September 2008	Synthesis of International Evidence on Widening Participation
September 2008	Teachers' Attitudes to Raising Young People's Aspirations towards HE—TBC
Interim report possibly August—full report 2010	Use of an Aptitude Test in University Entrance—A Validity Study Second Interim Report (TBC)
August 2008	Research on private training markets
September 2008	Graduate Earnings Premium: An up-date
August 2008	Education and social mobility: A review of Longitudinal Data
September-October 2008	Widening Participation Measures
January 2009	Potential Higher Education Entrants Study—Strand 1
October 2008	Annual Innovation Report
Autumn 2008	2008 R&D Scoreboard
Autumn 2008	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting out the requirement for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products. Consultation on the implementation of the regulation on accreditation that will be made available online in line with current guidelines on Government consultation
Autumn 2008	Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a common framework for the marketing of products. Consultation on the guidance document on a framework decision that will be made available online in line with current guidelines on Government consultation
March 2009	The Strategic Plan for the National Measurement System
Spring 2009	2009 Value Added Scoreboard
May 2009	DIUS Annual Report
July 2008	International comparative performance of the UK research base 2008
October 2008	Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004:2014
Autumn 2008	Office of Government Commerce will be publishing a leaflet on innovation procurement which will be co-branded by DIUS and the Technology Strategy Board.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what reviews are being undertaken by external experts on behalf of his Department; and what the expected completion date of each is. [219463]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Government Chemist function will be audited by two external experts. The audit takes place every three years. This is part of the Government Chemist agreement between LGC Ltd and the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The Government Chemist is the referee analyst under various Acts of Parliament and is appointed by DIUS Ministers. The forthcoming audit will begin in a few weeks and will probably report by the end of the year.

DWP commissioned Capgemini to undertake a review of the governance arrangements of the joint DWP-DIUS Integrating Employment and Skills programme during July. The formal three weeks review period is over, but they will be completing a small piece of work helping the departments to implement their findings in August.

Lifelong Learning UK, on behalf of DIUS, are in the process of selecting a tender to undertake a review of the impact and effectiveness (including vfm) of FE incentive schemes to recruit and retain FE teachers in the workforce. We expect a report to be produced by end October 2008 that will inform future policy in these areas.

A small scale qualitative survey of 25 FE providers and stakeholder groups is being carried out to gain insight into how they are responding to the FE reforms on simplifying processes and reducing burdens, such as developing proportionate audit and inspection. We expect the final report in early August.

Education: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many recommendations in the Commissioner for Rural Communities report England's rural area: steps to release their economic potential within his

Department's areas of responsibility his Department intends to implement; and if he will provide a timetable for implementation. [217703]

Bill Rammell: The Department is currently reflecting upon the Rural Advocate's Report on Strengthening England's Rural Economies. DEFRA is the lead Department across Government and I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1204-05W.

English Language: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many accredited schools there are in Bournemouth for teaching English as a second language. [220546]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally.

Further Education: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will provide an updated list of organisations with a monitoring, inspection or improvement role in further education colleges on the same basis as Box 4 on page 27 of the 2005 Department for Education and Skills publication Realising the Potential: A review of the future role of further education colleges. [219478]

Bill Rammell: Since 1997 the Government have implemented major change to simplify the further education landscape and streamline national agencies. This includes reducing numbers of staff managing the further education and skills system from 10,000 in the TEC era to 4,700 as the Learning and Skills Council was established and further to 3,600 currently. We responded quickly to recommendations in Realising the Potential: A review of the future role of further education colleges by merging two major inspectorates, Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate, thereby simplifying inspection processes. More recently, the merger of the Quality Improvement Agency and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership, to form the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, will streamline processes further and drive quality improvement in the FE service through more direct influence from sector-leaders and practitioners. An updated list of organisations with a monitoring, inspection or improvement role in further education colleges is set out in the following list on the same basis as originally in the review report. This shows a reduction in the number of organisations with a monitoring, inspection or improvement role.

List of organisations with a monitoring/inspection/improvement role in FE colleges

Inspectorates

Ofsted

The Quality Assurance Agency (for HE in FE)

Funding/Monitoring/planning influence

The Learning and Skills Council

The Higher Education Funding Council for England

Job Centre Plus

Local Authorities

Regional Development Agencies

Sector Skills Councils/Commission for Employment and Skills

Improvement/Standards Setting

Local Learning and Skills Councils

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (being formed from merging the Quality Improvement Agency and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership)

Lifelong Learning UK

Institute for Learning

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority /Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator

Awarding Bodies

GCE A-Level

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people *(a)* at a maintained school, *(b)* at a sixth form college, *(c)* at a further education college, *(d)* at an independent school, *(e)* at another educational institution and *(f)* studying on their own gained an A level at grades A to E in (i) accounting, (ii) art and design, (iii) business studies, (iv) communication studies, (v) dance, (vi) design and technology, (vii) drama/theatre studies, (viii) film studies, (ix) health and social care, (x) home economics, (xi) information and communication technology, (xii) leisure studies, (xiii) media studies, (xiv) music technology, (xv) performance studies, (xvi) performing arts, (xvii) photography, (xviii) physical education, (xix) sports studies and (xx) travel and tourism in 2006-07. [209409]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information for parts *(a)* to *(e)* has been placed in the House of Commons Library. The Department does not hold information required to answer part *(f)*.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215108]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has 36 permanent members of staff who work in the central communication directorate. Other civil servants may have communication as a core part of their role as good communication is integral to helping implement government policy.

The Department is responsible for two agencies, National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

The UK Intellectual Property Office has four members of staff in the communication team who are classified as Government communicators.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory has approximately 2.5 members of staff in the communications team who are classified as Government communicators.

All civil servants who work in a communication role can access the GCN and the resources that it provides.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have been routed to higher education institutions by Train to Gain skills brokers. [219343]

Bill Rammell: Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006, Train to Gain has grown quickly. It has now engaged 97,000 employers, supported 488,480 employees to begin learning programmes, and delivered 203,370 full level 2 and 26,720 Skills for Life achievements. Recent evaluations of the service show that both employer and employee satisfaction with their experience of Train to Gain is high.

Train to Gain helps employers identify and address their skills needs at all levels—including higher level skills, working with the HE sector.

To date, 492 employers have been referred to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by Train to Gain skills brokerage organisations; information on the number of learners engaged as a result of those referrals is not held centrally.

Three High Level Skills Pathfinders funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in North West, North East and South West are helping to identify barriers to the HE sector engaging with employers and build Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) capacity to extend their work with employers, working alongside and through Train to Gain. The Pathfinders are now starting to fund truly demand-led proposals from HEIs and Further Education Colleges to develop HE-level provision attuned to workforce development needs.

This week we launched 'The Training Gateway', a national clearing house service that will help Train to Gain skills brokers to connect employers with the Higher Education Institutions that can best deliver the higher level skills training that will meet their business need.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when a decision will be taken on the funding rules for students studying for equivalent or lower qualifications in the years after 2010-11. [219462]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Our ELQ policy is a balanced one. We are reinvesting resources to benefit those who have not already obtained a higher education qualification. Yet over two thirds of the current level of HEFCE grant for ELQ students will continue to be invested in supporting them in 2010-11. All we have asked HEFCE to do is to redistribute about £100 million a year by 2010-11 in order to fund over 20,000 extra new entrants to higher education. We have made no decisions to redirect further funding beyond 2010-11.

Future decisions will be taken as part of the next Spending Review, whose timetable has not yet been announced.

Higher Education: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in each London borough *(a)* enrolled on and *(b)* did not complete a higher education course in each year since 1997. [210467]

Bill Rammell: Student retention rates at higher education institutions in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

While there has been a slight increase in non-completion for the 2005/06 academic year, the proportion is lower than for most years for which data are available and is much lower than in the late 1990s.

This has been achieved and maintained during a period when the student population has increased and its diversity widened.

(a) The latest available information on entrants to higher education courses is shown in Table 1. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Table 1: Full-time and part-time entrants[1] to UK higher education institutions[2] by London local authority[3]—academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic years

Local authority	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
City of London	85	195	220	205	190	235	215	250	180	200
Camden	2,870	3,285	3,420	3,605	3,560	3,880	3,995	4,070	3,960	3,810
Greenwich	2,120	2,465	2,570	2,775	3,125	3,315	3,515	3,620	3,590	3,565
Hackney	2,490	3,005	3,265	3,330	3,615	3,860	3,980	4,265	4,200	4,200
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,810	2,030	2,260	2,345	2,365	2,550	2,725	2,705	2,740	2,560
Islington	2,280	2,975	3,035	3,300	3,230	3,525	3,695	3,780	3,630	3,625
Kensington and Chelsea	1,775	2,080	2,155	2,115	2,220	2,330	2,250	2,390	2,300	2,175
Lambeth	3,510	4,185	4,295	4,415	4,745	5,010	5,005	5,240	5,185	5,080
Lewisham	3,080	3,760	3,925	4,005	4,395	4,625	4,725	4,915	4,810	4,825

Table 1: Full-time and part-time entrants[1] to UK higher education institutions[2] by London local authority[3]—academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic years

Local authority	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Southwark	3,430	4,140	4,140	4,300	4,605	4,820	5,320	5,390	5,075	4,955
Tower Hamlets	1,645	2,115	2,345	2,560	2,795	3,210	3,270	3,420	3,420	3,425
Wandsworth	3,130	3,880	3,905	3,830	3,940	4,450	4,725	4,685	4,505	4,535
Westminster	2,305	2,820	2,940	2,960	3,115	3,455	3,400	3,595	3,365	3,340
Barking and Dagenham	765	1,075	1,005	1,040	1,250	1,605	1,630	1,815	1,875	1,905
Barnet	4,380	5,080	5,320	5,430	5,510	6,110	5,830	6,175	6,195	5,945
Bexley	1,510	1,805	1,755	2,015	2,135	2,185	2,410	2,485	2,610	2,575
Brent	3,660	4,430	4,450	4,715	4,830	4,945	4,890	5,005	4,815	4,725
Bromley	2,690	3,120	3,340	3,435	3,505	3,830	4,000	4,150	4,000	3,910
Croydon	2,870	3,585	3,755	4,115	4,115	4,415	4,580	4,675	4,800	4,765
Ealing	3,715	4,670	4,880	5,030	5,265	5,420	5,280	5,500	5,405	5,355
Enfield	3,125	3,600	3,790	3,920	4,100	4,340	4,420	4,660	4,695	4,480
Haringey	3,265	4,000	3,970	4,025	4,060	4,385	4,340	4,515	4,430	4,320
Harrow	2,820	3,330	3,575	3,590	3,740	3,995	3,950	4,090	3,985	3,895
Havering	1,335	1,730	1,630	1,640	1,730	1,930	2,035	2,420	2,240	2,120
Hillingdon	1,925	2,405	2,650	2,790	2,840	3,095	3,125	3,175	3,265	3,240
Hounslow	2,070	2,670	2,845	3,015	2,940	3,060	3,130	3,245	3,255	3,210
Kingston upon Thames	1,215	1,895	1,950	2,010	2,165	2,405	2,460	2,525	2,585	2,460
Merton	1,765	2,225	2,355	2,470	2,565	2,760	2,825	2,870	2,840	2,770
Newham	2,660	3,210	3,415	3,525	3,960	4,400	4,355	4,410	4,465	4,540
Redbridge	2,685	3,380	3,270	3,375	3,865	4,160	4,105	4,120	4,255	4,255
Richmond upon Thames	1,830	2,405	2,485	2,385	2,540	2,645	2,760	3,050	2,965	2,895
Sutton	1,255	1,730	1,665	1,835	1,935	2,050	2,140	2,300	2,330	2,200
Waltham Forest	2,420	3,110	3,030	3,085	3,515	3,830	3,700	4,030	3,715	3,870

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant mode of study.
[2] Covers entrants to postgraduate and undergraduate HE level courses in UK higher education institutions.
[3] London boroughs have been taken to be local authority areas. Students are allocated to local authority area by postcode; figures exclude students with missing or invalid postcodes.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

(b) The standard measure of non-completion is the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters of all ages who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution. The available information for higher education institutions in the UK and England are shown in Table 2. This figure is not disaggregated below national level.

Table 2: Proportion of full-time first degree starters who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution—UK and English Higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

	UK	*Percentage England*
1997/98	15.7	15.8
1998/99	15.8	15.9
1999/2000	15.8	15.8
2000/01	15.0	15.0
2001/02	14.1	13.8
2002/03	14.4	13.9
2003/04	14.9	14.4
2004/05	14.2	13.8
2005/06	14.1	13.9

Note:
The projected outcomes for a cohort are based on the assumption that their patterns of progression will follow those of students currently in the system. A student is assumed to have left with no award if they have been inactive for two years.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1000-01W, on student wastage, if he will place in the Library a copy of Table 3, broken down by course subject. [219317]

Bill Rammell: Non-continuation rates broken down by both institution and degree subject are not available.

Non-continuation rates broken down by subject are only available for the UK. The non-continuation rate is the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study. The rates for young entrants are shown in Table 1, and rates for mature entrants in Table 2.

Table 1: Proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study by degree subject: UK Higher Education Institutions—academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06

Degree subject	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Percentage 2005/06
Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.6
Subjects allied to medicine	6.3	6.0	5.9	6.4	7.7	6.8	6.5
Biological sciences[1]	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	7.3	6.8	6.7
Physical sciences[1]	[1]6.9	[1]6.0	[1]6.1	[1]7.1	6.1	6.0	7.8
Agriculture and related subjects	6.8	7.0	11.4	7.5	8.3	8.0	5.7
Mathematical sciences[2]	[2]...	[2]...	[2]...	[2]...	5.5	5.3	4.8
Computer sciences[2]	[2]9.8	[2]8.0	[2]8.4	[2]9.4	10.3	10.3	10.5
Engineering and technology	10.1	9.0	8.9	10.0	10.1	9.1	8.5
Architecture, building, planning	9.6	8.0	10.2	11.1	10.0	8.3	7.6
Social studies[3]	[3]...	[3]...	[3]...	[3]...	7.2	6.9	7.0
Law[3]	[3]6.9	[3]6.0	[3]6.4	[3]7.0	6.2	5.5	5.9
Librarianship, information sciences[4]	[4]...	[4]...	[4]...	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business and administrative studies[4,5]	[4]6.9	[4]8.0	[4]8.2	[4]...	8.8	8.2	8.4
Mass communications and documentation[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[5]8.8	8.5	8.6	8.5
Humanities[6]	[6]...	[6]...	[6]...	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Languages[6,7]	[6]5.9	[6]5.0	[6]5.7	[6]...	6.3	5.7	5.8
Historical and philosophical studies[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[7]6.3	5.9	5.0	5.1
Creative arts and design	8.7	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.0
Education	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.0	7.5	7.6	7.3
Combined subjects	8.8	8.0	8.2	14.3	13.5	14.3	13.8
All subjects	7.8	7.0	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.2	7.1

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] One figure was provided for Biological and Physical Sciences until 2003/04.
[2] One figure was provided for Mathematical and Computer Sciences until 2003/04.
[3] One figure was provided for Social Studies and Law until 2003/04.
[4] One figure was provided for Librarianship, information sciences and Business and administrative studies until 2002/03.
[5] One figure was provided for Business and administrative studies and Mass communications and documentation in 2002/03.
[6] One figure was provided for Languages and Humanities until 2002/03.
[7] One figure was provided for Languages and Historical and Philosophical Studies in 2002/03.

Notes:
1. Figures for 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
2. There is a break in the time series between academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 because the subjects' JACS coding was changed in 2002/03.

Source:
Performance indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Proportion of mature entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study by degree subject: UK Higher Education Institutions—academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06

Degree subject	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Percentage 2005/06
Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science	2.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	4.0
Subjects allied to medicine	12.0	10.0	11.2	11.8	12.5	11.4	11.3
Biological sciences[1]	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	17.5	16.2	16.2
Physical sciences[1]	[1]17.0	[1]15.0	[1]18.0	[1]17.7	12.3	11.0	15.2
Agriculture and related subjects	16.0	13.0	18.0	14.5	16.8	17.0	16.0
Mathematical sciences[2]	[2]...	[2]...	[2]...	[2]...	18.7	16.4	18.2
Computer sciences[2]	[2]20.0	[2]18.0	[2]18.4	[2]20.3	19.0	18.9	19.3
Engineering and technology	20.0	19.0	16.9	19.7	21.3	18.9	19.0
Architecture, building, planning	17.0	17.0	16.9	15.9	17.2	14.2	14.4
Social studies[3]	[3]...	[3]...	[3]...	[3]...	14.3	13.7	13.1
Law[3]	[3]15.0	[3]15.0	[3]14.8	[3]15.4	17.7	16.7	18.3
Librarianship, information sciences[4]	[4]...	[4]...	[4]...	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business and administrative studies[4,5]	[4,5]17.0	[4]16.0	[4]16.8	[4]...	19.2	17.4	17.0
Mass communications and documentation[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[5]18.0	16.7	17.8	16.5

Table 2: Proportion of mature entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study by degree subject, UK Higher Education Institutions—academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06

Degree subject	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Percentage 2005/06
Humanities[a]	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Languages[b,f]	[1]16.0	[1]14.0	[1]14.8	[1]...	15.7	15.3	14.8
Historical and philosophical studies[c]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]15.6	15.8	14.4	14.4
Creative arts and design	13.0	12.0	13.0	12.1	14.4	12.8	13.3
Education	12.0	11.0	10.2	10.1	11.8	11.0	10.1
Combined subjects	19.0	18.0	18.2	23.2	19.9	23.9	21.2
All subjects	16.0	14.0	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.4	14.3

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] One figure was provided for Biological and Physical Sciences until 2003/04.
[2] One figure was provided for Mathematical and Computer Sciences until 2003/04.
[3] One figure was provided for Social Studies and Law until 2003/04.
[4] One figure was provided for Librarianship, information sciences and Business and administrative studies until 2002/03.
[5] One figure was provided for Business and administrative studies and Mass communications and documentation in 2002/03.
[6] One figure was provided for Languages and Humanities until 2002/03.
[7] One figure was provided for Languages and Historical and Philosophical Studies in 2002/03.
Notes:
1. Figures for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
2. There is a break in the time series between academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 because the subjects' JACS coding was 2002/03.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Subject rankings for non-continuation rates change over the years. However, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science consistently have the lowest non-continuation rates over the time series.

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK rank 5th in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1217-8W, on the Olympic games, what estimate he has made of the cost of sending Ministers and officials from his Department to the Beijing Olympic Games. [219472]

Mr. Lammy: There are no plans for any of the Ministers or officials from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to attend the Beijing Olympic games in an official capacity. Therefore, there will be no cost to the Department.

Students: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's policy is on variable university tuition fees. [219848]

Bill Rammell: The Government's policy is that it is right that students should bear a fair share of the costs of higher education. The variable fees regime that we introduced in 2006 will provide an additional £1.6 billion for higher education by 2010-11. At the same time we have ensured that there is strong support to meet students' personal financial needs. This has enabled us to make further progress in widening access to higher education, with the proportion of accepted applicants from England who are from the bottom four socio-economic groups has increased from 31.7 per cent. in 2006 to 32.1 per cent. in 2007.

The maximum fee that can be charged each year is capped at £3,000 (at 2006 prices) and no increase can be made to this until Parliament has considered an independent review of the first three years of the new system.

Students: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students resident in the London Borough of Bexley received an *(a)* education maintenance allowance and *(b)* special support grant in 2007-08. [219056]

Bill Rammell: The part of the question on education maintenance allowance (EMA) is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who have operational responsibility for the EMA for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

30 students from the London borough of Bexley received a special support grant (SSG) in academic year 2006/07. Complete figures are not yet available for academic year 2007/08.

Letter from Mark Haysom to David Evennett, dated 25 July 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; "How many students resident in the London Borough of Bexley received an (a) education maintenance allowance and (b) special support grant in 2007-08." As responsibility for the operation of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme lies with the Learning and Skills Council, your question has been forwarded for my attention.

Part (b) of your question was answered in Bill Rammell's written reply of Monday 30 June 2008.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up for Bexley Local Authority area in the academic year 2007/08, up to 30 June 08, is 2,039.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was distributed by the Thames Gateway initiative to the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years; and to what uses the sums distributed to Bexley have been put. [213443]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has no record of funds distributed by the Thames Gateway initiative to the London borough of Bexley.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Immigration: Vetting

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in what circumstances criminal records checks are carried out on *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals entering Northern Ireland. [215365]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his question, Immigration: Criminal Records of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1445W.

In relation to the circumstances in which criminal records checks are carried out, as my earlier answer stated, our policy is that the documents of all foreign nationals at ports of entry are checked against the Home Office Warnings Index.

Vetting

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many checks have been carried out on Northern Ireland residents by the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [220056]

(2) on how many occasions information provided by the Criminal Records Bureau in respect of Northern Ireland residents has proved to be erroneous in each of the last five years; by what means the errors were discovered in each case; and if he will make a statement. [220057]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The information sought by the hon. Member is not available. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to provide information on Disclosure applications based on geographical areas.

The CRB would need to perform a manual trawl, at disproportionate cost, of each application to ascertain whether the postcode falls within Northern Ireland, in order to identify how many checks have been carried out on Northern Ireland residents by the CRB and on how many occasions the information provided by the CRB has proved to be in error in each of the last five years.

JUSTICE

Young Offenders: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice of the children aged 10 to 17 years prosecuted for breaching an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) in the period January 2004 to December 2007, how many *(a)* received a custodial sentence solely for the breach of the ASBO, where no other matters were dealt with by the court at the same time, *(b)* received a custodial sentence for breach of an ASBO, where other matters were dealt with at the same time but where these matters did not warrant a custodial sentence and *(c)* received a custodial sentence for breach of an ASBO, where other matters were dealt with at the same time and where the other matters did warrant a custodial sentence. [220867]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Information on breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is not routinely collected in the format requested. However, in 2005, a one-off analysis was undertaken when numbers of ASBOs were low.

A table showing figures for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 is as follows.

The table covers all persons issued ASBO's, as reported to the Home Office, who breached their ASBO by the end of 2003. Age is determined by age at the date of appearance in court, on which the severest penalty for breach of an ASBO was received.

Number of persons receiving a custodial sentence for breaching an ASBO by age group and category

Age group	*Number of persons breaching their ASBOs by the end of 2003*	*Number of persons receiving a custodial sentence for breach of an ASBO*	*Category A: where a person received a custodial sentence for at least one other offence at the same court appearance (excludes persons in group B)*	*Category B: where a person received a consecutive sentence of custody for breach of an ASBO when being dealt with for other offences at the same court appearance (excludes persons in group A)*	*Category AB: persons both in category A and B*	*Category C: where the person was dealt with for a breach of an ASBO alone*
10-17	417	179	50	21	78	30
18+	376	258	32	31	91	104

Number of persons receiving a custodial sentence for breaching an ASBO by age group and category

Age group	*Number of persons breaching their ASBOs by the end of 2003*	*Number of persons receiving a custodial sentence for breach of an ASBO*	*Category A: where a person received a custodial sentence for at least one other offence at the same court appearance (excludes persons in group B)*	*Category B: where a person received a consecutive sentence of custody for breach of an ASBO when being dealt with for other offences at the same court appearance (excludes persons in group A)*	*Category AB: persons both in category A and B*	*Category C: where the person was dealt with for a breach of an ASBO alone*
All ages	793	437	82	52	169	134
Percentage distribution of penalties						
10-17	—	43	28	12	44	17
18+	—	69	12	12	35	40
All ages	—	55	19	12	39	31

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of the changes to alcohol duty announced in the 2008 budget on *(a)* binge drinking, *(b)* general levels of alcohol consumption and *(c)* underage drinking. [214749]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues about all aspects of policy. However, taxation is a matter for the Treasury.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age people in Hampshire in each of the last five years; [214372]

(2) how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to children in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [216573]

Mr. Coaker: The number of people and the number of others proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons in Hampshire police force area, for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) can also be applied for the offence; the number of PNDs issued in Hampshire police force area was two in 2004, 67 in 2005, and 109 in 2006.

Number of persons and the number of others proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons in Hampshire police force area, 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

	Proceeded against	
	Persons	*Other*
2002	4	—
2003	—	—
2004	9	—
2005	11	—

Number of persons and the number of others proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons in Hampshire police force area, 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

	Proceeded against	
	Persons	*Other*
2006	2	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).

Sale of alcohol to a person under 18

Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1)

Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.

Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18.

Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) & (5)

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their Inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

[5] Figures for Other includes: Public bodies, companies, organisations

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individuals were prosecuted for supplying alcohol to those under the age of 18 years in (i) England, (ii) Staffordshire and (iii) Tamworth constituency in each of the last three years. [220129]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons and the number of other defendants namely businesses, companies, and organisations proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons, in Staffordshire Police Force Area, and England, 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the attached table.

From the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice, it is not possible to identify those defendants prosecuted in the Tamworth constituency, as the data are not collected at this level of detail.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) can also be applied for the offence; the number of PNDs issued in Staffordshire Police Force Area was 0 in 2004, 19 in 2005, and 75 in 2006. The number issued in England for the same offence was 112 in 2004, 1,839 in 2005 and 2,936 in 2006.

Number of persons and the number of other defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons in Staffordshire Police Force Area, and England, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Staffordshire Police Force Area		*England*	
	Proceeded against		*Proceeded against*	
	Persons	*Other*	*Persons*	*Other*
2004	5	—	757	21
2005	20	—	994	3
2006	23	—	1,038	46

1 These data are on the principal offence basis.
2 Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, Intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1)
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) and (5)
3 Every effort Is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
4 The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
5 Figures for Other includes: Public bodies, companies, organisations
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Alternatives to Prison: Ashford

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the Alternative to Detentions project at the Millbank Centre in Ashford; and if she will make a statement. [208987]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency is currently making an assessment of the project. I expect to make decisions about its future as soon as possible.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 442-43W, on animal experiments, whether licences that authorise procedures of such severity that death would ensue would require an animal to be euthanased immediately; whether the licences require 24-hour care so that euthanasia can be carried out immediately; whether severity limits are allocated to such licences; whether such licences fall within the band classified as substantial; for what purposes such licences are given; and if she will make a statement. [220608]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office does not authorise death as an experimental endpoint in project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Where an earlier endpoint has been set to ensure that animals are killed before death would occur, euthanasia would be applied as soon as the animal exhibits predetermined signs, such as abnormal behaviour, appearance, body weight changes, body temperature changes, abnormal clinical findings or observations or laboratory investigations. Monitoring arrangements would also be required to ensure that such signs were identified promptly. Where appropriate, these may include 24-hour care.

Severity limits for such procedures may be either moderate or substantial, depending on the point at which the endpoint is to be applied, and would be set in accordance with the guidance provided in paragraph 5.42 of the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321).

Common examples of project licences of this nature include those authorising regulatory toxicology and safety evaluation studies, some vaccine efficacy tests, certain models of disease and major surgery.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2006, for what specific purposes macaque monkeys were used. [220865]

Meg Hillier: Table 1 of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals: Great Britain 2006 identifies the primary purpose of the procedures in which macaques were used. Further information regarding target body systems, non-toxicological field of research, use for production of biological materials, toxicological purpose and type of toxicological test is provided, respectively, in tables 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11 of the publication.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to address antisocial behaviour in local communities; and if she will make a statement. [220050]

Mr. Coaker: Since April 2008, there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area. These teams are now increasing their focus on working with local communities to identify and tackle local problems together, while continuing to provide high visibility policing, reducing antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime.

We have provided practitioners with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, issued guidance on their use through a practitioner website and set up a free telephone advice line to provide specific support on individual problems. It is for local agencies to decide on the most appropriate interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour based on their knowledge of what works best locally.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations govern the use of ultra-sonic youth deterrent devices. [220091]

Mr. Coaker: There are no regulations that govern the use of ultra-sonic deterrent devices. However, the prolonged exposure to the noise emitted by a device may be a statutory nuisance. If an environmental health officer took the view that it affected the occupants of a property, action could be taken against the owner of the noise emitter. Inappropriate use of the device may also be classed as a harassment offence under the Public Order Act 1986 or the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities in England have applied to make *(a)* an Alcohol Disorder Zone, *(b)* a section 30 dispersal order and *(c)* a designated public place order in each year since each was introduced. [220168]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There are currently no Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs) that we are aware of. ADZs were only commenced on 5 June 2008 and require a number of steps to be taken before a full ADZ is implemented.

Between January 2004 and 31 March 2006, the police have used the power in section 30 of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 to disperse unruly groups in over 1,000 designated areas. Figures are not available broken down by year. Figures for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 are due to be published in the next few months.

The Home Office has been informed that 613 Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO)s have been implemented throughout England and Wales. This figure is broken down by year as follows; three in 2001, 68 in 2002, 78 in 2003, 98 in 2004,103 in 2005, 136 in 2006, 97 in 2007 and 30 in 2008.

A full list of the Councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link which includes commencement date.

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Antisocial Behaviour: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles have been confiscated as a result of anti-social behaviour in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 2000. [220392]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of vehicles confiscated as a result of antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Antisocial Behaviour: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles have been confiscated as a result of anti-social behaviour in Tamworth constituency since 2005. [220108]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of vehicles confiscated as a result of antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department of the Legacy Casework Programme questionnaires completed and returned, how many recipients *(a)* were granted leave to remain *(b)* were not granted leave to remain and *(c)* are awaiting a decision; and if she will make a statement. [180227]

Mr. Byrne: The answer to parts *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* cannot be determined as these would entail disproportionate cost. Applicants in the backlog of asylum claims are only sent a questionnaire if the UK Border Agency determines it needs more up-to-date information on the case, for example, where an applicant has not been in touch with the Agency for some period.

Lin Homer wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 July 2008 to update them on the progress of the work of the Case Resolution Directorate in line with the commitment she gave in her letter dated 17 December 2007 to provide updates every six months.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on asylum, how many asylum claimants who have received leave to remain as a result of grant of *(a)* asylum, *(b)* humanitarian protection and *(c)* discretionary leave there were of each nationality in the categories (i) Europe other (ii) Americas other, (iii) Africa other, (iv) Middle East other and (v) Asia other. [196027]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The requested information is contained in the tables provided.

Information on asylum decisions is published quarterly and annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Grants of leave to remain[1, 2, 3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, previously published under "other" category, April to December 2003

Nationality	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*
Armenia	5	—	5
Azerbaijan	5	•	•
Belarus	•	—	•
Bosnia-Herzegovina	•	—	•
Bulgaria	•	—	—
Croatia	—	—	•
Czech Republic	•	—	—

Grants of leave to remain[1, 2, 3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, previously published under "other" category, April to December 2003

Nationality	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*
Estonia	—	—	•
Georgia	5	—	5
Kyrgyzstan	•	—	•
Latvia	—	—	•
Lithuania	—	—	•
Poland	5	—	5
Turkmenistan	•	—	—
Uzbekistan	•	—	•
Published Europe	100	•	400
Europe Total	125	5	425
Bolivia	—	—	5
Brazil	•	—	—
Cuba	•	—	•
Dominican Republic	—	—	•
Guyana	—	—	•
Panama	—	—	•
Peru	—	—	•
Published Americas	10	—	10
Americas Total	15	—	20
Burkina Faso	—	•	—
Chad	5	—	•
Equatorial Guinea	•	—	—
Guinea	5	•	30
Malawi	—	—	•
Mali	—	—	•
Niger	—	—	•
South Africa	—	—	5
Togo	5	—	5
Western Sahara	—	—	•
Zambia	•	—	•
Published Africa	1,905	115	1,405
Africa Total	1,925	120	1,450
Egypt	•	—	•
Kuwait	5	•	—
Lebanon	5	—	15
Morocco	•	—	•
Palestine	5	•	20
Tunisia	5	—	—
Yemen	5	—	5
Published Middle East	85	10	120
Middle East Total	115	10	160
Bhutan	5	—	•
Indonesia	•	—	—
Korea (South)	—	—	—
Mongolia	—	—	5
Myanmar (Burma)	20	•	5
Nepal	—	—	•
Published Asia	130	5	1,015
Asia Total	160	5	1,025
Nationality not known	10	—	10
Total	2,345	140	3,095

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (— = 0, • = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] For completeness, the numbers already published for each region are also provided.

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2004

Nationality	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*
Armenia	•	—	—
Azerbaijan	10	—	•
Belarus	•	—	•
Bosnia-Herzegovina	—	—	•
Bulgaria	•	—	•
Croatia	•	—	•
Cyprus	•	—	—
Georgia	5	•	5
Kazakhstan	•	—	•
Kyrgyzstan	•	—	—
Lithuania	—	—	•
Turkmenistan	5	—	—
Uzbekistan	—	•	—
Published Europe	135	10	500
Europe Total	165	10	510
Bolivia	•	—	—
Dominican Republic	—	—	•
El Salvador	•	—	—
Guyana	•	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	•
Venezuela	—	—	•
Published Americas	10	•	15
Americas Total	10	•	15
Botswana	—	—	•
Central African Republic	•	—	—
Chad	•	—	5
Guinea	5	•	50
Guinea-Bissau	—	—	•
Malawi	•	•	5
Mali	—	—	•
Mauritania	5	—	•
Mauritius	•	—	—
Senegal	—	—	•
South Africa	—	—	•
Togo	5	—	5
Zambia	•	—	—
Published Africa	1,080	105	1,565
Africa Total	1,100	105	1,635
Egypt	—	•	5
Israel	•	—	—
Jordan	—	•	—
Kuwait	—	—	•
Lebanon	•	—	5
Morocco	•	—	•
Oman	—	•	—
Palestine	10	—	20
Tunisia	•	—	•
Yemen	5	•	20
Published Middle East	105	15	420
Middle East Total	130	15	475
Bhutan	5	—	—
Indonesia	•	—	—
North Korea	5	5	•
Malaysia	•	—	—
Maldives	•	—	—
Mongolia	5	—	5
Myanmar (Burma)	15	—	•
Nepal	5	—	5

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2004

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Philippines	•	-	-
Thailand	•	—	—
Published Asia	120	20	1,190
Asia Total	160	25	1,200
Nationality not known	•	—	•
Total	1,565	160	3,335

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (— = 0, • = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] For completeness, the numbers already published for each region are also provided.

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2005

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Armenia	•	—	•
Azerbaijan	5	—	•
Belarus	5	—	—
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5	—	•
Bulgaria	—	—	5
Croatia	5	—	•
Georgia	•	—	•
northern Cyprus	—	—	•
Turkmenistan	5	—	—
Uzbekistan	5	—	—
Published Europe	65	•	205
Europe Total	90	•	215
Bolivia	—	—	5
Cuba	•	—	—
Venezuela	—	—	•
Published Americas	10	—	10
Americas Total	10	—	15
Burkina Faso	—	—	•
Chad	5	•	5
Djibouti	•	—	—
Guinea	5	—	55
Malawi	—	•	•
Mali	—	—	•
Mauritania	—	—	•
Mauritius	—	•	—
Mozambique	—	—	•
Togo	•	•	5
Western Sahara	•	—	—
Published Africa	1,535	45	840
Africa Total	1,545	50	905
Kuwait	15	—	•
Lebanon	5	•	5
Morocco	—	—	10
Palestine	5	—	25
Qatar	•	—	—
Tunisia	5	—	—
Yemen	•	—	10
Published Middle East	100	35	540
Middle East Total	125	35	585
Bhutan	•	—	•
North Korea	5	10	•
Maldives	5	—	•
Mongolia	•	—	•
Myanmar (Burma)	25	•	—
Nepal	•	—	•
Thailand	—	•	—

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2005

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Published Asia	100	25	945
Asia Total	135	35	950
Nationality not known	30	—	*
Total	1,940	120	2,675

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] For completeness, the numbers already published for each region are also provided.

Grants of leave to remain,[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2006[4]

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Azerbaijan	*	—	—
Belarus	10	—	*
Bosnia-Herzegovina	*	—	*
Bulgaria	—	—	*
Georgia	*	—	—
Kyrgyzstan	*	—	—
Turkmenistan	5	—	—
Uzbekistan	5	—	—
Published Europe	30	5	110
Europe Total	50	5	110
Bolivia	—	—	5
Cuba	*	—	—
Guyana	—	—	*
Published Americas	5	5	5
Americas Total	10	5	10
Benin	—	—	*
Central African Republic	*	—	—
Chad	—	—	*
Guinea	*	*	35
Guinea-Bissau	—	—	*
Malawi	—	—	*
Mauritius	—	—	*
Senegal	—	—	*
Seychelles	*	—	—
South Africa	—	—	*
Swaziland	—	*	—
Togo	5	—	*
Published Africa	1,720	15	605
Africa Total	1,730	15	650
Bahrain	*	—	—
Egypt	*	—	*
Israel	—	—	*
Kuwait	50	—	5
Lebanon	*	*	5
Palestine	*	*	5
Tunisia	*	—	—
United Arab Emirates	*	*	—
Yemen	*	—	5
Published Middle East	135	10	340
Middle East Total	195	15	360
Bhutan	5	—	—
North Korea	15	5	—
Mongolia	—	—	5
Myanmar (Burma)	25	5	—
Published Asia	110	5	1,110
Asia Total	155	20	1,115

Grants of leave to remain,[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2006[4]

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Nationality not known	30	—	—
Total	2,170	55	2,245

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] For completeness, the numbers already published for each region are also provided.

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2007[4]

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Armenia	—	—	*
Azerbaijan	5	—	5
Belarus	10	—	—
Bosnia-Herzegovina	*	*	—
Bulgaria	—	—	*
Croatia	*	—	—
Georgia	—	—	*
Kyrgyzstan	*	*	—
Tajikistan	—	—	*
Turkmenistan	5	*	—
Uzbekistan	*	—	—
Fed Rep Yugoslavia	*	—	*
Published Europe	35	5	85
Europe Total	60	5	95
Brazil	—	—	*
Cuba	—	—	*
Published Americas	5	*	10
Americas Total	5	*	10
Benin	—	—	*
Chad	5	—	*
Guinea	10	5	30
Guinea-Bissau	—	*	*
Malawi	—	—	5
Mauritania	—	*	—
Niger	*	—	—
Senegal	*	*	—
South Africa	—	—	*
Togo	5	—	—
Zambia	*	—	*
Published Africa	2,415	20	430
Africa Total	2,440	30	470
Bahrain	*	—	—
Egypt	5	—	*
Jordan	*	—	—
Kuwait	80	—	5
Lebanon	*	*	*
Morocco	—	—	*
Oman	—	—	—
Palestine	15	*	15
Tunisia	*	—	—
Yemen	5	*	5
Published Middle East	390	35	325
Middle East Total	495	40	350
Bhutan	5	—	*
Fiji	*	—	—
North Korea	130	15	5
South Korea	*	—	—
Malaysia	*	—	—

Grants of leave to remain[1,2,3] made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2007[4]

Nationality	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave
Mongolia	—	—	*
Myanmar (Burma)	95	20	*
Nepal	*	—	—
Published Asia	285	15	1,145
Asia Total	520	50	1,150
Nationality not known	20	—	5
Total	3,540	125	2,085

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] For completeness, the numbers already published for each region are also provided.
[4] Provisional figures.

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1429W, on asylum, (1) if she will clarify which parts of the letter of 7 July 2008 from the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill, to the hon. Member for Leeds East provide information relevant to *(a)* the targets set within her Department for processing applications for leave to remain at each stage and *(b)* the likely date for decision in the case of Mr Last Manzini (M1175940) whose application was lodged in February 2005; and if she will make a statement; [218853]

(2) when she expects the application for leave to remain made by Mr Last Manzini (M1175940) in February 2005 will be decided; and if she will make a statement. [218855]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 23 July 2008.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration and asylum cases have been dealt with by legacy case teams in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland to date; how many such cases remain outstanding; when she expects each such case to have been reviewed; and if she will make a statement. [221672]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold this information in this format and to obtain it would entail work being carried out at a disproportionate cost.

Lin Homer wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 July 2008 to update them on the progress of the work of the Case Resolution Directorate in line with the commitment she gave in her letter dated 17 December 2007 to provide updates every six months.

Asylum: Iraq

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made on the plans for a resettlement mission to Syria to discuss the cases of Iraqi former UK interpreters; and if she will make a statement. [218888]

Mr. Byrne: The practicalities of a resettlement mission in Syria remain under discussion. In the meantime, the Iraqis who meet the criteria for the Locally Engaged Staff scheme who are currently in Syria are in receipt of financial support and background checking which would be part of the assessment process of resettlement.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department had spent on the e-borders project in total by 31 January 2008. [195136]

Mr. Byrne: By 31 January 2008, £133.5 million had been invested in the e-Borders programme.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the global roll-out of fingerprint visas under the e-Borders programme. [203940]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* We delivered global roll out of our visa biometric programme in December, three months early and several million pounds under budget. To date, over 2.5 million enrolments have generated over 19,000 matches to data recorded in connection with a previous immigration or asylum matter in the United Kingdom and bringing to notice over 3,100 applications which have been lodged in a different identity.

UK Border Agency are now averaging 1,200 matches a month to visa applicants who have previously been fingerprinted in the United Kingdom in association with an immigration or asylum matter.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of UK passenger movements she expects will utilise passenger name record data in 2013; [215515]

(2) when her Department expects to complete the risk assessment for the routes which will capture other passenger information (OPI); and what plans she has to announce which routes will utilise OPI. [218412]

Mr. Byrne: The e-Borders Programme will check and screen against watch lists 60 per cent., of all passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by December 2009, 95 per cent., by December 2010 and 100 per cent., by 2014.

We do not intend to publish details of those routes for which Passenger Name Record data will be captured as this is operationally sensitive.

British Crime Survey

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost of conducting the British Crime Survey was in each of the last five years. [220690]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office commission an external survey research company to carry out the British Crime Survey on its behalf. The contract for this work is let every three years following a competitive tendering exercise. The cost of this contract in each of the years asked about was £3.1 million in 2003-04, £4.5 million in 2004-05, £4.6 million in 2005-06, £4.8 million in 2006-07 and £4.6 million in 2007-08.

British Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the granting of full citizenship would be delayed for those granted probationary citizenship should *(a)* a family member be found guilty of an offence and *(b)* the individual lose a case in the civil courts. [190144]

Mr. Byrne: In the Government response to the consultation on the Green Paper 'the path to citizenship' we set out that we believe there is some value in supporting, and where necessary, challenging parents whose children offend. We recognise that there are sensitive issues which we need to consider carefully before proceeding and will establish a cross-Government working group to determine how to connect our proposals with other Government sanctions on youth crime.

British Nationality: Gurkhas

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the three routes to citizenship and three stages in the journey outlined in The Path to Citizenship, will apply to Gurkha soldiers who completed their service *(a)* before and *(b)* after 1 July 1997. [195404]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* The objective behind the proposals outlined by the Green Paper is to create a new clear framework for the journey to citizenship and clarify the routes to British citizenship/permanent residence via probationary citizenship.

The consultation period ended on 14 May and we published the Government's response document on 14 July.

We are continuing to assess how existing routes to settlement may fall within these proposals. As part of this work we will be considering in what way the new requirements might apply to all those non-EEA nationals who have obtained indefinite leave following their discharge from the armed forces.

We are also continuing in our discussions with the Ministry of Defence on various matters affecting the position of the armed forces with regard to immigration and citizenship issues. Although these considerations are ongoing there is no intention at this time to confer additional routes to citizenship for Gurkha soldiers discharged prior to 1 July 1997. The lawfulness of the immigration rules as they apply to Gurkha soldiers discharged prior to 1 July 1997 is subject to judicial review in September 2008 and it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

I am however pleased to have been able to agree to a number of important measures as part of the wider package of commitments across government to better support serving personnel, their families and veterans. Details of these can be found in the MOD Command Paper "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans" (Cm 7424).

Burglary

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported house burglaries were investigated by each police force in each of the last 10 years. [220719]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences recorded and detected by the police but not on the number of offences investigated.

Citizenship

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which benefits the Government considers to be mainstream benefits, as referred to in her Department's Green Paper, A Pathway to Citizenship. [190178]

Mr. Byrne: In the Government response to the consultation on the Green Paper 'the path to citizenship', we set out that migrants in the temporary residence and probationary citizenship categories will have no access to non-contributory benefits, social assistance, local authority housing or homelessness assistance.

Limited exceptions to this will be where we are meeting our obligations under international agreements and international law. Temporary residents and probationary citizens will have access to a limited number of national insurance based benefits but only once they have paid for them.

Refugees will continue to have access to benefits at all stages of the process.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department plans to verify claims of active citizenship on the part of migrants granted probationary citizenship; and what discussions officials in her Department have had with *(a)* representatives of the voluntary sector, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other bodies on their roles in the verification process. [190182]

Mr. Byrne: At paragraph 178 of the Green Paper we have proposed that we will verify activities by written evidence from a referee. This would build on the current application process for citizenship, which

requires applicants to submit details of two referees who have known the applicant personally for three years. Knowingly making a false declaration can lead to a penalty of up to three months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Migrants who have contributed to their community would be required to provide a third referee to confirm personally the evidence of active citizenship provided by the applicant, with the same potential penalties applying. We consider that this represents a cost effective and 'light touch' regime, which nonetheless provides a clear deterrent for anyone seeking to abuse the process.

We will continue to discuss these proposals with relevant bodies including representatives from local government and the third sector to help us identify the most effective and practical way of implementing this proposal.

Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage and how many violent incidences according to the British Crime Survey resulted in the victim needing *(a)* medical attention from a doctor, *(b)* some form of medical attention and *(c)* a hospital stay in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [220922]

Mr. Coaker: The percentage of violent incidents resulting in the victim needing *(a)* medical attention from a doctor, *(b)* some form of medical attention and *(c)* a hospital stay in England and Wales are published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin Crime in England and Wales (copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library) and are included in the following table.

Comparable figures prior to 2001-02 are not available due to changes to question wording introduced in 2001-02.

Analysis of the number of violent incidents broken down as requested is not routinely produced and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Copies of the BCS datasets are made publicly available for secondary analysis at the UK Data Archive.

Medical attention in violent incidents[1], 2001-02 to 2007-08, BCS

Percentage

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Some form of medical attention[2]	14	16	15	16	15	16	12
Medical attention from a doctor	n/a	11	11	11	11	12	9
Hospital stay[3]	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
Unweighted base	1,037	1,420	1,413	1,468	1,536	1,667	1,547

[1] From 1997 to 2005-06, 'All violence' included wounding, robbery, snatch theft, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury. In 2006-07 there were revisions to the BCS violence category and snatch theft was excluded. 'All violence' now includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury. [2] Asked of victims where force or violence was threatened or used. [3] This question asks whether the victim stayed in hospital for at least one night and is asked of those who sought medical attention (excluding dentists); base is victims of all violent incidents.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of violent incidents occurred, according to the British Crime Survey, where the victim was classified by ACORN as *(a)* wealthy achievers, *(b)* in urban prosperity, *(c)* comfortably off, *(d)* moderate means and *(e)* in hard pressed in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220930]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle-related thefts, *(d)* vandalism and *(e)* theft from the person occurred, according to the British Crime Survey, where the victim lived in (i) a semi-detached house, (ii) a detached house, (iii) a terraced house, (iv) a flat or maisonette and (v) other accommodation in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220929]

(3) how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle related thefts, *(d)* vandalism and *(e)* theft from the person occurred, according to the British Crime Survey, where the victim was a (i) owner-occupier, (ii) social renter and (iii) private renter in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220928]

(4) how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries and *(c)* vehicle related thefts occurred, according to the British Crime Survey, where the victim was (i) unemployed, (ii) employed, (iii) a student, (iv) looking after a family home, (v) long-term or temporarily sick, (vi) retired and (vii) other unclassified in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220927]

(5) how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle related thefts, *(d)* vandalism and *(e)* theft from the person occurred, according to the British Crime Survey, to a victim whose yearly income was (i) less than £10,000, (ii) between £10,000 and £20,000, (iii) between £20,000 and £30,000, (iv) between £30,000 and £40,000, (v) between £40,000 and £50,000 and (vi) £50,000 and above in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220926]

(6) what percentage and how many *(a)* victims of burglary and *(b)* non-victims of burglary according to the British Crime Survey owned (i) a burglar alarm, (ii) a deadlock, (iii) an outdoor sensor, (iv) an indoor sensor, (v) window locks, (vi) window bars and (vii) a security chain on the door in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [220921]

(7) what percentage and how many *(a)* violent incidents and *(b)* burglaries occurred according to the British Crime Survey where the victim had (i) a long-standing illness or disability which limits activities, (ii) a long-standing illness which does not limit activity and (iii) no long-standing illness in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [220920]

Mr. Coaker: The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales routinely presents analyses of the British Crime Survey (BCS) showing the risk of being a victim of crime by the

various socio-demographic characteristics requested. Copies of these publications are available in the House of Commons Library (the most recent publication is Crime in England and Wales 2007-08).

Information on the number and proportion of incidents broken down as requested are not routinely produced could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Copies of the BCS datasets are made publicly available for secondary analysis at the UK Data Archive.

Crime: Computers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many phishing incidents were *(a)* reported to and *(b)* investigated by police forces in each of the last five years. [220716]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not keep of record of this information. However, figures from the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) show that while the number of phishing attacks has increased, the overall losses are falling.

Phishing is an attempt to commit fraud and is therefore recorded as such. The public are encouraged to report phishing e-mail attacks to their bank by going to the website

banksafeonline.org

Crime: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has undertaken to establish the per capita cost of crimes in the last three years. [218213]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office first published estimates of the costs of crime in England and Wales in 2000. A partial update of these estimates, covering crime against individuals and households only, was published in 2005. Both reports are available for download from the Home Office publications website. The Economic and Social Costs of Crime Against Individuals and Households (Home Office Online Report 30/05) can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3005.pdf and The Economic and Social Costs of Crime (Home Office Research Study 217) can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors217.pdf.

The Department has not published any estimates of the costs of crime per capita.

Crime: Rural Areas

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the potential relationship between rural crime and the use of ketamine. [220303]

Mr. Coaker: No assessment has been made between rural crime and the use of Ketamine.

Ketamine is controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Government's message is clear that it is harmful and should not be taken. All drugs are harmful and cause significant and wide ranging problems for individuals, families and communities from health harms (such as HIV or drug related deaths) to drug-related crime and associated antisocial behaviour and the fear that this causes. It is estimated that between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime is drug-related.

The Government's new Drug Strategy clearly sets out our aim that we want fewer and fewer people to start using drugs and that the Government want a society free of the problems caused by drugs.

Crime: Statistics

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what figures *(a)* her Department and *(b)* police services collate on (i) youth and gang-related nuisance, (ii) vandalism and damage to property, (iii) drug nuisance and drug dealing, (iv) prostitution and kerb-crawling, (v) dog and animal nuisance and (vi) harassment and intimidation; and what the lowest administrative unit is at which such figures are collated. [219063]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office (HO), National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and police forces collect data on the following areas respectively:

(i) youth and gang-related nuisance

a. The number of incidents of antisocial behaviour (ASB), as defined by the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) (NPIA and forces).

b. The number of incidents of ASB which are 'youth-related' as defined by NSIR (NPIA and forces).

c. No information is collated centrally on 'gang'-related incidents. This may be collected by forces on a local level but the HO and NPIA do not collate this information.

(ii) vandalism and damage to property

d. Number of offences of criminal damage recorded by the police (HO and forces).

e. Additionally, the British crime survey includes estimates of criminal damage to property or vehicles belonging to private households.

(iii) drug nuisance and dealing

f. The number of (non-notifable crime) incidents where 'drugs' represent a characteristic or motivating factor behind the incident (NPIA and forces). Note that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and City of London Police do not collate this information.

g. The number of drugs offences recorded by the police (HO and forces).

(iv) prostitution and kerb-crawling

h. Number of offences of 'soliciting for the purpose of prostitution' (commonly known as 'kerb crawling' recorded by the police) (HO and forces).

Number of incidents of 'prostitution-related activity' as defined by NSIR (NPIA and forces).

(v) dog and animal nuisance

i. The number of ASB 'animal problems' as defined by NSIR (this includes dogs) (NPIA and forces).

(vi) harassment and intimidation

j. Number of crimes of 'harassment' recorded by the police (HO and forces).

(vii) litter, rubbish and fly-tipping

k. The number of incidents of ASB 'environmental damage/littering' as defined by NSIR.

l. The number of crimes of 'fly-tipping' recorded by the police (HO and forces).

Forces and the NPIA collate incident data at force and basic command unit (BCU) level. Many forces collate this information at a lower level (CDRP/ward) but this will vary from force to force.

The HO collates notifiable crime at BCU, local authority and crime and disorder reduction partnership levels. Forces may collate these data at a ward level.

Full monthly crime and incident data at these reporting levels can be found on the Iquanta system at:

https://iquanta.net/

Crime statistics and the British crime survey results can be found at:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/statistics/statistics074.htm

The MPS and City of London Police do not collate information on drugs-related incidents.

Crime: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the levels of incidence of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* car crime, *(c)* robbery and *(d)* burglary in Tamworth constituency since 2006; and if she will make a statement. [220132]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences recorded in the Tamworth crime and disorder reduction partnership area and is given in the following table.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics in 2007. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person. In addition, a new offence group of 'offences against vehicles' has also been created. This group includes offences of theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Specific offences recorded by the police in Tamworth

	Violence against the person	*Offences against vehicles*[1]	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
2006-07	2,214	965	77	838
2007-08	1,798	900	64	791

[1] Includes offences of theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the level of *(a)* knife crime and *(b)* violent crime against the person in each (i) county and (ii) constituency in England and Wales. [220306]

Mr. Coaker: From April 2007, police forces have been providing the Home Office with aggregate data on serious violence (attempted murder, GBH and robbery) involving knives and sharp instruments. These offences are centrally available at police force area and region level rather than County or Constituency level, and are given in Table (A) placed in the House Library.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument', as at 12 November 2007. Table (B) shows the number of such offences recorded by police force area and region in England and Wales in 2006-07 placed in the House Library.

Violent crime offences by police force area and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in tables (C) and (D) respectively placed in the House Library.

Crimes of Violence: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were committed in central Halifax in the last period for which figures are available. [220049]

Mr. Coaker: In response to the two reviews of crime statistics in 2007, the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with recorded crime statistics and figures for violence against the person are now provided.

Recorded crime statistics are collected at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) level. Central Halifax comes within the Calderdale CDRP.

In 2007-08, there were 3,718 violence against the person offences recorded in the Calderdale CDRP. This represents a 5 per cent. fall compared with the previous year.

Criminal Records Bureau

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions the Criminal Records Bureau disclosed the personal history of one individual to another individual as a result of mistaken identity in each year since its inception; and how many complaints the Bureau has received as a result of such errors; [220700]

(2) how many applicants for Criminal Records Bureau checks were asked to supply fingerprint evidence to resolve cases of mistaken identity in each year since its inception; and what percentage of all checks this represented. [220836]

Meg Hillier: All the quality control procedures at the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are geared to achieving the highest levels of accuracy. In addition, the CRB carries out a post disclosure accuracy check that analyses all aspects of the disclosure application and its issue. This check was introduced in 2007 and is based on a statistical sample of disclosure applications and from that sample it can be ascertained that the accuracy rate for 2006-07 is 99.94 per cent. and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent.

Over the past 12 months the CRB have issued 3,457,424 disclosures and have used applicants' fingerprints 358 times to distinguish them from records held on the police national computer (PNC) to which they had originally been matched. Of these, 115 applicants were found to have been correctly matched to the record held on PNC. The number found to be incorrectly matched to a record on PNC following

fingerprints represents 0.007 per cent. of disclosures issued during the past 12 months.

No comparative data are available on either of these issues prior to the dates referred to.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau were completed within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 14, *(c)* 25 and *(d)* 60 days in each year since 2002, broken down by police force area; and how many checks were not completed within 60 days; [219040]

(2) how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced record checks were processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2002, broken down by police force area; [219166]

(3) how many certificates have been requested in respect of *(a)* people wishing to work in the voluntary sector, *(b)* unemployed people and *(c)* disabled people in each year since the Criminal Records Bureau's inception; how many certificates were requested in each year; and if she will make a statement; [219168]

(4) what the average waiting time was for a police check to be completed through the Criminal Records Bureau in the latest period for which figures are available; [219170]

(5) what assessment she has made of variations in police forces' performance in supplying information to the Criminal Records Bureau within 14 days; [219171]

(6) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks have been carried out in each year since 2000. [219179]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued over 16 million disclosures since inception and operates to a set of public service standards (PSS) which are to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure by police force area are not collated by the CRB.

Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any forces' performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

The CRB has been supporting those forces that have encountered problems in meeting their targets by a range of measures including the provision of additional resources, monitoring performance, providing demand forecasting data and assistance in introducing new IT initiatives.

The total number of standard and enhanced disclosures processed in each year since 2002 is shown in the following table.

CRB checks processed

Financial year	*Standard disclosures*	*Enhanced disclosures*	*Total*
2002-03	178,375	1,258,719	1,437,094
2003-04	285,130	1,999,558	2,284,688
2004-05	275,197	2,155,740	2,430,937
2005-06	313,368	2,456,897	2,770,265
2006-07	329,223	2,948,734	3,277,957
2007-08	294,592	3,028,659	3,323,251
2008-09[1]	96,751	808,933	905,684
Grand total	1,772,636	14,657,240	16,429,876

[1] April to June 2008

The CRB cannot provide figures broken down by police force area. This is because standard disclosures are processed without any requirement for the police forces to conduct checks and several different police forces may be required to conduct checks in order to produce one enhanced disclosure.

An internal service level agreement between the CRB and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has been in place since April 2006. This SLA has been agreed by ACPO on behalf of the 43 local police forces in England and Wales and the time taken by each force to complete their part of the enhanced disclosure process is measured against targets of 10 days, 14 days, 25 days and 60 days. By meeting these targets the police forces directly affect the CRB's ability to meet the public service standard for enhanced disclosures.

The following table illustrates the number of enhanced disclosure checks completed by each police force in 10 days, 14 days, 25 days, 60 days and over 60 days during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	2006-07					*2007-08*				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*
Avon and Somerset	43879	93111	108469	111271	0	85959	107420	120003	112050	0
Bedfordshire	47440	48129	48483	48547	0	47490	48409	48846	45003	0
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26103	27481	27747	25225	0
Cambridgeshire	25824	32216	49424	62271	0	18034	32199	43180	58902	0
Cheshire	8030	11564	43819	71017	0	10859	16482	40738	67775	504
City of London	1382	1723	2028	2169	0	2047	2134	2351	2625	0
Cleveland	15405	23703	35079	37483	0	14387	24944	33190	36899	0
Cumbria	6575	10040	14349	24828	4053	14791	23041	30447	29242	0
Derbyshire	18760	26516	35059	54099	4146	43581	53789	63989	61897	0
Devon and Cornwall	45797	68380	105171	117227	0	113909	121696	125271	119995	0
Disclosure Scotland	26815	28925	30249	31511	0	31037	33415	34974	34310	0
Dorset	46930	53506	54681	54946	0	47649	53169	56463	52599	0

	2006-07					2007-08				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*
Durham	7157	12375	31851	39869	0	35208	36662	39574	39102	0
Dyfed-Powys	33222	35083	35261	35404	0	39832	40549	40715	37400	0
Essex	61369	85999	102264	111256	0	49830	64662	84036	107281	0
Gloucester	13597	21993	31125	37304	0	14720	20887	29777	36795	0
Greater Manchester	68327	93987	126424	184819	0	45263	80962	136666	145946	26312
Gwent	8824	17202	24858	30437	593	26235	30862	34873	34912	0
Hampshire	78786	99644	120398	133172	0	131098	135087	142324	139304	0
Hertfordshire	33459	49524	81527	84445	0	76481	83461	86849	80105	0
Humberside	9273	24601	50376	58215	0	13588	23991	29055	46592	7898
Kent	59155	94174	111094	113222	0	30706	55483	99596	108555	0
Lancashire	33841	45900	87983	104249	0	105668	109634	111814	103871	0
Leicestershire	22446	32375	45558	58299	1459	42165	47216	53172	58054	3270
Lincolnshire	50830	56423	59698	67801	0	44892	51405	55102	62732	0
Merseyside	34190	68775	104184	111844	0	48159	62800	96784	106086	0
Metropolitan	286186	325447	393839	540931	19344	435609	504979	593919	570469	0
Norfolk	7505	12020	27460	55483	0	29751	35841	51891	54207	0
North Wales	806	2937	29325	50502	0	34766	42740	50801	51467	0
North Yorkshire	58458	60175	60765	60897	0	39593	56089	68958	66953	0
Northamptonshire	47859	50245	50876	51144	0	28066	41371	51600	48146	0
Northumbria	31168	60539	72251	84925	818	54475	67766	76426	84735	6552
Nottinghamshire	7412	14555	35382	64849	0	59897	68168	70312	65498	0
Police Service Northern Ireland	9459	9467	9469	9477	0	12188	12237	12370	11691	0
South Wales	19522	35793	54663	75119	0	63949	77581	80105	76668	0
South Yorkshire	6448	16914	59988	79445	0	32993	64689	82056	81453	0
Staffordshire	21235	31633	38614	60007	8301	26701	35020	60733	68841	175
Suffolk	31190	35802	40470	42171	1169	1911	9998	30110	42709	0
Surrey	30111	40229	64876	86852	0	41302	57331	79640	83233	0
Sussex	9635	19905	48482	109517	0	97642	109699	124141	116701	0
Thames Valley	12388	27922	103885	155692	0	126558	146380	168776	164802	0
Warwickshire	20285	27982	35431	36030	0	30029	34285	38144	35899	0
West Mercia	88213	89059	90072	90835	0	76808	85095	93350	90527	0
West Midlands	133738	155036	168954	183927	0	151815	158882	161488	169480	312
West Yorkshire	30124	65927	115026	149488	0	78169	110032	135273	141926	0
Wiltshire	27143	32615	40921	45995	0	39355	41974	47827	47249	0

The following table illustrates the percentage of checks completed by each police force in 10 days, 14 days, 25 days, 60 days and over 60 days during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Percentage

	2006-07					2007-08				
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*
Avon and Somerset	41	87	100	100	0	79	98	100	100	0
Bedfordshire	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	100	100	100	0
Cambridgeshire	43	54	83	100	0	30	54	72	100	0
Cheshire	11	17	63	100	0	15	22	55	99	1
City of London	66	82	96	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Cleveland	49	75	100	100	0	39	68	91	100	0
Cumbria	23	35	50	86	14	47	74	97	100	0
Derbyshire	32	46	60	93	7	66	81	97	100	0
Devon and Cornwall	42	63	97	100	0	99	100	100	100	0
Disclosure Scotland	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Dorset	88	100	100	100	0	86	96	100	100	0
Durham	19	32	83	100	0	87	90	97	100	0
Dyfed-Powys	99	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Essex	59	82	98	100	0	44	57	74	100	0
Gloucester	36	59	83	100	0	40	57	81	100	0
Greater Manchester	40	55	73	100	0	24	44	74	86	14
Gwent	28	55	80	98	2	77	91	100	100	0

	2006-07					2007-08				Percentage
Force name	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*	*10 days*	*14 days*	*25 days*	*60 days*	*Over 60 days*
Hampshire	61	78	94	100	0	94	97	100	100	0
Hertfordshire	44	65	100	100	0	93	100	100	100	0
Humberside	16	42	87	100	0	23	41	50	87	14
Kent	59	94	100	100	0	27	49	88	100	0
Lancashire	32	44	84	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
Leicestershire	38	54	76	98	2	64	72	81	96	5
Lincolnshire	75	83	88	100	0	67	77	82	100	0
Merseyside	37	74	100	100	0	44	58	89	100	0
Metropolitan	51	58	70	97	3	78	91	100	100	0
Norfolk	15	25	56	100	0	54	64	93	100	0
North Wales	2	6	62	100	0	65	80	95	100	0
North Yorkshire	100	100	100	100	0	64	90	100	100	0
Northamptonshire	100	100	100	100	0	59	87	100	100	0
Northumbria	36	71	84	99	1	55	69	77	93	7
Nottinghamshire	12	23	57	100	0	90	100	100	100	0
Police Service Northern Ireland	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	0
South Wales	28	51	79	100	0	79	96	100	100	0
South Yorkshire	9	23	83	100	0	42	81	100	100	0
Staffordshire	31	46	57	88	12	36	48	82	100	0
Suffolk	72	83	93	97	3	4	22	67	100	0
Surrey	37	50	80	100	0	49	68	95	100	0
Sussex	10	20	48	100	0	87	97	100	100	0
Thames Valley	8	18	67	100	0	74	85	99	100	0
Warwickshire	60	83	100	100	0	84	96	100	100	0
West Mercia	100	100	100	100	0	83	92	100	100	0
West Midlands	77	89	97	100	0	83	87	89	100	0
West Yorkshire	23	50	87	100	0	54	76	93	100	0
Wiltshire	70	84	100	100	0	85	91	100	100	0

The CRB has developed the capacity to process in excess of 300,000 checks every month. Approximately 20 per cent. of applications are from volunteers and disclosures for volunteers continue to be processed free of charge.

The number requested in respect of individuals wishing to work in the voluntary sector is shown in the following table.

Financial year record	*Disclosures received*	*Volunteers*	*Total non-volunteers*	*Volunteers*
2002-03	1,651,134	241,211	1,409,923	14.6
2003-04	2,358,627	429,096	1,929,531	18.2
2004-05	2,532,451	521,144	2,011,307	20.6
2005-06	2,860,296	587,479	2,272,817	20.5
2006-07	3,252,640	665,420	2,587,220	20.5
2007-08	3,408,595	682,258	2,726,337	20.0

The CRB does not capture data on whether applicants are unemployed or disabled.

Curfews: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in contravention of their curfew notices have been removed to their place of residence by *(a)* community support officers and *(b)* police officers under paragraph 4B of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 in each of the last four years, broken down by police authority area. [219156]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not collected in the form requested. Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 provides the police with two powers to disperse groups of two or more people and to return young people under 16 who are unsupervised in public places after 9 pm to their homes. 1,065 areas were designated for the exercise of these powers between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2006. Information on those removed to their place of residence for this period is not held. Information on numbers of designated areas and individuals removed to their place of residence for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 will be published shortly.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what purchasing process is used by her Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219955]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's Facilities Management partner, Ecovert FM, provides hospitality (including alcohol) for the Department's headquarters at 2 Marsham street. Similar arrangements are provided by approved suppliers at the other Home Office locations.

In exceptional circumstances, senior management are able to pay for an event and reclaim the cost from the Department.

The official purchase and provision of alcohol is recognised as being an extraordinary undertaking and

is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions her Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220824]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she has used the Queen's Flight in each of the last five years; and how much her Department spent on chartering aircraft in each of the last five years. [219185]

Mr. Byrne: Travel by Ministers makes clear that special flights may be authorised when a scheduled service is not available, or when it is essential to travel by air, but the requirements of official or parliamentary business or security considerations or urgency preclude the journey being made by a scheduled service. In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The list published in 1999 covers the period 2 May 1997 to 31 March 1999. Where RAF/Private Charter aircraft are used this is shown in the list. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

A chartered aircraft was used to travel to Blackpool in 2007. The cost of this was £4,770. The Queen's Flight has not been used for any other internal flights in the last five years.

Departmental Buildings

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department's centre in Waterside Court in Kirkstall, Leeds was first flooded; what *(a)* assessment she has made of the effects and *(b)* estimate she has made of the cost of repair; and if she will make a statement. [220766]

Mr. Byrne: Waterside Court was originally a water mill built over the River Aire in the 17th century and is a grade II listed building. The Home Office took up leased occupation of a refurbished Waterside Court on 19 May 2000 and flooding was first experienced on 30 October 2000. The estimated cost of damage to the Department was £300,000. In order to protect against subsequent flooding, a demountable flood protection barrier was installed in 2001 at an approximate cost of £120,000.

Departmental Complaints

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been received by her Department's complaints officer in each year since 1997. [220069]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The information is as follows:

Home Office HQ

The Home Office does not record complaints separately from day to day correspondence. All incoming correspondence, including any complaints, is scanned onto the Department's correspondence tracking system and is dealt with by the appropriate unit. Complaints are not identified as such on the system and no specific data are available.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

The CRB does not record complaints separately from day to day correspondence.

United Kingdom Border Agency

Data can be provided from 2000 for service delivery complaints and 2001 for misconduct complaints.

The number of complaints received from members of the public through the United Kingdom Border Agency's central complaints unit (the Customer Focus Team), broken down by category and year is as follows:

Misconduct complaints (relating to staff behaviour)

	Number
1 January 2001 to 31 March 2002	530
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	436
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	546
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	422
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	433
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	354
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	360

Service delivery complaints (relating to level of service)

	Number
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	2,747
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	3,943
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	3,402
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	11,788
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	13,008
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	13,618
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	12,594
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	13,585

The data do not include complaints which may have been received within correspondence managed through separate processes, for example letter from Members of Parliament.

Identity and Passport Service (IPS)

The information is not available save at disproportionate cost. IPS does not record all complaints centrally and it would be a major exercise to collate information from the seven regional offices as well as the 68 ION offices together with those escalated complaints that do come up to HQ.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has issued guidance to staff in her Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if she will make a statement. [208168]

Mr. Byrne: The Core Home Office Security Operating Procedures, (which all users are automatically directed to read every six months) contain an instruction to "shut down and power off" at the end of each working day.

Bi-weekly notices on UKBA Horizon include the same instruction and that printers should be switched off too.

A Home Office Global notice, issued on 23 November 2007, reminds staff about saving energy by switching off equipment at the end of each day, including PCs, copiers, printers, lights, heaters and coolers.

A Home Office Today (HOT) news story on 27 September 2007 gave examples of CO_2 savings that could be achieved by switching off various pieces of equipment.

On the Home Office Horizon site, there is a link dedicated to the Sustainable Development team, which advises on switching off, as well as promoting the Carbon Trust.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest pay rise among civil servants in her Department was in each of the last five years. [189137]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is as follows:

The following table details the average pay rise awarded to staff below the Senior Civil Service in Home Office Headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency, and the Criminal Records Bureau. The figures include changes to the value of the pay scales (revalorisation) and for some years, additional progression through pay ranges beyond standard performance related progression.

Part A

	Average percentage increase: Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency	*Average percentage increase: Criminal Records Bureau*
2003-04	1.25	n/a
2004-05	1.02	n/a
2005-06	1.02	1.25
2006-07	1.52	1.5
2007-08	1.02	1.52

Notes:

1. Figures for the Criminal Records Bureau are only available from 2005.

2 Information is not available for the Identity and Passport Service, as obtaining this information is possible only at disproportionate cost

3 Information is not available for the Prison Service, who were formally an agency of the Home Office prior to transferring to the Ministry of Justice on nine May 2007, as obtaining this information is possible only at disproportionate cost.

The average pay rises awarded to the Senior Civil Service were made in line with the recommendations of the Senior Salary Review Body (SSRB) which can be found at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=4.

The highest pay rises were awarded to the highest performing members of the Senior Civil Service (top 25 per cent.), in line with Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations and Cabinet Office guidance. The details of the highest pay rises are provided in the following table.

Part B

	Highest percentage increase
2003-04	9
2004-05	9
2005-06	9
2006-07	6
2007-08	3.5

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in her Department was in each month since May 2005. [199547]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is unable to provide the information requested from current available sources and commissioning reports would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff of her Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217415]

Mr. Byrne: 95 per cent. of senior civil service employees in the Home Office and her agencies did not receive the maximum bonus payable for the 2006-07 annual appraisal cycle.

Within Home Office headquarters and the UK Border Agency, 67 per cent. of employees below the SCS did not receive an end of year performance bonus, and 33 per cent. received a flat rate bonus of 2 per cent. in 2006-07.

IPS employees are eligible for end of year corporate bonuses, and grades 6 and 7 are eligible for change agent bonuses. It is not possible to provide information on the proportion of employees who received the maximum bonuses permissible without incurring disproportionate costs.

Information is not yet available for the appraisal year 2007-08.

Special bonuses are awarded for exceptional outstanding achievements by staff in particular demanding tasks or situations. It is not possible to provide information on the proportion of employees who received the maximum special bonus permissible without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220433]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department in line with other Government Departments requires payment to be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract usually within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services or of a valid undisputed invoice whichever is the later.

Agreement to requests for prompt payment terms of less than 30 days offer little to the Department unless tangible benefits in terms of discounted prices, better delivery times or service improvements are secured in return.

Where there is a tangible benefit to both the Home Department (e.g. discounted price) and the supplier (e.g. optimising their cashflow) a payment period of less than 30 days may be negotiated between the parties and incorporated into the terms and conditions of contract.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums her Department has held in each of the last two years; and what the (i) purpose, (ii) cost, (iii) private contractor and (iv) amount paid to the private contractor was in each case. [221355]

Mr. Byrne: Listening exercises and public forums were held on Citizenship, Immigration and Integration; "Tackling Drugs—Changing Lives"; Crime and Drugs Strategy; Counter Terrorism community visits; Drugs Consultation; Young People Consultation; and Schools Pack Conferences.

The purpose of these events was to gain public feedback to inform the Green Paper on "The Path to Citizenship"; to gain feedback for the next drug strategy; for Ministers to hear and learn from the concerns of community members they meet; to inform, support and mobilise stakeholders to deliver on new crime and drugs strategies; to listen to the views of young people on drug issues; and to disseminate Understanding Drugs pack and pupil booklet to educational practitioners responsible for delivery of school-based drug education lessons.

To gain the information on the costs, contractors, and amounts paid to private contractors for each event could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, as these data are not recorded separately on the Department's accounting systems.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list *(a)* the reviews and *(b)* public consultations initiated by her Department since 27 June 2007. [221375]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office undertakes a wide variety of reviews on various issues. Where necessary these would be available from the Home Office website (www.homeoffice.gov.uk) under the specific review subject area. As noted in response to the hon. Member's earlier question on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 948W, all public consultations that we have initiated can be found at the following Home Office websites:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken on average *(a)* by staff in her Department and *(b)* in the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years. [219047]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of days' sick leave taken on average by staff in Home Office headquarters and each of its agencies, including the Criminal Records Bureau, for the last five financial years.

Number of sick days taken by staff in the Home Office and CRB in the last five years

	Average number of working days lost				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Home Office HQ	6.1	6.3	5.2	5.4	6.74
UK Border Agency (UKBA)	n/a	n/a	9.92	10.23	11.2
Criminal Records Bureau	9.6	9.6	8.8	8.6	10.79
Identity and Passport Service	11.1	11.4	10.3	10.1	9.21

Notes:

1. Data for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been referenced from a previous PQ response on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 339-40W. UKBA have provided updated figures due to an error in the previous figures. Figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05for UKBA are not available as this information is not recorded centrally.
2. In 2006-07 the Home Office HQ included the following departments; Communities Group, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join the new Ministry of Justice, and Communities Group transferred to Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement. [216100]

Mr. Byrne: We are unable to provide the information requested from current available sources and commissioning reports would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of successful applicants for posts in her Department were subjected to a criminal records check in the latest period for which figures are available; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10

years; on what criteria an applicant for a post is required to undergo a criminal records check; and if she will make a statement. [219165]

Meg Hillier: The current position is that all staff recruited to posts within the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) are subject to criminal records checks as part of the National Security Vetting (NSV). Checks are not random. Vetting is reviewed at various times during service.

The following table shows the number of individuals subject to NSV. Machinery of government changes will have affected those to whom NSV applied over the last 10 years.

The figures also include renewal of security clearance; not all refusals of NSV will have been for reasons of criminality.

All figures include those HM Prison Service posts where the Home Office departmental security unit was required to complete the security clearance. HM Prison Service became an agency of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

1 April to 31 March each	*Granted NSV*[1]	*Refused NSV*[2]	*Total*
1998-99	10,708	240	10,948
1999-2000	12,829	303	13,132
2000-01	20,928	694	21,622
2001-02	26,079	767	26,846
2002-03	30,391	1,188	31,579
2003-04	27,237	2,251	29,488
2004-05	24,155	1,239	25,393
2005-06	26,592	1,305	27,897
2006-07	27,535	1,827	29,363
2007-08	21,151	1,018	22,169
Total	227,605	10,832	238,437

[1] Numbers include cases where a criminal record did not preclude granting of NSV.
[2] Numbers include applicants who withdrew or where a criminal record may have resulted in refusal.

Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the Prime Minister's Statement of 14 November 2007 on national security, how many of the 24 foreign nationals then subject to deportation proceedings on national security grounds *(a)* have been deported, *(b)* have not been deported following a decision by a court, *(c)* have been given the right to remain in the UK and *(d)* have cases which are outstanding. [206254]

Mr. Byrne: Since the Prime Minister's statement of 14 November 2007, of the 24 foreign nationals then subject to deportation proceedings on national security grounds:

Twelve are no longer the subject of deportation proceedings following the Court of Appeal's ruling on the test cases of two Libyan nationals. Of these 12, eight previously had the right to remain in the UK and continue to do so. All 12 of the cases are under review as to their future immigration status. Twelve others remain subject to ongoing deportation proceedings and are at various stages of the appeals process.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce domestic violence. [221337]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* We have a cross-Government national delivery plan which provides a strategic framework to address domestic violence.

The plan is a set of initiatives which includes the development of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs), establishing Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and rolling-out Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

We have recently increased the number of SDVCs to 98, provided funding to support IDVAs and are rolling out MARACs to achieve national coverage by 2010-11.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* physical and *(b)* verbal assaults on refuse operatives were recorded in each of the last five years. [220720]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics. While the Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences of wounding and assault without injury, no information is available on the employment status of the victim.

Driving Offences: Disqualification

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on whether disqualification from driving ordered by a court in a member state should apply in other member states. [220052]

Mr. Coaker: The United Kingdom is signatory to the 1998 convention on driving disqualifications, which was signed by the then 15 member states of the European Union. The provisions of the convention were brought into the law of Great Britain by the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003 and for Northern Ireland by a corresponding Order in Council. The convention is intended to ensure that a driver resident in one country and disqualified in another country for a motoring offence committed there, should not escape the consequences of that disqualification when he or she returns home. The convention will take effect when all 15 signatory states have ratified it. So far as we are aware, only Spain of the original signatories has done so. As yet, no member state of the European Union has put this convention into practical effect.

However, the convention provides that a member state may meanwhile declare formally to the European Union authorities that it will recognise the driving disqualifications of any other member state which has made the same declaration. On 26 June this year the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport agreed with his Irish and Northern Ireland colleagues that the United Kingdom and Ireland should aim to make parallel formal declarations to this effect as soon as practicable, with a view to instituting mutual recognition

of driving disqualifications between the United Kingdom and Ireland under the 1998 convention in the course of spring 2009.

I am not aware that any other Member State has plans to take a similar step in the near future.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to reduce levels of drug-related crime. [221336]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The new comprehensive 10-year drug strategy, Drugs: protecting families and communities and first three year action were published on 27 February. The strategy is focused on preventing the number of young people developing drug problems, targeting families at risk and intervening early through a whole family approach, protecting communities through robust enforcement by attacking drug supply at all levels and cutting drug-related crime and disorder.

Key actions to reduce drug-related crime include:

'Extending police powers to seize more of drug dealers' (and other criminals') assets, and further asset sharing agreements to allow seizure of assets sequestered overseas.

Continuing to present drug misusing offenders with tough choices to change their behaviour or face the consequences.

Managing offenders better at crucial times, such as on discharge into the community from prison, by reviewing and strengthening the links between prisons, local Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs)and probation services.

Responding to community concerns about drugs and through the Neighbourhood Policing approach, act on intelligence supplied and provide feedback to the community.

Drugs: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from *(a)* Leeds West and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District were (i) arrested and (ii) convicted of drug trafficking offences as a result of National Crime Squad operations in each of the last five years. [220710]

Mr. Coaker: The National Crime Squad did not retain information on where people arrested and/or convicted of drug trafficking offences were originally from. The Serious Organised Crime Agency, which was formed in April 2006, similarly does not collect this information.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of illegal drug consumption. [221335]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* In February, the Government published the new 10-year drug strategy, Drugs: protecting families and communities, which sets out the action that will be taken to address the harms caused by drug misuse and to reduce levels of drug consumption. This strategy builds on the successes of the previous drug strategy, focusing action where it will generate the greatest benefit and extending the reach and effectiveness of our interventions.

Since the introduction of the previous strategy in 1998, we have seen significant falls in the self-reported use of illegal drugs. Data from the British Crime Survey show that in 2007-08, compared to 1997, the proportion of respondents aged 16-59 reporting the use of any illegal drug in the year preceding the survey fell from 12.1 per cent. to 9.3 per cent., while the proportion reporting the use of class A drugs remained stable. The same data show us that, compared to the previous year, there have been significant reductions in the use of cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines and cannabis.

This pattern is repeated among young people. Data from the survey show that, among young people aged 16-24, class A drug use has fallen from 8.6 per cent. in 1997 to 6.8 per cent. in 2007-08, while the use of any illegal drug has fallen from 31.8 per cent. to 21.3 per cent. over the same period. Again, there have been falls in the use of individual drugs compared to the previous year, including cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines and cannabis.

The drug strategy takes a comprehensive approach to reducing the demand for, and consumption of, illegal drugs. This approach spans:

prevention activity through more effective drug education and information, and through early targeted interventions with the families and young people who are most at risk of developing problems; interventions through the criminal justice system where problematic drug misuse has led to offending, coupled with tough enforcement action to tackle the supply of illegal drugs;

effective treatment and support, to help people to overcome problems with drugs and to re-establish their lives; and

communications activity, to support parents in preventing drug use among their children, and to increase the confidence and resilience of communities.

Copies of the drug strategy were placed in the Library at the time of its publication and I refer my hon. Friend to the actions in the strategy which are being taken to reduce the use of illegal drugs.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of drug trafficking offences as a result of National Crime Squad operations in 2005-06. [219422]

Jacqui Smith: In 2005-06, the National Crime Squad reported 562 arrests in connection with the trafficking of Class A drugs. During the same period there were 309 convictions in connection with the trafficking of Class A drugs.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested on suspicion of and *(b)* convicted of drug trafficking offences as a result of operations by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [219479]

Jacqui Smith: In 2006-07, SOCA recorded that there were 601 arrests and 236 convictions in operations where drug trafficking offences was the primary threat.

Similarly in 2007-08 there were 774 arrests and 243 convictions in operations where drug trafficking was the primary threat.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* apprehended, *(b)* charged and *(c)* imprisoned for drug importation and dealing offences as a result of maritime operations carried out by (i) the UK Border Agency and (ii) other agencies involved in border patrols in each year since 1997. [220110]

Mr. Byrne: From April 2008, the UK Border Agency took on responsibility for maritime operations which had previously been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs and were formerly the responsibility of HM Customs and Excise.

Arrest, prosecution and sentencing results arising from maritime operations are not distinguished from those arising from other border operations. Therefore, the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost to the business.

UKBA Maritime assets work regularly in support of operations by both the police and SOCA in order to provide the earliest possible interdiction of importation attempts and suspected attempts.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the value of drugs seized in maritime operations by *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* other agencies involved in border patrols, expressed in 2008 prices, in each year since 1997. [220111]

Mr. Byrne: From April 2008, the UK Border Agency took on responsibility for maritime operations which had previously been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs and were formerly the responsibility of HM Customs and Excise.

Seizure results arising from maritime operations are not distinguished from those arising from other border operations. As a result of this, the information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost to the business.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many telephone calls made to emergency 999 telephone operators in which the caller wished to report a crime were not treated as an appropriate 999 call in *(a)* North Kent, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; [215715]

(2) how many telephone calls reporting crimes were made to *(a)* the 999 emergency number and *(b)* local police stations in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the average (i) cost and (ii) duration of such calls. [215716]

Mr. McNulty: The available data on 999 calls are given in the following table. The remainder of the information requested is not collected centrally.

Emergency call handling (provisional)[1] by force for 2006-07

	Local target time for answering calls (seconds)	Number of 999 calls received	Number of 999 calls answered within target
Avon and Somerset	10	281,336	241,038
Bedfordshire	15	97,357	91,611
Cambridgeshire	12	142,520	128,425
Cheshire	15	153,233	140,753
Cleveland	10	104,779	100,680
Cumbria	10	58,782	51,363
Derbyshire	10	159,633	150,555
Devon and Cornwall	10	268,763	229,554
Dorset	10	93,434	84,289
Durham	10	99,609	86,200
Dyfed-Powys	10	52,026	46,108
Essex	15	265,394	248,395
Gloucestershire	10	158,447	150,564
Greater Manchester	15	751,545	664,691
Gwent	10	109,401	91,656
Hampshire	10	290,987	256,908
Hertfordshire	10	168,388	156,607
Humberside	10	156,655	141,376
Kent	10	234,421	226,957
Lancashire	10	266,505	241,427
Leicestershire	15	151,539	134,660
Lincolnshire	10	88,478	84,875
London, City of[2]	15	1,106,053	904,245
Merseyside	10	374,864	342,795
Metropolitan police	15	2,278,003	1,852,490
Norfolk	10	104,119	93,656
Northamptonshire	10	117,115	107,929
Northumbria	15	264,349	245,006
North Wales	10	108,884	101,035
North Yorkshire	10	97,884	83,275
Nottinghamshire	10	264,571	233,873
South Wales	10	292,558	229,846
South Yorkshire	15	247,013	206,040
Staffordshire	10	168,324	147,867
Suffolk	10	100,351	94,763
Surrey	10	166,496	150,644
Sussex	10	272,173	261,162
Thames Valley	10	353,680	321,602
Warwickshire	15	86,996	71,797
West Mercia[3]	—	—	—
West Midlands	10	708,764	530,539
West Yorkshire	15	482,241	434,359
Wiltshire[4]	10	80,712	71,904

[1] Data collected on behalf of HMIC who use them for inspection purposes only. These data are provisional, and have not been validated with forces.
[2] Data are not available for City of London for quarters 2 to 3.
[3] Data are not available for West Mercia for quarters 1 to 4.
[4] Data are not available for Wiltshire for quarter 4.

Entry Clearances

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on entry clearances, on what date the applications for entry clearances submitted by applicants N214395 and N1102544 (CTS reference M13830/7) were first received by the Border and Immigration Agency; when the assigned case worker in the family casework team referred to in the answer began to deal with the case;

when work on the case was completed; when the substantive decision on the case was made; and if she will make a statement. [220845]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 July 2008]*: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 23 July 2008.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* student entry visas and *(b)* extensions to student visas were granted to non-EU students of each nationality in each year since 2001; and what proportion of applications for extensions to such visas were granted in respect of students of each nationality. [177397]

Mr. Byrne: The available figures on non-EEA students given leave to enter the United Kingdom and those granted an extension of leave to remain can be found in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The following table shows the proportion of applications for extension of leave to remain that were granted in respect of non-EEA students in 2006. Tables for previous years can be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain[1] in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2006[2]: Students

Number of decisions

Country of nationality	*Total decisions*	*of which: Grant of extension*	*Percentage of total*	*Refusal of extension*	*Percentage of total*
Albania	155	145	94.8	10	5.2
Algeria	200	195	98.0	5	2.0
Angola	165	160	95.8	5	4.2
Argentina	110	95	86.1	15	13.9
Australia	210	195	92.9	15	7.1
Bangladesh	4,525	4,400	97.2	125	2.8
Belarus	360	350	97.5	10	2.5
Bolivia	820	735	91.9	65	8.1
Botswana	190	150	80.9	35	19.1
Brazil	4,615	4,215	91.3	400	8.7
Bulgaria	190	170	91.0	15	9.0
Cameroon	570	545	95.1	30	4.9
Canada	335	320	95.5	15	4.5
Chile	110	105	92.8	10	7.2
China (Peoples Republic of)	25,105	24,695	98.4	410	7.6
Colombia	1,885	1,840	97.8	40	2.2
Ecuador	135	130	94.2	10	5.8
Egypt	165	160	97.6	5	2.4
Gambia	1,005	925	92.1	80	7.9
Georgia	540	520	96.3	20	3.7
Ghana	3,990	3,700	92.7	290	7.3
Grenada	110	90	81.3	20	18.8
Guinea	220	205	94.1	15	5.9
Guyana	105	95	90.7	10	9.3
Hong Kong	980	895	91.5	85	8.5
India	13,880	13,575	97.8	305	2.2
Indonesia	285	275	96.1	10	3.9
Iran	1,290	1,250	96.7	40	3.3
Israel	270	250	92.3	20	7.7
Ivory Coast (Cote D'Ivoire)	645	620	96.0	25	4.0
Jamaica	3,755	3,180	84.7	575	15.3
Japan	1,775	1,730	97.5	45	2.5
Jordan	260	250	95.8	10	4.2
Kazakhstan	130	125	98.4	0	1.6
Kenya	1,300	1,220	93.6	85	6.4
Korea (South)	3,300	3,215	97.4	85	2.6
Kyrgyzstan	190	175	93.7	10	6.3
Lebanon	175	170	95.5	10	4.5
Libya	1,230	1,185	96.5	45	3.5
Malawi	1,505	1,225	81.3	280	18.7
Malaysia	3,460	3,000	86.8	455	13.2
Mauritius	4,930	4,075	82.6	860	17.4
Mexico	420	395	93.1	30	6.9
Moldova	195	190	96.4	5	3.6
Mongolia	370	365	97.8	10	2.2
Myanmar	895	870	97.4	25	2.6

Decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain[1] in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2006[2]: Students

Number of decisions

Country of nationality	*Total decisions*	*of which: Grant of extension*	*Percentage of total*	*Refusal of extension*	*Percentage of total*
Namibia	890	750	84.3	140	15.7
Nepal	1,375	1,335	96.9	40	3.1
Nigeria	8,045	7,680	95.4	370	4.6
Pakistan	14,030	13,750	98.0	280	2.0
Peru	230	220	94.0	15	6.0
Philippines	315	280	88.6	35	11.4
Romania	170	155	90.6	15	9.4
Russia	1,220	1,200	98.3	20	1.7
Saudi Arabia	680	675	98.7	10	1.3
Sierra Leone	585	525	90.1	60	9.9
Singapore	165	155	94.5	10	5.5
South Africa	3,305	2,735	82.8	570	17.2
Sri Lanka	3,125	2,965	94.9	160	5.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	135	110	82.4	25	17.6
St. Lucia	265	230	87.8	30	12.2
Sudan	150	145	95.3	5	4.7
Syria	665	650	97.4	15	2.6
Taiwan	1,220	1,205	98.8	15	1.2
Tanzania	1,010	925	91.8	85	8.2
Thailand	1,855	1,825	98.3	30	1.7
Trinidad And Tobago	600	495	82.3	105	17.7
Turkey	2,600	2,545	98.0	50	2.0
Turkmenistan	315	300	96.2	10	3.8
Uganda	1,755	1,630	92.9	125	7.1
Ukraine	815	775	95.3	40	4.7
United States of America	755	720	95.1	35	4.9
Uzbekistan	1,100	1,080	98.2	20	1.8
Venezuela	400	360	90.3	40	9.7
Vietnam	480	470	98.3	10	1.7
Yemen	140	135	96.4	5	3.6
Zambia	695	620	89.0	75	11.0
Zimbabwe	3,445	2,890	83.9	555	16.1
Others[3]	2,415	2,220	92.0	190	8.0
All nationalities	142,115	134,240	94.5	7,875	5.5

[1] Excludes dependants of principal applicant and withdrawn applications.
[2] Provisional and subject to change.
[3] Those countries of nationality showing less than 100 decisions.
Note:
Data rounded to the nearest five, therefore the figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Ashford of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 638, from which colleges and universities the Borders and Immigration Agency and its predecessor requested details of *(a)* non-attendance by overseas students and *(b)* the number of students not attending; and how many students (i) had their visas revoked and (ii) were deported from the United Kingdom as a result in each year since 2004. [180678]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency requested attendance records from 153 colleges and 48 universities since limited mandatory reporting was introduced in April 2007. Information on the number of people who have had their visas revoked as a result of such inquiries and who were subsequently deported could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at a disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: English Language

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce a further English language requirement for *(a)* non-UK nationals who wish to become UK citizens and *(b)* work permit applicants seeking leave to enter the UK; and what level of proficiency will be required in any such requirements. [162680]

Mr. Byrne: We set out in the Green Paper: 'The Path to Citizenship; Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System' our proposals for migrants to earn citizenship, including the need to demonstrate a level of ability in English. We have also consulted on whether spouses seeking entry on marriage visas should demonstrate ability in English before coming to the UK. We will set out our response to these consultations shortly.

We published a statement of intent 'Skilled Workers under the Points Based System (Tier 2)' in May setting out our plans for skilled workers to demonstrate English.

Essex Police Authority

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other agencies have issued to Essex Police

Authority in each of the last 10 years; how her Department monitors compliance with that guidance; and if she will make a statement. [218333]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eurojust

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK contributed to the operation of Eurojust in each of the last five years. [219484]

Jacqui Smith: Eurojust is financed from the general budget of the European Union, except for the salaries and overseas expenses entitlements of the National Members, Deputy National Members and Assistants of each national desk, which are borne by their member states.

The breakdown of Government spending on the UK delegation over the last five years is as follows: £150,000 in 2004-05; £200,000 in 2005-06; £316,000 in 2006-07; £304,000 in 2007-08; and the estimate for 2008-09 is £308,000.

Family Intervention Projects

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have been *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently evicted from their homes under family intervention projects. [221382]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Evidence from a recently published evaluation shows the effectiveness of Family Intervention Projects in improving the lives of families involved in persistent antisocial behaviour. Families are usually facing eviction due to their antisocial behaviour when a project begins to work with them. One of the first tasks the projects undertake is to improve behaviour to stabilise a families' tenancy. The recent evaluation data show reductions in housing enforcement action, so in the majority of cases the project helps them stay in their home.

We do not collect data on the number of families evicted from their homes (either permanently or temporarily) while a Family Intervention Project works with them. We know from contact with the projects, however, that eviction happens very rarely. A small minority of families (5 per cent. were identified in the recent evaluation) disengage from the projects and it is possible in a small number of these cases the LA would proceed with an eviction. But these are families who were facing eviction before they became involved with the Family Intervention Project.

Foreign Workers: Care Homes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the level of illegal working by foreign nationals in care homes; what reports she has received on this subject; and what steps her Department has taken to deal with such illegal working. [198690]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) carries out regular enforcement operations in the care home sector and has been building an intelligence picture on illegal employment in care homes based on regional and national reports. UKBA records show that over the last two years the agency has made 120 intelligence led visits and arrested 112 suspected illegal immigrants.

The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

The agency is working with the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate, Criminal Records Bureau and Department of Health to develop an action plan that will enable us to provide additional support to those seeking help in ensuring they only employ those with a right to work and allow us to take effective targeted enforcement and prosecution activity whilst ensuring those in receipt of care are not placed at risk. Further details will be published in due course.

Forensic Science Service: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what area and population the Forensic Science Service laboratories at Chorley cover. [220588]

Meg Hillier: Forensic Science Service Ltd.'s ("FSS") Chorley laboratory is one of the FSS' regional operational facilities, contributing to the FSS' delivery of forensic science services to the police forces of England and Wales and other law enforcement authorities. The FSS does not hold any data relating to the general population statistics for the Chorley region.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding will be allocated to the Forensic Science Service laboratories in Chorley in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [220589]

Meg Hillier: The Forensic Science Service is now a Companies Act limited company. This is a managerial decision and the responsibility of the board of the company.

Genetics: Cross Border Co-operation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 998W, on genetics: cross border co-operation, how the estimated implementation cost of £31 million breaks down between budget headings. [219494]

Jacqui Smith: The Prüm Implementing Agreement and Technical Annex were formally adopted on 23 June under the Slovenian presidency. A high level meeting with stakeholders across Whitehall met on 4 July to discuss UK implementation of the Prüm Council Decision pending publication. One of the actions arising was the commissioning of a detailed scoping study to identify solutions which will help establish a breakdown of costs.

Genetics: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples on the DNA database are from children currently under the age of 18 years who have not been charged or cautioned with an offence. [198643]

Meg Hillier: Data on young persons aged under 18 were obtained from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) and the Police National Computer (PNC) on 9-10 April 2008. The NDNAD data indicate that, on 10 April 2008, there were 349,934 subject sample profiles relating to persons aged 10 to 17 on it. There are more profiles than individuals due to DNA samples being taken from some individuals on more than one occasion, that is, there is some duplicate sampling. It is estimated that the current rate of profile replication is about 13.3 per cent. Taking the replication rate into account, it is estimated that the 349,934 profiles are equivalent to 303,393 persons aged 10 to 17.

Data obtained from the PNC on 9-10 April indicate that, of those estimated 303,393 persons, 264,297 (87.1 per cent.) had a conviction, caution, reprimand or had received a final warning and 39,095 (12.8 per cent.) had not been convicted, cautioned, received a final warning/ reprimand and had no charge pending against them.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in each police force area have records on the national DNA database. [200243]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is given in the table. The figures show the number of subject sample profiles retained on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) at 31 March 2008, which were taken by police forces in England and Wales. The number of subject profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. It is currently estimated that 13.3 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion. The replication rate of 13.3 per cent. should, however, be applied only over the entire NDNAD, as the replication rate for individual police forces varies considerably. The table gives the number of subject profiles for each police force only, but gives a total estimated number of individuals for all English and Welsh police forces.

Force	*Subject profiles*
Avon and Somerset	101,352
Bedfordshire	45,460
British Transport	45,455
Cambridgeshire	53,796
Cheshire	79,569
City of London Police	23,013
Cleveland	51,618
Cumbria	44,632
Derbyshire	87,379
Devon and Cornwall	109,393
Dorset	49,817
Durham	52,359
Dyfed-Powys	49,410
Essex	124,403
Gloucestershire	44,061
Greater Manchester Police	244,975
Gwent	51,730
Hampshire	145,141
Hertfordshire	73,823
Humberside	82,241
Kent	140,840
Lancashire	141,859
Leicestershire	66,912
Lincolnshire	47,643
Merseyside	129,261
Metropolitan Police	810,134
Norfolk	65,261
North Wales	58,506
North Yorkshire	56,198
Northamptonshire	43,929
Northumbria	166,358
Nottinghamshire	97,853
South Wales Constabulary	116,821
South Yorkshire	117,769
Staffordshire	96,357
Suffolk	46,838
Surrey	60,274
Sussex	112,083
Thames Valley	147,630
Warwickshire	31,989
West Mercia	76,227
West Midlands	292,873
West Yorkshire	215,675
Wiltshire	49,310
Total	4,748,227
Estimated number of individuals	4,126,642

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of maintaining the national DNA database has been in each year since its inception; and what it is estimated to be in 2008-09. [202013]

Meg Hillier: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) was established in 1995, when responsibility for the operational management of the NDNAD rested with the Forensic Science Service (FSS) on behalf of the Police Service. No central records of costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD are held prior to 2002, as cost data were incorporated in other costs incurred by the FSS.

In December 2005, the FSS was vested as a Government owned company and the NDNAD transferred from the FSS to the Home Office. On 1 April 2007, the NDNAD transferred from the Home Office to the National Policing Improvement Agency.

The costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD from 2002-08 and the estimated cost for 2008-09 are given in the following tables. The costs from 2006-07 are higher than for previous years, because of the complete separation of costs from the FSS, and because the increase in the number of forensic suppliers requires additional resources for accreditation and continuous monitoring.

Table 1

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
NDNAD Services costs	774,304	904,385	1,276,823	1,245,151
Supplier Accreditation costs	320,507	388,047	433,828	459,192
Total	1,094,811	1,292,432	1,710,651	1,704,343

Table 2

£

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]
NDNAD Service delivery including delivery of IT Development projects	2,041,743	1,600,087	1,770,000
Custodian Accreditation	527,677	574,817	750,000
Total	2,569,420	2,174,904	2,520,000

[1] Estimate.

Hezbollah

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the proposed proscription of the military wing at Hezbollah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it, including the Hezbollah External Security Organisation, which elements proposed for proscription are not covered by the existing proscription; and what assessment she has carried out of the differences between the level of threat under *(a)* the existing and *(b)* the proposed proscriptions. [219388]

Jacqui Smith: The Hezbollah External Security Organisation, a unit of Hezbollah's military wing, was proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK in February 2001 because of its involvement in terrorism outside of Lebanon. No other part of Hezbollah was proscribed at that time.

We now have evidence that further parts of the military wing are directly concerned in terrorism, including providing support for Shia militant groups in Iraq who have been responsible for attacks both on Iraqi civilians and coalition forces, and for Palestinian rejectionist groups in the Occupied Palestinian Territories including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2008 therefore proscribes the entirety of Hezbollah's military wing in addition to the External Security Organisation.

Human Trafficking: Arrests

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality were arrested during Operation Pentameter II. [217972]

Mr. Coaker: The verification of the details of those arrested under Operation Pentameter 2 is being taken forward by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre as part of its analysis of the operation.

Hunting Act 2004

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training on the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004 the police receive. [220795]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Training given to police officers on the provisions of the Hunting Act is an operational matter for Chief Officers. The police have made it clear that they will enforce the hunting ban and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued guidance for police forces on the practical aspects of enforcing the Hunting Act in 2005. ACPO are currently doing further work to draw out and disseminate best practice on enforcement of the Hunting Act across the police service ahead of the start of the next hunting season.

Identity Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many consultation meetings the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Identity has held on identity cards in the last six months; whether *(a)* these meetings were open to the public and *(b)* minutes were taken; where these events took place; where future meetings are planned to take place; which organisations and individuals attended each meeting; what form and agenda the meetings took; and what the cost to the public purse has been of this exercise. [203921]

Meg Hillier: Over the past six months I have hosted 11 events throughout United Kingdom, including London, Wales and Scotland. These events were held with key stakeholders representing the public, private and third sectors. The meetings were not open to the general public.

The format includes a presentation about the National Identity Scheme and a question and answer session with the stakeholders. Stakeholders are then invited to comment on the consultation points in the plan on the day or in writing at a later point. Officials note key points made and will publish a summary report of feedback in the autumn of 2008.

In line with the Data Protection Act, I cannot share the names of organisations or the individuals who attended each event. With consent from stakeholders, we will list organisations and individuals who attended the event in the published response.

To date, the total cost is £32,750 which includes venues, audio visual equipment and refreshments.

The schedule of future consultation events has yet to be finalised.

Identity Cards: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the funding allocation to projects common to both the identity card and the passport elements of the identity card scheme rose from £63 million in the November 2007 cost report to £275 million in the May 2008 cost report; and what percentage of the cost of the identity card scheme is associated with the minimum necessary upgrade for introducing biometric passports. [219769]

Meg Hillier: The Cost Report has set out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those cost estimates specific to identity cards, and those cost estimates that are common to both. The cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an ID card.

The May 2008 Cost Report is based upon the roll-out and phasing of the 2008 Delivery Plan, whereas the November 2007 Cost Report is based upon the 2006 Strategic Action Plan. Therefore, the two reports are not directly comparable.

The estimated common costs are based upon a scale of operation that is delivering volumes of passports and identity cards. It would involve significant nugatory effort to define a split between these costs and it would be a largely theoretical exercise as current plans are for an integrated infrastructure. As such, it is not possible to identify the percentage of the cost of the identity card scheme that are associated with the minimum necessary upgrade for introducing biometric passports.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many identity cards she estimates will be issued to foreign nationals in the first 12 months after their introduction; [217375]

(2) how many identity cards she estimates will be issued to foreign nationals in the first 12 months of the scheme's operation, broken down by type of visa giving entry to the UK. [217809]

Jacqui Smith: We expect to issue around 50,000 cards from November 2008 to April 2009 but this depends on volumes applying within the selected categories. Volumes will rise rapidly thereafter and will depend on the speed of implementation and the nature of the immigration categories brought into the scheme.

The issuing of cards is not correlated with the types of visas issued; this is because foreign nationals may be granted leave to remain in another category to their grant of entry.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040, which constabularies have immigration crime partnerships; and what funding her Department has made available for them. [202572]

Mr. Byrne: The following constabularies have partnership agreements in place with UKBA (85 per cent.):

Strathclyde, Grampian, Lothian and Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Greater Manchester Police, Cheshire, Lancashire, Gwent, South Wales, Dyfed Powys, North Wales, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, West Mercia, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Metropolitan, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Thames Valley Hampshire.

It is intended that, by the end of 2008, all regions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have Immigration Crime Teams (ICT) in operation. It is also anticipated that Scottish police forces will also have a fully developed ICT in operation by the end of the year. UKBA has allocated £18 million to fund the partnership with the police service.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many on-the-spot fines have been imposed on employers using illegal immigrant labour since February. [199847]

Mr. Byrne: Since the introduction of the new legislation on 29 February 2008, the United Kingdom Border Agency had served 221 Notifications of Liability for a Civil Penalty on employers of illegal migrant workers. This figure represents all Notifications served as of 6 June 2008.

This information is derived from provisional local management information which may be subject to change.

Imitation Guns

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the availability and use of replica firearms. [221674]

Mr. Coaker: The Government recognise the importance of reducing the availability and use of replica firearms. That is why the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which came into force during 2007, banned the sale, importation and manufacture of realistic imitation firearms.

We set up the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) in September 2007 to tackle gangs in the four cities most affected by gun crime (Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester). A TGAP day of action on 17 November 2007 resulted in the seizure of over 1,000 imitation firearms. In addition, 10 real firearms were seized and 124 arrests made. We are building on the work of the TGAP and continue to work with partners to further reduce the supply of firearms.

Immigration

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times passenger queues at Heathrow Airport incoming immigration security checks have exceeded the designated maximum 10 minute waiting period in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [182042]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency recognises that it has a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public remains a priority.

There are arrangements in place at most ports to benchmark performance. Heathrow Airport is among those airports that are currently using a 45 minutes (non-EEA) and 25 minutes (EEA) queuing time as such a benchmark. This is the maximum wait time in which we aim to process passengers and in turn informs staff deployment as well as informing considerations on further investment.

We are clear that the averages are well within these benchmarks but we will continue to work on reducing the occasions where those figures are exceeded.

Queuing times at London Heathrow from August 2007 until 11 July 2008

Non-EEA	*Minutes/Percentage*
Average queue length	12 minutes
Per cent. over benchmark	2 per cent.—160 out of 6,658 measures
EEA	
Average queue length	5 minutes
Per cent. over benchmark	<1 per cent.—43 out of 5,977 measures

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations she has received on the proposed withdrawal of the patrial concession which allows non-UK citizens to stay and work here if a parent or grandparent was born in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [217110]

Mr. Byrne: We published the Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system' in February in which we asked for public views on whether the UK Ancestry route should be retained. We received 529 responses to this individual proposal.

The consultation period ended on 14 May and we published the Government's response document on 14 July. Having carefully considered this proposal we believe it is right to retain a route to citizenship based on UK Ancestry.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a decision to be made on the immigration status of Mr Rajwant Karr (Ref 1583563). [220123]

Mr. Byrne: A decision on Mr. Karr's application for an entry clearance was made on 6 June.

Our high commission in New Delhi, which had referred the application to the UK for advice, were informed the same day. The decision was resent to the high commission on 21 July when it was realised that it had not been received originally.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will liaise with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to ensure that data stored by higher education institutions is compliant with, and accessible by, those operating the UK Border Agency database on introduction of Tier 4 of the new immigration system. [218153]

Mr. Byrne: The points-based system (PBS) requires all sponsors, including higher education institutions, to keep accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive data on the migrants they are sponsoring. To help sponsors meet this requirement, UK Border Agency (UKBA) is committed to working with key stakeholders to develop suitable IT and data capture arrangements.

We will involve representative higher education institutions and others in the elaboration of our IT requirements with our chosen supplier. This will ensure that the sector's existing systems and the exchange of data will be compatible with those of the UKBA.

Immigration Controls: Business

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system by 30 June 2008. [218892]

Mr. Byrne: The number of businesses which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system is 210. This figure is rounded to the nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on immigration officers have occurred in the course of their duties in each year since 1997. [218890]

Mr. Byrne: The figures for the number of immigration officers who have been assaulted while on duty for the last five calendar years and 2008 are shown in the following table. The following data have been obtained from the UKBA Accident Reporting Database which records all accidents and other health and other safety related incidents.

	Physical assaults	*Verbal abuse*
2003	10	45
2004	19	112
2005	12	134
2006	8	82
2007	8	108
2008	20	18

Figures for 2003-07 have been provided previously in response to PQ 193127 which is given above but additionally includes figures from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers were assaulted while on duty in each of the last five years. [193127]

Mr. Byrne: The figures for the number of immigration officers who have been assaulted while on duty for the last five calendar years are shown in the following table. The data have been obtained from the BIA Accident Reporting Database which records all accidents and other health and other safety related incidents.

	Physical assaults	*Verbal abuse*
2003	10	45
2004	19	112
2005	12	134
2006	8	82
2007	8	108

Immigration: Detainees

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent, including on legal fees and compensation, in connection with the recent settlement of the case of the detainee who suffered a mental breakdown while at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre during 2005, the subject of previous correspondence with the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire. [213662]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 18 July 2008.

Immigration: Manpower

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for employing a person aged 16 years and above subject to immigration control contrary to sections (8) and (6) of the Asylum and Immigration Control in each quarter since 1 January 2002. [177371]

Mr. Byrne: The latest information on persons proceeded against and found guilty of offences under Immigration Acts in England and Wales in each year from 2003 to 2007 will be available from Table 6.7 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 publication on 21 August 2008; information for 2006 and 2007 will be provisional. Information relating to 2002 has been published in Table 7.5 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2002 publication.

Copies of the 2002 publication are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Copies of the 2007 publication will be available from 21 August 2008.

The UK Border Agency have implemented measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which provide a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduced a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which will carry a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures came into force on 29 February 2008.

Immigration: Skilled Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of migrants on the highly skilled migrant programme given the right to remain in the UK following the High Court decision of 8 April 2008; how many migrants were subject to the points requirements dealt with in that decision; how many of them had had their cases considered; how many failed the requirement; and if she will give a breakdown by nationality of *(a)* those subject to the requirement, *(b)* those whose cases have already been considered and *(c)* those who have failed. [201157]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* We estimate that the judgment will affect some 1,300 people.

Immigration: Tribunals

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many presenting officers for asylum and immigration tribunal cases were employed by her Department on 1st April 2008. [209078]

Mr. Byrne: On 1 April 2008 the Home Department employed the full-time equivalent of 271.5 presenting officers for Asylum and Immigration Tribunal cases.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Complaints

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which body handles complaints against the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [221380]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is an independent body. All complaints against the IPCC are initially managed internally. Any further complaint or challenge to a decision must be made through a court of law.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State will reply to the hon. Member for Spelthorne's letter of 13 May 2008, on the planning application to convert 203-211 London Road, Staines into an administration and interview centre for the UK Border Agency. [216818]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 23 July 2008.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 22 May 2008 from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, regarding Amadou Wuri Jallow, Home Office reference J1162190, acknowledgement reference B18399/8. [221671]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 July 2008.

Metropolitan Police: Forensic Science

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the future role of forensic medical examiners in the Metropolitan Police; and if she will make a statement. [219373]

Mr. McNulty: The future role of forensic medical examiners in the Metropolitan Police is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

National Identity Scheme Commissioner: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Office of the National Identity Scheme Commissioner will be in each of the first three years of its operation. [219767]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme Commissioner, a key independent role established under the Identity Cards Act 2006, will provide oversight of the operations of those parts of the scheme defined in the Act and will report at least annually on his or her findings.

The precise definition of the role of his or her office is still being finalised and, as a result, the budget has yet to be finalised.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the trends in the number of prosecutions for possession of child abuse images arising from *(a)* websites and *(b)* peer to peer networks. [218821]

Mr. Coaker: The number of prosecutions for possession of child abuse images does not indicate the method used to obtain those images.

However the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) have observed that in the past year the use of peer to peer networks by offenders to share and distribute images of child abuse has increased. Other more "traditional" methods of obtaining such images, including downloading from websites, are still continued to be used by offenders.

The Government are committed to the removal of all images containing child abuse images from the internet. We work closely with CEOP, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and industry in order to achieve this.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign offenders who received a community sentence were *(a)* deported and *(b)* subject to administrative removal in each of the last five years. [181847]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance of 15 January that, in most cases involving community sentences, the Agency would look to use administrative removal as the method of expulsion rather than deportation.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to assist local communities to reduce knife crime. [220627]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Government take the problem of knife crime seriously and we are using a variety of measures encompassing legislation, enforcement, education and prevention to address it.

The Home Secretary announced on 13 July tough measures to deal with those involved in knife crime through greater police enforcement, targeted action and earlier intervention and support for parents. These new measures complement the Government's launch of the new £100 million Youth Crime Action Plan. The clampdown on knives reflects a triple-track approach of tough enforcement, intensive support and better prevention.

The Tackling Knives Action Programme is a targeted approach to addressing knife crime in specific areas: Metropolitan Police Service, West Midlands police, Greater Manchester police, Merseyside police, Lancashire police, Essex police, West Yorkshire, Thames Valley police, Nottinghamshire police and South Wales police. The programme will build upon the Tackling Gangs Action Programme that helped deliver a 50 per cent. reduction in gun injuries in hotspot areas in four areas across the country. The Government have asked Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alf Hitchcock, the ACPO lead on knives, to take on the role of head of the Tackling Knives Action Programme alongside his existing role as Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

This programme will include youth forums to encourage young people to stay on the right track in the first place; knife referral projects to ensure that people convicted of carrying a knife are confronted with the dangers of carrying knives; support for parents who are concerned about their children carrying knives by encouraging them to call parenting organisations such as 'Parentline Plus' to receive confidential advice; encouraging local authorities to provide Safer School Partnership officers to any school that needs one; Trading Standards prioritising test purchasing for the underage sales of knives; working with the Department of Health and local health partners to see what more we can do on knife crime in hotspot areas and supporting licensing authorities to crack down heavily on any establishment that allows underage drinking.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* possessing a bladed article, *(b)* possessing an offensive weapon, *(c)* robbery involving the use of a knife, *(d)* wounding with intent involving the use of a knife, *(e)* causing grievous bodily harm involving the use of a knife, *(f)* attempted murder involving the use of a knife and *(g)* homicide involving use of a knife were committed per 100,000 people in each (i) London borough and (ii) police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [221204]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Information on *(a)* possessing a bladed article has not previously been available centrally. From April 2008, police forces have been using a new classification for possession of article with blade or point. Figures for 2008-09 are due to be published in July 2009. The *(b)* possession of offensive weapons can be recorded by the police in more than one offence category, so definitive figures cannot be given. Ministry of Justice collates figures for convictions of knife possession.

Statistics on certain serious violent offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected since April 2007. Figures are available for 2007-08. These offences include *(c)* robbery, *(d)* wounding with intent to do GBH, *(e)* wounding or inflicting GBH (i.e. without intent) and *(f)* attempted murder. These figures are at the police force area level.

Homicide data using a knife or sharp instrument are given in the following table. Figures are shown as per million population due to the low figures reported. The latest available figures are for 2006-07. Data for 2007-08 are scheduled for publication in January 2009.

Table 1: Sharp instrument offences per 100,000 population in each police force area for selected offences for 2007-08

Police force area	*Attempted murder*	*Wounding with intent to do GBH*	*Wounding or inflicting GBH*	*Robbery of personal property*
Avon and Somerset	0.19	5.45	1.73	14.61
Bedfordshire	0.68	11.34	2.37	33.69

Table 1: Sharp instrument offences per 100,000 population in each police force area for selected offences for 2007-08

Police force area	Attempted murder	Wounding with intent to do GBH	Wounding or inflicting GBH	Robbery of personal property
Cambridgeshire	0.40	2.79	2.13	6.11
Cheshire	0.10	6.40	2.60	6.50
Cleveland	0.72	13.62	3.05	10.03
Cumbria	0.40	4.03	7.05	2.02
Derbyshire	0.20	4.95	2.83	8.48
Devon and Cornwall	0.30	7.70	2.73	4.73
Dorset	0.00	2.85	1.57	1.85
Durham	0.33	8.83	1.33	2.83
Dyfed-Powys	0.60	6.16	6.16	1.19
Essex	0.36	5.33	0.60	9.22
Gloucestershire	0.17	2.59	0.69	8.81
Greater Manchester	0.78	23.49	12.33	38.61
Gwent	0.18	14.11	1.43	5.72
Hampshire	0.38	4.81	5.90	8.31
Hertfordshire	0.76	4.35	3.31	10.58
Humberside	0.22	6.08	3.76	16.24
Kent	0.61	5.75	1.96	9.05
Lancashire	0.55	9.52	3.17	8.83
Leicestershire	0.52	10.28	2.60	15.47
Lincolnshire	0.00	4.23	1.31	3.21
Merseyside	0.22	23.05	3.84	17.51
Metropolitan Police and City of London[1]	0.80	11.73	11.59	66.60
Norfolk	0.12	2.64	1.56	2.88
North Wales	0.15	8.29	3.70	3.85
North Yorkshire	0.13	2.68	0.51	3.57
Northamptonshire	0.45	12.40	1.49	15.09
Northumbria	0.07	10.02	4.58	7.23
Nottinghamshire	0.47	11.56	2.56	32.02
South Wales	0.00	27.14	3.75	14.43
South Yorkshire	0.46	8.59	3.33	13.61
Staffordshire	0.09	3.20	7.06	6.87
Suffolk	0.28	4.70	5.98	4.27
Surrey	0.55	2.30	1.66	3.32
Sussex	0.13	4.06	5.50	6.48
Thames Valley	0.42	2.92	1.39	8.33
Warwickshire	0.38	7.85	2.68	13.79
West Mercia	0.08	3.64	1.69	5.16
West Midlands	0.54	21.58	14.23	44.85
West Yorkshire	0.46	14.16	3.47	19.02
Wiltshire	0.94	6.77	2.68	8.18
England and Wales	0.43	9.77	5.18	21.46

[1] Metropolitan and City of London have been merged. The low resident population in the City of London means that per population rates are not useful for comparison purposes.

Table 2: Sharp instrument homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales: 1997-98—2006-07[1], per one million population

Police force area	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	2.0	3.4	3.4	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.3	2.0
Bedfordshire	5.5	3.6	1.8	3.6	12.4	1.8	1.8	7.0	5.2	5.1
Cambridgeshire	1.4	1.4	5.6	[2]—	1.4	2.8	7.0	1.4	2.7	2.7
Cheshire	3.1	3.1	[2]—	[2]—	3.0	2.0	5.1	3.0	7.0	3.0
Cleveland	1.8	1.8	5.4	9.0	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
Cumbria	6.1	2.0	10.1	6.1	2.0	4.1	2.0	2.0	[2]—	[2]—
Derbyshire	2.1	1.0	2.1	1.0	4.1	2.1	3.1	2.0	2.0	3.1
Devon and Cornwall	5.2	3.9	0.6	3.2	3.8	1.3	1.9	6.2	3.1	3.1
Dorset	1.5	1.5	1.4	4.3	[2]—	4.3	8.6	[2]—	[2]—	2.8
Durham	4.9	3.3	[2]—	1.6	3.3	5.1	[2]—	3.4	5.0	8.3
Dyfed-Powys	[2]—	4.2	[2]—	2.1	[2]—	6.1	[2]—	[2]—	4.0	2.0
Essex	0.7	3.3	5.9	1.2	6.1	4.3	3.1	[2]—	3.7	5.5
Gloucestershire	1.8	1.8	5.4	[2]—	5.3	5.3	3.5	3.5	[2]—	3.5
Greater Manchester	6.2	5.4	3.9	5.4	8.9	7.7	6.8	5.9	4.3	4.7
Gwent	[2]—	1.8	1.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	[2]—	7.2	1.8	3.6
Hampshire	0.6	1.7	2.8	2.2	3.9	5.1	1.7	3.9	2.2	3.9
Hertfordshire	2.3	1.1	5.7	3.8	2.9	3.9	3.9	4.8	2.9	5.7
Humberside	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.4	5.8	9.2	3.4	1.1	7.9
Kent	4.5	1.9	5.1	2.5	6.3	3.8	2.5	2.5	4.3	3.7
Lancashire	4.2	1.4	0.7	10.5	2.8	7.1	8.4	7.7	0.7	2.8
Leicestershire	1.1	1.1	[2]—	4.3	2.1	4.3	9.6	3.2	3.2	5.2
Lincolnshire	[2]—	1.6	3.2	[2]—	1.6	3.1	3.0	[2]—	[2]—	4.4
Merseyside	5.6	7.8	4.3	9.3	2.1	8.8	7.3	10.3	7.3	7.3
Metropolitan Police and City of London[1]	8.2	6.8	8.8	9.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.4	7.5	9.2
Norfolk	[2]—	6.4	2.5	5.0	1.2	[2]—	3.7	1.2	1.2	3.6
North Wales	3.0	[2]—	3.0	1.5	3.0	6.0	[2]—	7.5	3.0	1.5
North Yorkshire	1.4	[2]—	1.3	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	1.3	4.0	2.6	[2]—
Northamptonshire	3.3	3.3	1.6	4.8	4.8	7.9	1.6	[2]—	9.3	9.2
Northumbria	7.7	3.5	6.3	3.5	2.8	5.8	5.8	4.3	5.0	7.1
Nottinghamshire	2.9	5.8	4.8	3.9	5.8	3.0	5.9	5.8	6.8	6.7
South Wales	7.3	7.3	4.8	2.4	8.0	0.8	2.5	3.3	1.6	5.7
South Yorkshire	1.5	2.3	3.1	3.1	4.6	5.5	1.6	5.5	4.7	2.3
Staffordshire	3.8	3.8	1.9	[2]—	0.9	[2]—	2.9	2.9	1.9	4.7
Suffolk	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	4.4	2.9	[2]—	3.0	2.9	4.4	2.8

Table 2: Sharp instrument homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales: 1997-98—2006-07[1], per one million population

Police force area	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Surrey	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.9	3.8	2.8	[2]—
Sussex	2.7	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.9	6.0	2.0	6.0	2.6	1.3
Thames Valley	3.4	3.4	3.8	1.4	4.2	6.2	1.4	2.8	3.3	2.8
Warwickshire	[2]—	4.0	2.0	[2]—	2.0	4.0	3.9	5.8	1.9	9.4
West Mercia	2.7	2.7	0.9	2.6	4.4	1.7	4.3	2.6	[2]—	2.5
West Midlands	1.5	6.1	5.7	3.4	7.3	6.7	8.5	8.1	8.5	5.8
West Yorkshire	5.7	5.7	3.3	3.8	5.2	6.3	3.4	6.2	5.2	4.7
Wiltshire	3.4	[2]—	1.7	[2]—	4.9	3.3	3.2	4.8	1.6	1.6
England and Wales	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.9	4.1	4.9

[1] Homicides currently recorded by the police, as at 12 November 2007, excluding cases where all suspects were acquitted or convicted of lesser offences by that date. The England and Wales totals are as published by the Home Office in January 2008 in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006-07'. Figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. Figures for 2007-08 will be published in January 2009.

[2] No sharp instrument homicides for given year.

[3] Metropolitan and City of London have been merged. The low resident population in the City of London means that per population rates are not useful for comparison purposes.

Offensive Weapons: Amnesties

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been recovered in knife amnesty initiatives in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [219158]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect centrally information on knife amnesty initiatives led by local police forces.

A national knife amnesty, which ran from 24 May 2006 to 30 June 2006, encouraged people to dispose of knives and other weapons in secure bins at police stations throughout England and Wales. A total of 89,964 knives were handed over during the programme, according to figures compiled by forces in England and Wales. A table of returns from each force follows.

Knife amnesty—total items surrendered 24 May-30 June 2006

Force	Domestic	Non Dom	Weapons	Of interest	Total
Avon Somerset	1,510	634	129	69	2,342
Bedfordshire	503	172	45	42	762
Cambridgeshire	982	188	465	0	1,635
Cheshire	1,241	457	287	55	2,040
City of London	38	0	4	18	60
Cleveland	729	224	159	41	1,153
Cumbria	1,082	146	46	27	1,301
Derbyshire	2,257	91	623	24	2,995
Dorset	1,029	275	186	8	1,498
Durham	593	326	124	19	1,062
Dyfed Powys	470	188	121	14	793
Devon Cornwall	2,626	601	375	150	3,752
Essex	1,517	446	209	51	2,223
Gloucestershire	702	309	50	0	1,061
GMP	1,172	403	276	14	1,865
Gwent	1,263	419	187	67	1,936
Hampshire	3,209	841	529	57	4,636
Herts	1,659	493	20	22	2,194
Humberside	877	152	261	23	1,313
Kent	2,603	704	421	0	3,807
Lancashire	948	389	187	1	1,525
Leicestershire	950	158	62	0	1,170
Lincs	731	422	260	35	1,448
Merseyside	1,142	630	33	0	1,888
Met[1]	0	0	0	0	9,145
Norfolk[2]	(383)	(104)	(18)	(5)	1,723
North Wales	1,152	392	177	10	1,731
North Yorkshire	940	285	346	53	1,624
Northants	1,312	174	140	0	1,626
Northumbria	1,576	667	306	57	2,606
Nottinghamshire	1,086	419	127	17	1,649
South Wales	1,351	505	143	23	2,022
South Yorks	1,143	68	379	42	1,631
Staffordshire	1,200	524	222	64	2,010
Suffolk	975	298	171	0	1,444
Surrey	959	252	89	11	1,311
Sussex	2,479	936	253	89	3,757
Thames Valley	2,475	1,235	620	0	4,330
Warwickshire	494	179	147	36	856
West Mercia	1,523	440	164	0	2,127
West Midlands	1,979	298	510	451	3,238
West Yorkshire	851	332	175	17	1,375
Wiltshire	894	177	120	9	1,200
Total[3]	52,222	16,595	9,148	1,658	89,864

[1] MPS has supplied a total figure only.

[2] Breakdown figures for Norfolk relate to items surrendered in first week only.

[3] Breakdown figures do not equal final total due to footnote 2.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* persons and *(b)* persons aged under 18 years have been convicted of an offence of possessing an offensive weapon in the form of a knife or bladed instrument since 1 April 2007; and how many have (i) received a custodial sentence and (ii) received a custodial sentence of two years or more, broken down by region. [219638]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in autumn 2008.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have passed through search arches erected under Operation Blunt in each month since the scheme was initiated. [219385]

Mr. Coaker: To date no data are available on the numbers of people passing through such arches but monitoring of numbers, age and ethnicity is in place and data will be released at a later stage.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been found to be carrying a knife through the use of search arches under Operation Blunt in each month since the scheme became operational, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* gender and *(c)* ethnic background. [219386]

Mr. Coaker: These data are not currently available in relation to search arches.

Search arches have been deployed as part of search operations for a number of years in London. Since late 2006, this technology has been used more extensively as part of public place search operations, often in relation to the public transport system. From 13 May 2008, search operations involving the use of screening arches have been increased under Operation Blunt 2. To date no data are available about the numbers of people passing through such arches but monitoring of numbers, age and ethnicity is in place and data will be released at a later stage.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many search arches have been erected in *(a)* schools, *(b)* colleges, *(c)* shopping centres, *(d)* transport hubs and *(e)* other locations under Operation Blunt in each month since the scheme was initiated; and how many knives have been discovered at each search point. [219387]

Mr. Coaker: Search arches have been deployed on some 305 occasions in London since the commencement of Operation Blunt 2 on 13 May 2008. Further data relating to the precise location of deployment are not available.

Offensive Weapons: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife crimes were reported in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [219508]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences that are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence (attempted murder, GBH and robbery) involving knives and sharp instruments. North Yorkshire police recorded 66 such offences during 2007-08.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument', as at 12 November 2007. The number of such offences recorded by North Yorkshire police each year between 2002-03 and 2006-07 is given in the following table. Figures for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: North Yorkshire police, 2002-03 to 2006-07[3, 4]

Year offence initially recorded[3]	*Number*
2002-03	0
2003-04	1
2004-05	3
2005-06	2
2006-07	0

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Homicides involving any sharp instrument, including knives.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[4] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Offensive Weapons: Sales

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent representations she has received on the feasibility of restricting or controlling the sale of knives; and if she will make a statement; [221414]

(2) what plans her Department has for consultations on the restriction or control of the sale of knives; and if she will make a statement. [221437]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to working with and listening to the representations from the public, community groups and law enforcement partners to tackle knife crime. The Government have taken measures to restrict and control the sale of knives. In the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 the Government made it illegal to sell knives to anyone under 18, and in April 2006, following a public consultation on offensive weapons, samurai swords were added to the 18 items on the Offensive Weapons Order which it is illegal to sell, hire, manufacture or import.

The Government will continue to keep all legislation on the sale of knives under constant review.

Offensive Weapons: Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents involving a bladed weapon or firearm have been reported in schools in each of the last 10 years. [219567]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office is responsible for the recorded crime statistics which includes data on the number of knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences (since April 2007) and the numbers of firearms offences (excluding air weapons) since 1970. However, it is not possible to separately identify from these data whether an offence took place in a school.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons convicted of an offence of possessing a knife were dealt with by way of

(a) a discharge, *(b)* a fine, *(c)* a community sentence, *(d)* a custodial sentence, *(e)* a custodial sentence of six months or more and *(f)* a custodial sentence of 12 months or more in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) each quarter in the last three years for which figures are available. [216725]

Mr. Coaker: The figures requested are set out in the following table.

Persons sentenced[1] for possession of a knife[2] 1996-2006

	Discharged	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Total Sentenced*	*Custodial Sentence six months or more[3]*	*Custodial Sentence 12 months or more*
1997	992	1,181	759	9	375	44	3,360	34	17
1998	1,084	1,187	925	16	550	42	3,804	67	19
1999	958	1,032	970	7	536	61	3,564	48	11
2000	912	996	1,080	14	506	54	3,562	69	27
2001	1,030	1,164	1,509	8	592	61	4,364	82	24
2002	1,166	1,356	1,954	14	773	63	5,326	114	27
2003	1,237	1,289	2,033	16	761	63	5,399	136	46
2004	1,281	1,148	2,565	21	815	78	5,908	147	44
Quarter 1	324	313	580	5	208	19	1,449	44	15
Quarter 2	330	293	635	2	174	23	1,457	36	12
Quarter 3	327	285	625	7	206	17	1,467	31	10
Quarter 4	300	257	725	7	227	19	1,535	36	7
2005	1,050	953	2,832	113	970	84	6,002	136	35
Quarter 1	264	256	722	7	228	22	1,499	36	6
Quarter 2	261	237	714	15	256	24	1,507	39	16
Quarter 3	272	244	702	34	239	21	1,512	33	6
Quarter 4	253	216	694	57	247	17	1,484	28	7
2006	907	691	3,007	552	1,075	102	6,334	193	43
Quarter 1	286	220	751	90	275	23	1,645	54	9
Quarter 2	225	166	779	116	273	25	1,584	49	12
Quarter 3	198	150	754	175	289	22	1,588	51	11
Quarter 4	198	155	723	171	238	32	1,517	39	11

[1] Principal offence
[2] Possession of a knife in a public place, and possession of a knife in a school
[3] These figures include those persons sentenced for 12 months or more

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Oral answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2, on sentencing guidelines, what the evidential basis was for her statement that someone is now three times more likely to end up in custody for possession of a knife. [220637]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Figures show that in 1996, of 890 offenders sentenced for having an article with a blade or point in a public place, 56 received an immediate custodial sentence, comprising 6.3 per cent. In 2006, of 6,284 offenders sentenced, 1,070 received an immediate custodial sentence (17.0 per cent.): almost achieving a three-fold increase compared to 1996 figures.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she took of academic research into the effects of Scared Straight programmes in formulating her policy that young people at risk of involvement in knife crime should visit convicted offenders in prison; what research papers on the subject her Department has evaluated; and if she will make a statement. [219780]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Government announced on 13 July new measures to tackle knife crime. Anyone under 16 years old convicted of possessing, but not using a knife, can expect to receive a warning coupled with referral to a knife education scheme to help them understand the dangers and consequences of carrying knives, and to reduce the chances of re-offending. These schemes for young people will make them understand the full consequences of their actions and will include weapons awareness sessions which provide detailed information on the risks and consequences of carrying knives; it may also include discussions with healthcare professionals and victims' organisations and offenders so that young people understand the full impact of carrying a knife and where it may lead.

The Government are aware of research on the impact of programmes such as Scared Straight. We have made it clear that meetings with offenders form part of this wider programme.

The Government are aware of research evidence on such programmes. This is based on a systematic review published by the Campbell Collaboration, by A. Petrosino, C. Turpin-Petrosino and J. Buehler (2003): "Scared Straight" and other juvenile awareness programmes for preventing juvenile delinquency. However, no UK evaluations were included in the Review.

Office of Surveillance Commissioners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner has provided to local authorities on

publishing inspection reports of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner; [221256]

(2) if she will ensure that inspection reports of local authorities produced by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner are published online. [221257]

Mr. McNulty: Statutory responsibility for the oversight of covert surveillance lies with the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) which is independent of Government. The question of online or any other publishing of OSC inspection reports for individual public authorities is a matter for the chief surveillance commissioner. The Home Office has not issued any guidance on this matter.

Organised Crime: Eastern Europe

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of organised crime gangs from *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Romania and *(c)* Bulgaria operating in England and Wales; what estimate she has made of the volume of criminal activity related to such gangs; and if she will make a statement. [219419]

Jacqui Smith: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 197-98W, to the hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis).

Passports: Newport Gwent

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of Post Office deliveries have been diverted to other passport offices from the Newport office since January 2008. [220607]

Meg Hillier: As we do not hold that level of data on work transfers, we are unable to provide the percentage of Post Office deliveries that have been diverted to other passport offices from the Newport office.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport requests were received by mail at the Newport passport office *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years. [220609]

Meg Hillier: The postal intake for the Newport passport office (based on each of the financial years).

	Number
2007-08	913,067
2006-07	1,025,485
2005-06	1,140,169
2004-05	1,028,610
2003-04	1,053,958
2002-03	1,036,400

Personation

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to reduce the incidence of offences related to identity fraud. [221683]

Meg Hillier: We are involved in a variety of activity to reduce the incidence of offences related to identity fraud, including through collaboration with public and private sector organisations.

We have sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters. This has involved the establishment of a network of Single Points of Contact in all police forces and a range of Government Departments and agencies dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions.

Legislation has also been strengthened. Tougher criminal penalties have been introduced for driving licence and passport offences, alongside offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 to target those who possess and use false identity documents and genuine documents belonging to someone else.

More powers to share data to combat fraud have been enacted. Provisions in the Serious Crime Act 2007 allow for the targeted exchange of data between the public and private sector through an antifraud organisation to highlight potentially fraudulent applications for goods and services. Provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006 allow for the release of information on the recently deceased to the private sector to help prevent those identities from being used by criminals.

We have introduced systems to confirm the validity of UK passports presented to other organisations and interviews for first time passport applicants over 16 years old now take place to verify the identity of individuals.

A leaflet and a website—www.identitytheft.org.uk—help to increase public awareness of the problem. The material advises on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity fraud, warning signs to look out for, and what someone should do if they do fall victim.

We have signalled our commitment to tackle fraud with the allocation of £29 million in new money over three years to implement the recommendations of the Fraud Review. A new National Fraud Strategic Authority will drive forward a comprehensive strategy for tackling fraud, bringing together the Government, criminal justice practitioners, business and the public. The money will also fund a new national lead force role for the City of London police and a National Fraud Reporting Centre which will equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

Finally, our plans for a National Identity Scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly and with vastly improved security.

Photography: Regulation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to chief constables on the prior notification to the public of implementation of local restrictions on photography; and if she will make a statement. [220701]

Mr. McNulty: No. Police officers have the discretion to ask people not to take photographs for public safety or security reasons but the taking of photographs in a public place is not subject to any rules or statute.

Police Stations: Courts

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have virtual court facilities. [220765]

Mr. McNulty: There are no active virtual court facilities in police stations at present.

At the end of 2008 a project will start to provide virtual courts facilities to 15 pilot police custody units in central and south-east London. If successful, the project will be expanded.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces in England and Wales are expected to reach their 2008 targets for the number of police officers employed that are from an ethnic minority. [218142]

Mr. McNulty: Around 20 forces are expected to reach their 2009 local targets. A 2008 target has not been set for forces.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average percentage of applicants for the role of sergeant in police forces was from ethnic minority candidates in the latest period for which figures are available. [218146]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Applicants to the police service have to start as constables, and then officers achieve the grade of sergeant via promotion.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that police forces monitor the number of officers from ethnic minority backgrounds in their force. [218147]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, police forces are required to record data on the number of officers broken down by ethnicity. Numbers are published annually in the Home Office Statistical bulletin and Home Secretary's Race Equality Employment Targets Report.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records are kept by police forces in England and Wales on the *(a)* number, *(b)* distribution and *(c)* specialism of ethnic minority police officers; and what procedures are in place to ensure adequate records are kept. [218148]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, police forces record data on the number of officers broken down by ethnicity who are predominately involved in a particular function. These specialisms are based on the HMIC function list, which can be down loaded from:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/finance-and-business-planning/FLPdefinition.pdf

Procedures relating to the adequacy of record keeping are an operational matter for individual chief constables and police authorities.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the change in police numbers in each basic command unit over *(a)* the last year and *(b)* the last five years. [221124]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police officers in each basic command unit has been centrally collected since 2002-03, and the number of police community support officers has been centrally collected since 2006-07; and this information has been published in the supplementary tables of the annual "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" statistical bulletin.

Previous years supplementary tables are available online from the following links and are in the Library of the House.

31 March 2007

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307add_tab.xls

31 March 2006

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306add_tab.xls

31 March 2005

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1205add_tab.xls

31 March 2004

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb1304tabs.xls

31 March 2003

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb1103tabs.xls

Over the year to 31 March 2007 there was an increase of 369 in the total number of police officers, and over the five years to 31 March 2007 there was an increase of 9,383 officers.

Police: Young People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* police officers and *(b)* youth participation officers are trained in interacting with young people when on the beat. [219326]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows:

(a) All police officers undertake training as part of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme; this includes training relating to interacting appropriately with all members of the community, including young people, for example to establish rapport, and/or to manage conflict. Subsequently, their interactions with members of the public, and appropriate use of police actions, are assessed against National Occupational and Professional Standards.

(b) The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice have confirmed that some local authorities have established the post of youth participation officer to oversee the delivery of services for young people in their area. We would expect such professionals, or any other person appointed to work with young people, to have the appropriate range of skills for the post, including the ability to interact effectively with young people.

Ports: Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to police apprehending suspected illegal migrants outside of port areas. [220172]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) will respond to every police request where they encounter and arrest people who they have confirmed have been smuggled into the UK in lorries and take that person to immigration detention if appropriate. The UKBA have worked closely and in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers and have established immigration crime partnerships with 85 per cent. of constabularies in England and Wales with a target to increase this to 90 per cent. by 2008 and 100 per cent. by March 2009. The Government's plans, set out in "Enforcing the Deal" published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

Prisoner Escorts

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on liaison with court officials to ensure the presentation of defendants to court in due time. [220074]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Section 46 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 requires that a person who is detained at a police station and charged with an offence shall be brought before a magistrates' court in accordance with the requirements of that section of the Act. The person must be brought before the court as soon as practicable and no later than the first sitting after he is charged with an offence. If there is no sitting for the day on which the person is charged or the next day, the custody officer must inform the designated officer for a local justice area who shall arrange a sitting not later than the day next following the relevant day. Guidance for operational practitioners on how cases might be managed most effectively and efficiently from pre-charge through to conclusion is set out in the Criminal Case Management Framework issued by the Lord Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the letter from the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, of 18th February 2008, if she will break down the 250 sentence-expired foreign prisoners who have been detained under immigration powers for more than nine months by nationality; what the longest time spent by such a prisoner in detention is; how many sentence-expired foreign prisoners have been held in detention for more than nine months in each of the last 10 years; and what the average daily cost of holding such a prisoner in detention is. [193824]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* In her letter of 18 February, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee that there are approximately 250 foreign national prisoners from countries where difficulties with enforcing removal is encountered and have been detained under immigration powers beyond nine months. She also advised in this letter that the countries that are relevant in this respect were covered during her appearance before the Committee of 15 January, which are Jamaica, Nigeria, China and Vietnam.

She has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available however, as she has explained in her letters, information prior to April 2006 is not available due to issues with the quality of the management information that is held therefore we are only able to identify the longest period an individual has been detained for through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. The average cost to detain an individual within the UK Border Agency estate is £119 per night

Project Contest

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment the Government has made of the effectiveness of Project Contest. [219485]

Jacqui Smith: Contest is the United Kingdom's long-term strategy for countering international terrorism and the violent extremism that lies behind it. Building upon Contest, public service agreement (PSA) 26 aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism. To achieve this aim, the Government's specific objectives are to:

stop terrorist attacks;

where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact;

strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attack; and

stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Developing and delivering the strategy involves Government Departments, local authorities, the police and other emergency services, the security and intelligence agencies, voluntary organisations, the business sector and partners from across the world. Effectiveness of the strategy is assessed against key outcomes, supported by performance indicators, included in the PSA delivery agreement on countering terrorism. A summary of the PSA was published in October 2007[1]. Progress in delivering the PSA will be reported directly to the Prime Minister on a bi-annual basis and, so far as it is possible and consistent with national security, scrutiny arrangements for this PSA, including parliamentary scrutiny, will mirror those in place for other PSAs with progress reports made public during the CSR period.

[1] http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B/9/pbr_csr07_psa26.pdf

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the reports produced for the review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [221258]

Mr. McNulty: A copy of the report—with redactions to protect operational techniques—was placed in the House Library on 20 June 2007.

Religious Hatred: Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of religiously-motivated violence against *(a)* Muslims, *(b)* Jews, *(c)* Christians, *(d)* Sikhs, *(e)* Buddhists and *(f)* Hindus were recorded in each year since 1997. [219849]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences for some specific categories of offence. However, it is not possible to determine (a) whether an offence was of a racial or religious nature or (b) the religion of the victim.

Revenue and Customs: Shipping

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of ships arriving in the UK were searched by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Immigration Service in each of the last five years. [218896]

Mr. Byrne: The number of ships searched in UK ports by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) specialist search teams in each of the last three years is as follows:

Year ending 31 March:	*Number*
2006	333
2007	385
2008	505

Security Industry Authority

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* public accountability, *(b)* transparency, *(c)* competence and *(d)* compliance with statutory obligations of the Security Industry Authority; and if she will make a statement. [219461]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Home Office works closely with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to ensure that it meets its statutory and other obligations, including those relating to public accountability and transparency, and that it is fully competent to meet its aims and objectives.

The SIA's corporate and business plan is available on its website, as are the minutes of its board meetings. The SIA's annual report and accounts for 2007-08 were published on 28 July 2008.

I am aware that in recent months the SIA's customers have experienced regrettable delays in service following the introduction of a new processing system. The problems have been communicated by the SIA to its partners and stakeholders. It has also apologised for the delays which have occurred, and put in place a comprehensive recovery plan which has resulted in service levels reducing close to the SIA's published standards.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers the Serious and Organised Crime Agency employs. [219426]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA has three full-time and one part-time External Communications Officers, as well as a full-time Head of External Communication. The officers' remit is not limited to media relations, but also encompasses internet and stakeholder communication.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police support staff have been reassigned to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency since its creation, broken down by the (i) region and (ii) organisation of origin. [219427]

Jacqui Smith: Since the formation of SOCA in April 2006 no police officer or member of police staff has been reassigned to SOCA. Any person joining SOCA from a police force after 1 April 2006 will have been appointed following a normal recruitment process.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Resignations

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff resigned from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each quarter since its inception. [219431]

Jacqui Smith: The pattern of resignations of permanent SOCA staff over the eight quarters since the inception of SOCA is as follows:

	Number
Q1	7
Q2	10
Q3	28
Q4	30
Q5	36
Q6	46
Q7	29
Q8	45

The total loss of staff through resignations to date is 231 and represents less than 5.7 per cent. of SOCA's staffing complement at its commencement of operations.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual assault referral centres there are in each criminal justice area. [220908]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* There are currently 19 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England and Wales. In addition, there is one SARC that is solely dedicated to children. A table showing the breakdown of SARCs by police force area is as follows.

SARCs by police area

SARC	*Police area*
Helen Britton House, Cleveland	Cleveland Police
Millfield House, Derbyshire	Derbyshire Constabulary
Meadowfield Suite, Durham	Durham Constabulary
Elm Tree House, Dyfed Powys	Dyfed Powys Police
St. Mary's SARC, Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Police
Laburnum House, Gwent	Gwent Police
The Treetops Centre, Portsmouth	Hampshire Constabulary
The Renton Clinic, Dartford	Kent Constabulary
The SAFE Centre, Preston	Lancashire Constabulary
Juniper Lodge, Leicester	Leicestershire Constabulary
Haven Paddington, London	Metropolitan Police Service
Haven Camberwell, London	Metropolitan Police Service
Haven Whitechapel, London	Metropolitan Police Service
REACH Rhona Cross Centre, Newcastle	Northumbria Police
REACH Ellis Fraser Centre, Sunderland	Northumbria Police
The Topaz Centre, Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Police
Willow House, Merthyr Tydfil	South Wales Police
Sheffield Children's SARC, Sheffield	South Yorkshire Police
Rowan Centre, Walsall	West Midlands Police
New Swindon Sanctuary, Swindon	Wiltshire Constabulary

Street Pastors Project

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the operation of the Street Pastor's project; how many schemes are operating; what assessment she has made of their effectiveness; what support from the public purse is provided; and what plans there are for future funding. [221514]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The Street Pastors is an interdenominational church initiative which engages with people on the street to listen to their concerns and offer support. They now operate in more than 60 locations around the UK including London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Nottingham and Plymouth. More information about the organisation and their work can be found on their website:

http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/Home/tabid/255/Default.aspx

From feedback and case studies, there is anecdotal evidence that the Street Pastors have made a significant impact on the lives of young people in urban areas. As part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP), the Home Office provided a one-off grant of £120,000 in 2007-08 to support the expansion of the organisation's activities in the TGAP areas.

The provision of Home Office grant funding for third sector organisations is currently under review.

Strip Clubs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, on strip clubs, when the Government plans to make a statement on the outcome of its examination of measures necessary to support local communities in controlling lapdancing establishments. [215373]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The Government are consulting with local authorities on any concerns they have which they feel cannot be addressed by existing controls, including the Licensing Act 2003, and whether we need to do more to protect local communities. We recognise that people do not necessarily want lap dancing establishments in their neighbourhoods and we want to ensure local authorities have the powers to reflect the views of local people when considering applications and monitoring existing licenses. We will consider, for example, whether lap dancing clubs should fall under the category of Sex Encounter Establishments under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and legislate if there is a need to do so.

Telephone Contact Centres

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer questions 166551 and 166552 on telephone contact centres, tabled by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne on 15 November 2007. [190778]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1335-38W.

Terrorism

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many points of the Government's August 2005 counter-terrorism plan have been implemented. [219486]

Jacqui Smith: The 12 point plan was announced by the then Prime Minister on 5 August 2005 following the London bombings on 7 July that year. Significant progress has been made on the plan. Of the 12 points, 10 have been actioned and the consultation has been completed on two. All counter-terrorism work has now been subsumed into the United Kingdom's long-term strategy for countering terrorism (the CONTEST strategy).

Terrorism: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of terrorist offences in each of the last five years, broken down by offence. [219436]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Co-ordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged and convicted under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but following a terrorist investigation. Once this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published.

This will include a greater breakdown of charges and convictions into offence categories by year.

Statistics compiled from police records are available on the Home Office website from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

These detail arrests under this Act and under other legislation where the investigation is considered terrorist related and the outcomes to those arrests, including convictions.

For this period, there were 41 Terrorism Act convictions. There were also 183 convictions under other legislation.

In addition to the aforementioned, statistics on the number of convictions in significant terrorist cases are collated for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty. So far in 2008, 33 people have been convicted in 10 significant terrorist cases. Of these 33, 12 individuals pleaded guilty.

Figures are compiled from police records and are subject to change as cases go through the system.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many major terrorist plots were disrupted in each of the last five years. [219448]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* We are unable to provide a breakdown of terrorist operations for each year.

There have been 17 plots since 2000, 12 of which were disrupted.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 387W, on terrorism, how many of those detained were held for *(a)* fewer than seven days after arrest, *(b)* between eight and 14 days, *(c)* between 15 and 21 days and *(d)* between 22 and 28 days before charge or release. [219412]

Jacqui Smith: Of the six men arrested in the London/Glasgow incident, detention length before release or charge was:

(a) one individual fewer then seven days who was charged;

(b) four individuals between eight and 14 days, one was charged and three were released without charge;

(c) one individual between 15 and 21 days who was charged;

(d) 0 individuals between 22 and 28 days.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many authorisations have been made to stop and search individuals taking photographs under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year for which figures are available. [219353]

Jacqui Smith: Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 permits the authorisation of stop and search powers within a specialised area or place for the purpose of preventing terrorism. The authorisation does not restrict the power to any single identified behaviour; therefore I am unable to give you a figure for the number of people who have been stopped and searched for taking photos.

Theft: Metals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidences of theft of metal have been recorded in each police constabulary area in each of the last 12 months; how many successful prosecutions have been brought as a result; and what penalty was imposed in each case. [220390]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. In terms of the police recorded crime statistic, it is not possible to identify the number of thefts where metal was stolen. Such offences are recorded in the 'Other theft' classification and cannot be separately identified from other items stolen. The same applies to the court proceedings data collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effect of trends in global scrap metal prices on trends in the levels of *(a)* opportunistic and *(b)* organised theft of metals from (i) public and (ii) private property. [220640]

Mr. Coaker: We are supporting the Association of Chief Police Officers led Scrap Metal Theft working group to address the problem of metal theft and will be working closely with all stakeholders and Government Departments to establish effective responses to the problem.

The ACPO working group have produced a problem profile which identified various levels of criminality from low level offenders to some evidence of organised crime groups starting to venture into metal theft. The police analysis shows increased criminal activity at low and organised ends are driven by increased price of scrap metal. The problem profile was used as the basis for the development of the working group's strategy to address the issue.

Regardless of the level of criminality it is clear that the consequences of metal theft can be significant for local communities, businesses and the national infrastructure.

UK Border Agency: Conferences

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessor agencies have spent on conferences in each year since 1997. [218891]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows:

	£
2004-05	1,050,876.18
2005-06	3,075,721.94
2006-07	1,899,276.80
2007-08	1,431,719.69
2008-09[1]	374,201.13

[1] Three months April to June.

Figures for conference spend for years prior to 2004 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost as they are not held on the current Home Office accounting system.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget for and *(b)* expenditure on maritime border patrols and operations was by (i) the UK Border Agency and (ii) other agencies involved in border patrol in each year since 1997. [220115]

Mr. Byrne: The following table provides details of expenditure relating to these operations, for the financial years 2002-03 through to 2007-08. These costs include: staffing; travel and subsistence; vessel service and maintenance; running costs and depreciation. This information has been taken from management information reports from both HMRC and HMCE finance ledgers.

	£ million
2002-03	10.2
2003-04	9.0
2004-05	9.7
2005-06	10.3
2006-07	10.6
2007-08	12.2

UK Border Agency: Patrol Craft

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many operational hours were undertaken by boats and other marine craft operated by *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* other agencies engaged in border patrol in each year since 1997. [220116]

Mr. Byrne: From April 2008, the UK Border Agency took on responsibility for vessels which had previously been operated by HM Revenue and Customs and were formerly the responsibility of HM Customs and Excise.

UKBA estimate that from 2001 to 2008 these vessels undertook a total of 21,900 operational hours per year.

Due to fluctuations in the number of vessels in operation, and operating patterns, we do not have a record of operational hours undertaken before this date.

UK Border Agency: Powers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many frontline officers serving in the UK Border Agency had been granted both immigration and customs powers by 30 June 2008. [218886]

Mr. Byrne: When the creation of the UK Border Agency was reported to the House on 3 April 2008, it was announced that by the summer we expected over 1,000 front-line staff to have cross conferred customs and immigration powers.

The UK Border Agency expected to exceed the 1,000 target by the end of June and I am pleased to confirm that is the case. As of 30 June, cross conferrals have enabled in excess of 1,020 UK Border Agency front-line officers to exercise both immigration and customs powers at the UK border.

UK Border Agency: Southampton

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department spent on the visit of the Minister of State for Immigration and the media to UK Border Agency operations off the coast of Southampton in the week commencing 7 July 2008; and from which budget this expenditure was met; [220112]

(2) what the purpose was of the border operations off the coast of Southampton in the week commencing 7 July 2008. [220113]

Mr. Byrne: As Borders and Immigration Minister I spend as much time as possible listening to front line staff about reform to the UK Border Agency.

On 8 July 2008, I visited the Maritime Forces in Southampton to listen and learn from UKBA officers in a routine patrol of a cutter. I met with UK Border Agency staff to discuss their local operations as part of the UK Border Agency's new combined force at the border. Four representatives from the media were present to capture and provide information to the public on the UK Border Agency's activity at the border.

The costs to the Home Office were negligible, comprising travel and subsistence for myself and three officials as well as light refreshments which were provided for myself and members of the press.

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the differences between basic and enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks are; and what guidance she issues to public authorities on which type of check should be commissioned. [219178]

Meg Hillier: A basic disclosure is the lowest level of disclosure. This would contain details of convictions considered to be unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974 or state that there are no such convictions. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not currently provide a basic check.

There are two levels of disclosures currently available from the CRB, known as standard and enhanced. The two checks are available in circumstances where an employer is entitled to ask exempted questions under the ROA. This includes any organisation whose staff or volunteers work with children or vulnerable adults.

Standard disclosures are available to anyone working with children or vulnerable adults, as well as certain other occupations and entry into professions as specified in the ROA. They show spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer. If the post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, the following may also be searched:

Protection of Children Act (POCA) List.

Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) List.

Information that is held under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (formerly known as List 99).

Enhanced disclosures are available to anyone involved in regularly caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children or vulnerable adults. They are also available for certain licensing purposes and judicial appointments. Enhanced disclosures contain the same information as the standard disclosure with the addition of any relevant information held by local police forces and disclosed at their discretion.

It is ultimately for each employer and not the CRB to determine what level of check is required for specific employment positions. Such determination is based on their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements as set by their own regulatory authorities.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Questions 202448, 202449, 202450 and 202451, tabled on 24 April 2008, and Questions 202758, 202759, 202760 and 202763, tabled on 25 April 2008, on the national identity register. [208107]

Meg Hillier: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Security, Counter Terrorism, Crime and Policing replied to Question 202449 on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W.

I replied to the hon. Member as follows: Questions 202759-60 on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W, Question 202763 on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, Question 202451 on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 444W, Question 202450 on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 912W, and Questions 202448 and 202758 on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1768-9W.

Young Offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by juvenile offenders in each year since 1997. [219054]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Young Offenders: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to paragraph 20 of the Youth Crime Action Plan 2008, what meetings have been planned to date with the Welsh Assembly Government to take forward the plan in Wales where appropriate; and whether additional resources will be committed to implementing the action plan in Wales. [220444]

Mr. Coaker: Officials in the three Departments leading on the Youth Crime Action Plan worked with their counterparts in the Welsh Assembly Government to develop the content and proposals in the Action Plan as they apply to Wales. Discussions will be on-going as we consult on and implement the Action Plan. The Government have committed almost £100 million to the Action Plan's implementation over the next two and a half years, including, where appropriate, its implementation in Wales.

Immigration: Criminal Records

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances criminal records checks are carried out on *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals entering the UK. [215366]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his question, Immigration: Criminal Records of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1445W.

In relation to the circumstances in which criminal records checks are carried out, as my earlier answer stated, our policy is that the documents of all foreign nationals at ports of entry are checked against the Home Office Warnings Index.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many academy schools there are in England; [219890]

(2) which local education authority has the highest number of academy schools. [219891]

Jim Knight: There are currently 83 academies open in 49 local authorities with 50 opening in the 2008/09 school year. We plan to open up to a further 80 in 2009 and 100 in 2010 bringing the total to over 310 academies.

There are three local authorities where a total of nine academies are either open or are planned—Kent where there are seven academies open and two are in feasibility; Southwark where there are also seven academies open with one in the implementation stage and one in feasibility; and, Manchester where two academies are already open and a further seven at the feasibility stage.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of changes in levels of educational attainment resulting from the establishment of academy schools. [219892]

Jim Knight: We use a number of measures to assess the changes in educational attainment in academies.

In 2007, for the 36 academies with underperforming predecessor schools (i.e. not including former City Technology Colleges) the proportion of students gaining five or more GCSE at A*-Cs increased from 22 per cent. in 2001 to 43.7 per cent. in 2007 compared to a national increase of 12.2 points. Including English and Maths the increase is 11.2 percentage points from 14.0 per cent. to 25.2 per cent. compared to a national increase of 7.8 points.

Independent evaluations also recognise this trend. The National Audit Office report of 2007 found that GCSE performance is improving faster in academies than in other types of school. Taking account of students' personal circumstances and their prior attainment, academies' GCSE performance is substantially better, on average, than other schools. The 2007 PwC report also said that academies' progress in terms of student

achievement has generally exceeded corresponding Improvements at a national level and amongst similar schools.

Finally, Ofsted have now inspected 24 academies. One academy—Mossbourne—has been graded as outstanding in every single respect. In terms of their overall effectiveness, four have been graded as outstanding, seven good, with the remaining 13 graded as satisfactory. Key to the future success of the academies is their leadership and management. On this indicator, six academies have been graded outstanding, 17 good and one satisfactory. That means that 96 per cent. which have good or outstanding leadership, compared to 62 per cent. for secondary schools in general.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of academy schools on *(a)* the primary school sector in the relevant catchment area, *(b)* the local community and *(c)* the local economy. [219893]

Jim Knight: We have not made a formal assessment of the effects on local primary schools, local communities and local economies. However, there is anecdotal evidence that academies do have a positive effect in these areas.

Many academies work closely with their feeder primary schools to help raise standards. For example, one sponsor is currently working on a joint programme between two academies and partner primaries, with involvement from the local authority and national strategies. This will involve joint training for primary and academy teachers, targeted interventions for pupils not performing at the expected level in writing, and teachers from year six of the primary schools and year seven of the academies meeting to discuss pupils' progress and jointly agree targets for individual pupils. We are also supporting 15 academy projects that are all-through schools. In this way the academies will be able to make an impact at an earlier stage of their students' education.

The PWC Academies Evaluation of 2007 noted that

"Independence appears to have given principals, staff and governors far greater confidence to explore new avenues of funding and new partnerships within the wider community".

We also have good anecdotal evidence that academies engage with their communities. For example, the Capital City Academy in Brent allows local supplementary schools to use their facilities, their professional library staff have worked closely with their local library service to set up reading events, and they have become central hubs for local sports and arts partnerships. They were recently named the specialist school which had made the greatest positive impact on its local schools. An award supported by their local family of schools.

We would expect academies to have a positive effect on their local economy. A number of academies are sponsored by local employers, and their contribution, alongside the rising standards in academies should lead to a more skilled workforce in local communities.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for academy school status his Department is considering. [219898]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

151 Academy projects are currently at various stages of development. This includes:

78 projects in feasibility

36 projects in implementation; and

39 projects for which a statement of intent has been issued, and which are now working towards the feasibility stage.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of his Department's Academies Unit is *(a)* per pupil and *(b)* per year of operation. [220231]

Jim Knight: The budgeted cost of Academies Group in this financial year is £4.5 million. In addition to the 83 academies already open, the Academies Group is actively engaged with developing a large number of academy projects, all of which are at different stages of development. It is therefore not meaningful to calculate a per pupil figure.

Academies: Lancaster

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met Lancashire county council representatives to discuss academies in Lancaster. [220578]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has not had any meetings with Lancashire county council representatives to discuss academies in Lancaster since the department was created in June 2007.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what minimum criteria academy school sponsors must meet. [219897]

Jim Knight: Sponsors come from a wide range of backgrounds, including universities, educational foundations, businesses, individuals and faith communities. The suitability of sponsors and their ability to make a significant contribution to the academies programme is assessed during the process of brokering a project before an expression of interest is agreed by the Secretary of State.

The Department carries out rigorous checks to establish the suitability of individuals and organisations wishing to become sponsors of academies. These include checking their financial viability to supply the funds pledged as well as their general suitability.

Potential sponsors should be able to demonstrate:

transparency of business arrangements (both in the EU and overseas) and ability to account for funds (including donations from other parties);

evidence of a successful business background including evidence of consistent and sustained trading (where appropriate);

a long-term commitment to the UK education sector and the aims of the academies programme;

potential to run a successful school and to contribute towards raising standards;

ability to enhance the reputation of the academies programme;

ability to promote community cohesion; and

financial status commensurate with academy sponsorship and/or evidence of ability to raise the necessary funds where appropriate.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding is required from *(a)* private sector and *(b)* university partner sponsors of academy schools. [219899]

Jim Knight: Sponsors of the early academies were required to provide 10 per cent. of the capital costs of a new building, capped at a maximum of £2 million. These sponsorship funds were not payable "up-front", but over the lifetime of a building project.

In 2006, the endowment model of sponsorship was announced. All sponsors are now expected to establish an endowment fund.

A sponsor from the educational sector may bring value to an academy project through their reputation and expertise in the educational field, but have more restricted access to charitable funding. For this reason, sponsors with a successful track record of running educational institutions (including high performing schools and colleges, universities and sponsors of existing academies) are expected to establish an endowment fund, but are not required to commit any specific sum to the endowment.

Other sponsors joining the programme will, as the norm, establish an endowment fund worth £2 million, with a minimum of £500,000 payable in the first year. Payment of the endowment will normally be over five years.

The proceeds of the endowment are spent by the academy trust on measures to counteract the impact of deprivation on education in their local communities.

Arts: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve performing arts education in schools. [220600]

Jim Knight: There are now 494 specialist arts colleges. They are free to choose between the three broad areas of the arts, including the performing arts. They ensure that learning in the arts is marked by creative rigour and discipline, develop the skills of teachers and use new technologies to raise the quality of teaching and learning. They also work with other schools and the local community in sharing facilities and resources to develop learning opportunities in the arts, through partnerships with creative industries and arts institutions.

Last November we announced unprecedented funding of £332 million specifically for music to 2011—including £82 million per year direct to local authorities ring-fenced for music education. The work we are taking forward in music focuses on participation and performance. Building on this, in February 2008 we announced the "Find Your Talent" programme of 10 pathfinders that will trial ways of providing opportunities for children and young people to have a range of high quality arts and cultural experiences, including playing music or singing in ensembles and taking part in theatre and dance performances. We are also continuing to invest in the Creative Partnerships programme so that it can give more pupils the opportunity to develop creativity in learning by working with creative professionals and cultural organisations, including theatre companies, dance and recording studios and orchestras.

CAFCASS: Finance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will break down the £108.3 million CAFCASS budget for 2007-08 by category and sub-categories of expenditure. [220760]

Kevin Brennan: The total CAFCASS resource budget (including grant-in-aid) was £108.633 million and expenditure was £108.549 million. Information about expenditure by category is in the CAFCASS Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 (HC 692) a copy of which is available in the House Library.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Darlington constituency took up free nursery places in the most recent period for which figures are available. [219623]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Darlington parliamentary constituency area. Data is provided for 2007 only because parliamentary constituency data are not yet available for 2008.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds Darlington Parliamentary Constituency: Position at January 2007

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	maintained nursery and primary schools3	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total three year olds*	*maintained nursery and primary schools4*	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total four year olds*
2007	710	[5]330	1,000	930	[6]130	1,100

[1]. A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information for 2008 about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for Darlington local authority area

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds, Darlington Local Authority: Position at January 2008

	Three- year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total three year olds*	*maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total four year olds*
2008	810	[5]410	1,200	1,100	[6]140	1,200

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rspateway/.

Children: Homicide

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children died as a result of homicide in each English local authority area in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [220689]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Information held by the Home Office cannot be broken down to local authority area. Available data from the Homicide Index relates to offences currently recorded as homicide where the victim was aged under 16, as at 12 November 2007. Tables which have been placed in the Library show the number of such offences recorded by each police force area in England between 2002/03 and 2006/07. Full analysis of data for 2007/08 is not yet published.

Children: Public Participation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the TellUs3 survey cost. [220752]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Ofsted is responsible for the delivery of TellUs3. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has been working closely with them to support this important piece of work. Ofsted have advised us that it will cost them £139,500 to deliver TellUs3 with the set up costs for the survey having been met in delivery of TellUs2.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions his Department and its predecessors instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220818]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold centrally the specific information requested. The same was true of its recent predecessors, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Education and Employment.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214664]

Jim Knight: The Department has no agencies to report on.

The details of the buildings occupied by the Department's non-departmental public bodies where the lease is due for renewal in the next four years are given as follows.

Properties with lease renewals due before 30 June 2012

Occupier/address	*Date of expiry*
CAFCASS	
Brimington Road, Chesterfield	30 October 2008
Charter House, Ilford	24 December 2008
Edward House, Stockport	31 March 2009
Printing House Street, Birmingham	24 September 2009
87 Manchester Road, Rochdale	31 October 2009
Southway, Bedford	24 November 2009
Archway Tower, London	21 December 2009
Southgate, Chichester	1 February 2010
Gough Street, Wolverhampton	31 March 2010
Lathom Road, Southport	31 March 2010
Lesser Knowlethorpe	12 October 2010

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency

improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221085]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is committed to meet the requirements of all environmental legislation; and continually improve its environmental performance through the regular review of its management system. The Department's energy efficiency policy does not differentiate between *(a)* rented and *(b)* owned properties.

Changes to energy efficiency:

(i) Since 2002/03 a reduction in energy efficiency of 7.5 per cent.

(ii) Since[1] 1999/00 a reduction in energy efficiency of 8.2 per cent.

[1] Data is not available prior to this period.

Information on energy efficiency has been taken from the latest published "Sustainable Development in Government Return" and covers the years 1999/00 to 2006/07. The information from this return is for the Department's buildings as a whole and cannot be split into individual buildings. Only buildings carrying out central Government business are included within this return.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has adopted Sustainable Development in Government targets on energy efficiency and progress is monitored through the Department's environmental management system, encompassing current and any new *(a)* rented and *(b)* owned properties.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221579]

Jim Knight: It is not departmental practice to hire out rooms in its buildings.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217861]

Jim Knight: In October 2004 the Department for Education and Skills, now the Department for Children, Schools and Families introduced software with the capability to power off computer devices remotely. Since the above date, this software has been configured (and runs nightly) to detect which computer devices are left on at a predetermined time in the evening and turn these devices off.

To answer part *(a)* of the PQ: the number of computer devices left on overnight in the Department when not in use is 0.

To answer part *(b)* of the PQ: the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in the Department is 0.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215181]

Jim Knight: The Department of Children Schools and Families does not keep records centrally of conferences which were cancelled and therefore it is not possible to provide this information except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have taken early retirement since the Department was established. [217379]

Jim Knight: The Department was established as part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007. There have been 63 employees who have taken early retirement in the Department since it was formed.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215199]

Jim Knight: The cost to the Department for employing a press and media officer in 2007-08 was in the range of £30,042 to £34,938.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average age of users of the Build Your Own PlaySpace on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement. [217675]

Jim Knight: The Department developed the 'Build your PlaySpace' interactive tool to engage children and young people in the Fair Play consultation in a fun and interactive way. The tool is one strand of a wider consultation strategy that includes an activity poster/competition for children and young people, live events to encourage local dialogue with children, young people, their families and practitioners and written consultation. Responses from all of these strands will be analysed as a whole.

We recognised that, in order to engage most effectively with children and young people, it was important to offer them a choice of how to share their views on play with us, and to do so in a fresh and creative way. The tool has been designed specifically for children and young people between the ages of eight and 13, and the vast majority of the responses received thus far (approximately 75 per cent.) have been from within this age group, although we have deliberately not limited responses solely to this group.

The tool was launched on 20 May and it has been supported by a cross channel advertising campaign with young people, parents and school workforce channels carrying animated banners with links to the tool.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212036]

Beverley Hughes: The Department spent £36,295 on branding and £14,062,103 on marketing activity in 2007-08.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214667]

Beverley Hughes: It is not possible to identify the cost of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting and *(b)* print media design, except at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to separate the Department's spend on *(c)* broadcast media, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. The Department's advertising spend since 1997 is set out in the following table:

	£000
1997-98	9,992
1998-99	15,673
1999-2000	11,900
2000-01	29,110
2001-02	17,665
2002-03	13,790
2003-04	20,170
2004-05	11,088
2005-06	7,939
2006-07	6,265
2007-08	11,589

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which make and model of car the Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency; [217757]

(2) which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217745]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219605]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219948]

Jim Knight: The Department does not keep a record of the amount spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes.

The following guidance is issued by the Department to staff on the provision of alcohol.

There is a general principle that alcohol should not be provided at public expense and never when only civil servants are present.

Moderate amounts of alcohol can be provided at public expense when entertaining non civil servants if not providing alcohol might be regarded as unusual or cause embarrassment. Examples of such events are hospitality from Ministers, at publicity events such as launches or the rare occasions when senior staff judge that official business can best be transacted by hosting a meeting over lunch or dinner. This policy is in accordance with the principles of Treasury guidance in "Managing Public Money" and "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money".

Payment can be made by Government Procurement Card for Ministerial and other official hospitality where such use has been previously authorised. Otherwise, payment can be made at the time and reclaimed or the invoice sent to the Department for payment by the central payment team. If it is considered the occasion did not justify expenditure on alcohol the individual will be expected to meet the cost themselves.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221301]

Jim Knight: The cost of overtime payments in my Department by grade is set out in the following table[1]. Overtime is not payable to members of the senior civil service.

[1] specialist grades are included in their grade equivalent. Grades 6 and 7 are entitled to an extra hours' discretionary payment for long hours working and a weekend attendance allowance subject to an overriding limit.

£

Month	*Executive assistant*	*Executive officer*	*Higher executive officer*	*Senior executive officer*	*Grade 7*	*Grade 6*	*Total*
June 2008	11,600	19,800	29,000	8,500	6,200	0	75,100
May 2008	12,200	18,900	27,300	6,800	9,000	2,500	76,700
April 08	13,300	24,700	26,200	14,100	9,200	4,300	91,800

Month	Executive assistant	Executive officer	Higher executive officer	Senior executive officer	Grade 7	Grade 6	£ Total
March 2008	11,300	19,500	31,700	12,000	5,300	2,700	82,600
February 2008	11,200	19,200	30,300	13,700	13,800	900	89,100
January 2008	6,200	9,700	12,800	8,400	4,400	800	42,400
December 2007	9,100	14,900	28,800	10,900	7,300	800	71,700
November 2007	13,500	21,000	23,600	11,400	11,400	500	81,300
October 2007	9,500	8,400	11,800	7,400	500	1,100	38,600
September 2007	6,200	6,600	10,400	4,900	7,400	600	36,100
August 2007	10,700	11,600	13,400	11,000	5,400	1,000	53,100
July 2007	10,300	14,600	15,400	6,500	6,100	4,700	57,500
Total	125,100	188,700	260,600	115,700	85,800	20,100	796,100

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220440]

Jim Knight: It is departmental policy to ask tenderers, through our standard invitation to tender letter, to provide details of discounts for prompt payments.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221357]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children Schools and Families has regular engagement with its stakeholders, in addition to running formal consultation exercises, as a necessary part of its policy-making process. Over and above this, the more set piece listening events we have organised in the last two years are as follows:

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has conducted nine citizen's juries which provided an opportunity for a mix of stakeholders, including members of the general public, to engage with each other in small groups to debate important issues relating to the new Department's remit. The first jury was held in Bristol in September 2007 with a further four debates held in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham. An additional four debates also took place in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham in March 2008. The total cost of these was £820,000

The Department has run nine focus groups as part of the Time to Talk consultation in Sutton, Birmingham and Sheffield with children aged 11 to 16 to capture their views on the key issues and challenges. The total cost for the nine focus groups was £18,835.25 and this included the facilitation, analysis, and production of a short film of the events. Central Office of Information (on behalf of the DCSF) procured the services of Opinion Leader Research to design, recruit participants to, and facilitate all the events and procured Glasgows to arrange the locations, logistics and catering for events held in September 2007. All the agencies involved were appointed in line with standard Government practice on procurement.

The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families jointly held deliberative events with children, young people and parents to discuss children and young people's health in June 2008. There were three strands to this piece of work:

focus group research with children aged between seven and 15;

a deliberative research event with 90 members of the public and 18 frontline health professionals; and

a deliberative workshop with parents/carers of children with long-term conditions/complex health needs.

The purpose was to inform the work on the Child Health Strategy, to be published this September and the total cost of managing and running the events was £217,743.75, shared between both Departments

The Central Office of Information (COI) project managed the exercise, and Opinion Leader were contracted to run the deliberative events themselves.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221376]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has initiated *(a)* 11 reviews and *(b)* 38 public consultations since 27 June 2007. These are listed in order of publication as follows.

Reviews initiated by DCSF since 27 June 2007

Byron Review—Call for Evidence Adult Version

Byron Review—Call for Evidence Children's and Young People's Version

Bercow Review of Speech, Language and Communication Needs

Call for Evidence—Youth Sector Support Arrangements

Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum—Call for Evidence

Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools: Interim Report

Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Interested Parties' Version)

Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Parents' Version)

Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Children and Young People's Version)

The CAMHS Review—Next Steps to Improving the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and Young People Call for Evidence

Zero Carbon School Buildings

Public consultations initiated by DCSF since 27 June 2007

CFR Framework 2007-08

Schools Capital Consultation on Programme Proposals for 2008-11

Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked

Staying Safe

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation about the transfer of responsibility for the registration of independent schools and the regulation of independent and non-maintained special schools (NMSSs) to Ofsted

Consultation into the Definition of an Independent School

Staying Safe—Young Person version

Time to Talk

Time to Talk—Young People's Version

Consultation On Draft Information As To Provision Of Education (England) Regulations 2008

Review of Implementation of Guidance on Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Those who Work with Children and Young People

Key Stage 3 Test Absence Collection

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006: Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme Consultation

Draft Guidance To Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords On The Use of Parenting Orders and Parenting Contracts

Childcare Act 2006: Future Approach to Fees and Subsidies

Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment (Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)

Home Access to Technology

Independent School Inspectorates—a consultation document

Guidance on Child Trust Fund Top Ups for Looked After Children

Guidance on Personal Education Allowances for Looked After Children

Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver (Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)

Consultation on Draft School Admissions (Alteration and Variation of, and Objections to, Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

Consultation on Draft Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) Regulations 2008

Promoting Achievement, Valuing Success: a Strategy for 14-19 Qualifications

(Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)

Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Co-operate

The Management of Building Schools for the Future waves 7-15

Consultation on Proposals Relating to the Commencement of Section 37 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 - staffing at foundation and voluntary schools with a religious character

Consultation on Introducing Provisional Registration with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) for Trainee Teachers, Unqualified Teachers and Instructors

Youth Alcohol Action Plan

Fair Play: A Consultation on the Play Strategy, A Commitment in the Children's Plan

Fair Play—have your say (Children and Young People's Version)

Children and Adoption Act 2006—Children Act 1989 Contact Activity Directions and Conditions (Financial Assistance) (England) Regulations 2008

School Admissions Consultation 2008

School's Role in Promoting Pupil Wellbeing Draft Guidance for Consultation Proposals for Revisions to Legislation for Schools Causing Concern

Delivering the Children's Plan—Strengthening Children's Trusts: legislative options Draft Apprenticeships Bill (Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)

Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has a standard retirement age; and how many employees have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218216]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was established as part of the machinery of government changes of 28 June 2007. The Department has no mandatory retirement age for staff below the senior civil service and operate the civil service code policy at 65 for the senior civil service. No members of the senior civil service have been asked to retire at 65.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216094]

Jim Knight: Since the formation of the Department to 31 March 2008, the number of sickness days taken by employees due to mental disorder is *(a)* 5,407 days. 2,386 days were due to (i) stress and (ii) 3,021 days for other mental health illnesses which can be broken down into depression (2,139 days), anxiety (614 days) and other mental illnesses (268 days).

This amounts to a proportion of 27 per cent. of all sickness absence days due to stress and other mental disorder. The Department has a number of mainly small non-departmental public bodies *(b)* for which information on absences due mental disorders is not held centrally and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government (MoG) changes on 28 June 2007, so the percentage is based on figures from 1 July to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available). It is not directly comparable to the previous Department for Education and Skills (DFES) as many staff moved to the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) as part of the MoG changes.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and support from the Department's Employee

Assistance Provider, Right Corecare, a pilot Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Stress Questionnaire and Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216145]

Jim Knight: Since the formation of the Department up to 31 March 2008, 72 staff were absent due to stress, representing 2.6 per cent. of all staff. 66 were absent due to other mental disorders, representing 2.4 per cent. of all staff at 31 March. These figures do not include non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes on 28 June 2007, so the figures apply from 1 July to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available).

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has a range of measures in place to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218726]

Jim Knight: Since the Department was formed in the 28 June 2007 Machinery of Government changes, 293 staff have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days. This applies from the date of establishment of the Department to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available). This equates to 9.5 per cent. of staff in that period.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216099]

Jim Knight: Due to the wide range of posts and salary points in the Department and its non-departmental public bodies, the actual cost of sick pay to staff in each of the last five years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's general policy for full-time staff is to pay sickness absence on full pay for up to 182 days, followed by sickness absence on half pay for up to 183 days. Sickness absence is unpaid once entitlement to full or half pay has been exhausted, unless HR approves payment of sick pay at pension rate.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215472]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220192]

Jim Knight: In the Department, the number of employees who have declared a disability is 187 (6.9 per cent.).

Records on the numbers of disabled staff are also solely based on voluntary, self-declaration of being a disabled person as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act; and not connected in any way to a formal register of disability.

Information about average salaries is set out in the following table:

Staff	*Salary (£)*
Full-time disabled staff	31,260
Full-time non-disabled staff	34,595
Part-time disabled staff	21,044
Part-time non-disabled staff	22,209

The Department has no agencies.

Disabled: Respite Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to paragraph 3.11 of the Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided by his Department over each of the next two years. [220301]

Jim Knight: The £150 million mentioned in the report is to be provided by the Department of Health and paid to primary care trusts. Non of the £150 million referenced in paragraph 3.11 of that report will therefore come from the DCSF.

The DCSF is however providing £359 million to local authorities over the 2008-11 period to grow short break provision for disabled children. Funding allocations to local authorities can be viewed at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc

Dyslexia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to provide further educational assistance to

those with dyslexia-related reading difficulties in 2008-09; and to how many people such assistance will be provided in 2008-09. [219856]

Jim Knight: Local authorities and schools are funded to provide special educational needs (SEN) services. The Education Act 1996 requires schools to use their best endeavours to make suitable provision available for all children with SEN, including those with dyslexia. Local authority and school planned spend on SEN (including for children with dyslexia) was £4.9 billion in 2007-08.

Latest figures for pupils in schools with specific learning difficulties (including dyslexia) show there are 77,090 pupils either with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or supported at SEN School Action Plus. My Department does not collect data on the particular special educational needs of pupils at School Action, some of whom have specific learning difficulties.

In December 2007, the Government published the "Children's Plan" which announced we will spend £18 million over the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to improve special educational needs provision. This includes £3 million for improving provision for children with dyslexia; the use of most of which will be decided in the light of Sir Jim Rose's recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia. However, £150,000 is being provided over two financial years, to enable the British Dyslexia Association to develop their helpline, which provides advice about dyslexia to people including teachers and parents; and £250,000 is being provided over three financial years, to enable Dyslexia Action to run further Partnership for Literacy pilots.

In addition, we are providing around £1 million, over three years, to the No to Failure project.

No to Failure is trailblazing and evaluating the impact of specialist training for teachers and specialist tuition for children with dyslexia in some schools in three local authority areas. The final evaluation report will be published early next year.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many departmental staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding the education maintenance allowance system in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214510]

Jim Knight: No members of staff have been prosecuted for either attempting to defraud or defrauding the education maintenance allowance system in any of the years since 2003. The Department and its predecessor (former Department for Education and Skills) will not accept any level of fraud or corruption and any case will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with appropriately.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science test papers had been marked and results entered into the computer system on each day from 15 June 2008 to 7 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [217693]

(2) what plans he has to impose financial penalties on ETS for the time taken to produce the key stage 2 and key stage 3 results in 2008; and if he will make a statement; [218161]

(3) how much is due to be paid to ETS for the administration and marking of the key stage 2 and 3 tests in (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09, (c) 2009-10 and (d) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [217697]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process within QCA. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 15 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer to a number of parliamentary questions you recently asked.

The questions you have asked pertain to information that the National Assessment Agency either does not currently hold in the form you have requested or which relate to information that may be subject to an obligation of confidentiality or may be commercially sensitive.

Some elements of the information you sought may be available when the test delivery cycle is complete. If that is the case, I will write to you again as soon as possible.

The total value of the contract over 5 years is £156 million.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether staff from the National Assessment Agency have been seconded to work with ETS on the key stage tests in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [217695]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) have informed us that there are no NAA employees seconded to ETS Europe. There are, however, approximately 70 QCA/NAA staff actively working with ETS to ensure the delivery of results to schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints about the marking of the key stage tests have been received by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, *(c)* the National Assessment Agency and *(d)* ETS in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [217698]

Jim Knight: By 16 July, the Department had received 204 letters and e-mails about national curriculum tests. Of the 82 that have received replies, 33 were about the administration of the marking process.

We are advised that, by 11 July, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) had received 58 complaints and the NAA 552 complaints.

Letter from David Gee, dated 9 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 217698.

ETS Europe are not yet able to provide information on the number of complaints they have received as their resources are working to complete marking, data entry and communications to schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of marking the key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests was in 2007; what he estimates it will be in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [217699]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independendy of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process within the QCA. I have therefore asked David Gee, managing director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee to Mr Laws, dated 15 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 217699.

The contracts that govern the delivery of national curriculum tests do not explicitly separate the cost of marking from other delivery related activities. It is therefore not possible to fully disaggregate the cost of marking from other contract costs for either 2007 or 2008.

While I cannot provide exact figures, the NAA estimates that the cost of marking is in the vicinity of £14 million for both 2007 and 2008. This figure incorporates estimates for the cost of marker fees, marker training and venue hire.

More information on the cost of marking for 2008 will be available after the conclusion of the marking cycle including the completion of marking reviews. I will be happy to give you a further update at this time.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he was first informed of problems with the marking of the 2008 key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests; and if he will make a statement; [218004]

(2) when his Department was first informed that the key stage 2 and 3 national test results would not be sent to schools by 8 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [218224]

(3) when his Department was first informed that delays were occurring in the marking of key stage national test papers; and if he will make a statement. [218226]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA), the division of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which delivers the national curriculum tests alerted the Department to a number of issues with delivery of national curriculum tests during the test delivery period. We sought and received consistent and regular assurances that the action being taken would resolve those issues and keep the NAA on track for release of results to schools on schedule.

The Department was alerted to more significant delivery problems on 1 July. Ken Boston, the chief executive of QCA, wrote to me on 2 July confirming that he expected there would be delays in publishing national curriculum test results, both because marking would not be complete by 8 July, and because of technical issues around data transfer.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many emails have been received by ETS from *(a)* exam markers and *(b)* team leaders in the last 12 months; how many have been answered; and what the (i) average, (ii) longest and (iii) shortest period of time taken to respond was; [218083]

(2) what targets have been set in relation to the time taken by ETS to answer telephone calls from exam markers and their team leaders; and to what extent those targets have been met; [218084]

(3) what telephone numbers are provided to ETS exam markers in order to access assistance or advice; and how many telephone calls have been answered on each of those lines in each of the last 12 months. [218173]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process within the QCA. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 1 September 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, right hon. Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer to a number of parliamentary questions you recently asked.

The questions you have asked pertain to information that the National Assessment Agency either does not currently hold in the form you have requested or which relate to information that may be subject to an obligation of confidentiality or may be commercially sensitive.

Some elements of the information you sought may be available when the test delivery cycle is complete. If that is the case, I will write to you again as soon as possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisation has been awarded the contract to mark key stage national test papers in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [218227]

Jim Knight: In 2007 the National Assessment Agency (NAA) awarded ETS Europe a five-year contract from 2008 to 2012, to provide external test delivery services for national curriculum tests.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the results of the key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests which had been marked as at 8 July 2008 have been withheld from schools; and if he will make a statement. [219215]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Ken Boston, Chief Executive of the QCA, informed the Department of a potential delay to results on 1 July, and wrote to me on 2 July to confirm that he expected there to be delays in publishing the results of national curriculum tests. This was both because marking would not be complete by 8 July, and because of technical issues around data transfer.

Following extensive discussions between the Department and QCA and after further advice from Ken Boston,

including in a letter to me of 3 July, the Secretary of State wrote to Barry Sheerman, the Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, to inform him that Key Stage 2 results would be delayed by a week until 15 July, with Key Stage 3 results that are available to be released by the end of the week of 15 July.

QCA advised that the delays would enable the vast majority of Key Stage 2 marking to be complete. In the case of Key Stage 3, while it would take longer to complete results, the delay would ensure that as many schools as possible to receive results before the end of term. The decision to delay results to all schools was to enable the process to happen in an orderly fashion, minimising uncertainty for schools.

We understand that this delay will inconvenience many schools, and we share their frustration and disappointment. NAA is using every measure at its disposal to ensure that all results are delivered as quickly as possible.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 2008 key stage 3 tests in English had been marked at the latest date for which figures are available. [220481]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process, which is managed by ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor.

We have been advised by NAA that 71 per cent. of pupils' key stage 3 English results have been released to schools on Friday 18 July 2008. NAA also advised that there are still some scripts remaining to be marked; other scripts have been marked but are awaiting data entry and technical issues have caused delays to this process.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what criteria were used to assess ETS Europe during the procurement process for the contract to deliver standard assessment tests; [220493]

(2) from which organisations his Department sought references on ETS as part of the procurement process for the SAT contract. [220406]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process, which is managed by ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor. I have therefore asked David Gee, managing director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he was informed of problems with the standard assessment testing and marking systems and the particular problems with the ETS Europe contract. [220497]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA), the division of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which delivers the national curriculum tests alerted the Department to a number of issues with delivery of national curriculum tests during the test delivery period. We sought and received consistent and regular assurances that the action being taken would resolve those issues and keep the NAA and ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor, on track for release of results to schools on schedule.

The Department was alerted to more significant delivery problems on 1 July. Ken Boston, the chief executive of QCA, wrote to me on 2 July confirming that he expected there would be delays in publishing national curriculum test results, both because marking would not be complete by 8 July, and because of technical issues around data transfer.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) first became aware that there were potential problems with the standard assessment testing and marking systems; and when the QCA informed Ministers of those potential problems. [220498]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process, which is managed by ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 220498.

The National Assessment Agency (a subsidiary of the QCA) has closely monitored the development of ETS marking systems since the company was first awarded the contract in early 2007.

The NAA alerted the Department to a number of issues with delivery of national curriculum tests during the test delivery period.

The NAA first formally challenged ETS on marking completion on 23 June 2008. ETS responded on the 26 June 2008.

The Secretary of State was alerted on Tuesday 1 July 2008 to these more significant delivery problems. Ken Boston, the Chief Executive of QCA, wrote to Jim Knight on 2 July confirming that he expected there would be delays in releasing national curriculum test results, both because marking would not be complete by 8 July, and because of technical issues around data transfer.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings attended by Ministers and officials from his Department on the standard assessment tests and marking system were held between September 2007 and 26th June 2008. [220517]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular meetings with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), of which the National Assessment Agency (NAA) is a division. Recent meetings have included discussions on the administration and

marking of Key Stage tests in 2008, which are now the subject of an independent inquiry being chaired by Lord Sutherland.

Between September 2007 and 26 June 2008 my officials have met with NAA routinely to discuss national curriculum test delivery. The Department is represented on the QCA Board as an observer. Senior officers from QCA and officials from this Department meet every six weeks, to discuss QCA's core business, including national curriculum test delivery. A monthly Assessment Board, chaired by a senior official, was established in March 2008 to oversee the delivery of the Department's assessment policy.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when Lord Sutherland's report into the delivery of the Department's policy by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the National Assessment Agency will be published. [220518]

Jim Knight: We have agreed that Lord Sutherland's inquiry into the delivery of National Curriculum tests will report to both the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and Ofqual in the autumn, and that those reports will be published. Lord Sutherland will confirm a date for publication of the final reports in the autumn.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many key stage 2 pupils received a teacher assessment grading their performance at level six or higher in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006. [220784]

Jim Knight: The number of Key Stage 2 pupils who received a teacher assessment grading their performance at level six in 2007 is available in Table 3b of the Statistical First Release titled "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Provisional)" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000737/index.shtml

The number of Key Stage 2 pupils who received a teacher assessment grading their performance at level six in 2006 is available in Table 3b of the Statistical First Release titled "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2006 (Provisional)" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000673/index.shtml

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Key stage 2 pupils achieved a level five result in at least one subject in 2007. [220785]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained in Table 4a of the Statistical First Release titled "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Revised)" which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

The table contains percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils who achieved a level five result in at least one subject in 2007.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps were taken by his Department to corroborate the evidence offered by the State Education Board of California in its role as referee for ETS's tender for the contract to mark Key Stage 2 and 3 examinations; [220787]

(2) what the difference was between the cost of the tender put forward by ETS for the contract to mark Key Stage 2 and 3 examinations and those put forward by other bidders. [220789]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process, which is managed by ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor. I have therefore asked David Gee, managing director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's strategy in respect of the introduction of online systems for assessment run by ETS. [221040]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process, which is managed by ETS Europe, their test delivery contractor. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 221040.

The NAA's invitation to tender for the procurement of test delivery services required bidders to offer proposals to improve the quality of marking and capture additional item and question level data from pupils. The successful bidder, ETS Europe proposed several on-line online solutions for the delivery of the 2008 test cycle, of which the following three were accepted:

1. On-line standardisation
2. On-line Mark capture
3. On-line benchmarking (Quality assurance during marking).

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what correspondence he has had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority since 30 March 2008; and if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence. [221041]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) publish a copy of all official correspondence between the Secretary of State and QCA on their website three times a year. A copy of the correspondence up until the end of April 2008 is currently available on QCA's website and this will be updated at the end of October 2008 to cover correspondence from May to August 2008. The QCA's website can be accessed at:

www.qca.org.uk.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at what point the identified risks relating to the implementation of new online systems of assessment through ETS were entered on his Department's corporate risk register. [221042]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Risks and mitigations for the introduction of new delivery processes in 2008 for the end of the key stage tests were entered on the Department's high level risk register on 5 July 2007.

Education: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how his Department plans to improve attainment levels amongst Cumbrian pupils following the transition from primary to secondary education. [219901]

Jim Knight: The Department's role is to support locally-led improvement strategies. Schools—governing bodies, heads and teachers—have the lead responsibility for raising standards, supported and challenged by local authorities who work closely with partners to bring together all the wider services that enable children to succeed and achieve.

There are a number of initiatives under way that will improve attainment for Cumbria's pupils. A joint Children's Performance Improvement Board for Cumbria has been in operation since February 2008. The Board's aim is to bring strategic drive to tackling the significant underachievement in the local authority's (LA) secondary schools as well as providing support and challenge to the LA's school improvement service. The Board is looking at how schools currently in Ofsted categories can be effectively supported to improve and how the LA can develop better mechanisms for identifying and challenging underperforming schools at risk of falling into failure.

The Academies programme is already acting as a catalyst to help transform secondary education in Cumbria. Carlisle will benefit from two Academies offering enhanced curriculum and extended schools facilities. Westlakes Academy and the planned Barrow Academy will improve the life chances of all young people in the area, and will help regenerate the local economies and offer co-located services.

The National Challenge programme launched on 10 June will provide intensive support for all secondary schools in England where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics. We are currently waiting for Cumbria to submit plans for their National Challenge schools, identifying what they intend to do to raise attainment above 30 per cent. and how much money they will need from the £400 million available nationally to carry out these plans. Every school will have a National Challenge Adviser as well as access to a range of bespoke school improvement solutions. Where appropriate, funding will provide for radical structural solutions such as Academies and Trusts, including new National Challenge Trusts.

English Language: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* deaf children and *(b)* all children failed to attain level 3 at key stage 2 English in the latest period for which figures are available. [220142]

Jim Knight: Table 73 of the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07' shows Key Stage 2 attainment by SEN stage and primary SEN type. This SFR is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

Table 73 can be found via the 9 Additional Information Excel link.

The table includes information on the attainment of children with a hearing impairment, as information on deaf children is not one of the types of SEN collected. These figures also only include those identified with a statement of SEN or with SEN at School Action Plus who have a hearing impairment as their primary SEN type.

Faith Schools

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and which schools and academies have been designated as having a religious character since 1997. [220229]

Jim Knight: The table 8 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 30/2007) reports information about Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools and is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

This information will be updated for 2008, on Thursday 24 July and will be available on the Research and Statistics Gateway at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

The definition has been amended from 2008 and now includes maintained primary and secondary schools and academies.

Faith Schools: Teachers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers work in schools with a religious designation; and how many are in *(a)* voluntary aided, *(b)* voluntary controlled, *(c)* foundation and *(d)* academy schools. [220230]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers in publicly funded schools in England designated as having a religious character broken down by type in England, January 2008.

Full-time equivalent teachers with a religious character within publicly funded voluntary aided, voluntary controlled, foundation schools and academies. Year: January 2008—Coverage: England

	Number
Voluntary Aided[1]	66,530
Voluntary Controlled[1]	22,440
Foundation[1]	1,190
Academies[1]	1,650

Full-time equivalent teachers with a religious character within publicly funded voluntary aided, voluntary controlled, foundation schools and academies. Year: January 2008—Coverage: England

	Number
Total[1]	91,810
All Schools[2,3,4]	441,210

Source:
School Census[1] and Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g[2]
[3] includes Academies and City Technology Colleges.
[4] Provisional.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Further Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many colleges listed sport as *(a)* a specialism, *(b)* a second specialism and *(c)* a combined specialism in each of the last three years; [218865]

(2) how many colleges listed design as *(a)* a specialism, *(b)* a second specialism and *(c)* a combined specialism in each of the last three years; [218866]

(3) how many colleges listed music as *(a)* a specialism, *(b)* a second specialism and *(c)* a combined specialism in each of the last three years. [218867]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide details of the numbers of schools that have been designated as sports, technology, engineering and music colleges in each of the last three years. Design is not one of the 10 specialisms for which schools can apply under the specialist schools programme. I have, however, provided details of the number of technology and engineering colleges as design and technology is one of the subjects which schools designated as technology or engineering colleges may focus on. I would also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 July 2008 which set out the number of arts colleges designated in each of the last three years. Arts colleges specialising in visual or media arts will have an element of design within their specialist curriculum.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Totals
Sports				
Specialism *(a)*	26	23	32	81
Second specialism *(b)*	7	12	2	21
Combined specialism *(c)*	5	9	0	14
Sports totals	38	44	34	116
Technology				
Specialism *(a)*	28	10	9	47
Second specialism *(b)*	1	0	0	1
Combined specialism *(c)*	3	4	1	8
Technology totals	32	14	10	56
Engineering				
Specialism *(a)*	7	7	4	18
Second specialism *(b)*	0	0	0	0
Combined specialism *(c)*	1	0	0	1
Engineering totals	8	7	4	19
Music				
Specialism *(a)*	5	4	6	15
Second specialism *(b)*	5	5	1	11
Combined specialism *(c)*	2	2	1	5
Music totals	12	11	8	31

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils left secondary school with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine and *(j)* 10 or more GCSEs graded at C or above in 2007. [217993]

Jim Knight: In 2007, the following percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 obtained the following GCSEs and equivalents at grades A*-C.

GCSEs and equivalents at grades A-C*	Percentage
1 or more	82.5
2 or more	76.1
3 or more	71.1
4 or more	67.1
5 or more	62.0
6 or more	56.7
7 or more	51.5
8 or more	45.8
9 or more	38.4
10 or more	27.0

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE in 2007. [220848]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 18,482 (2.8 per cent.) pupils achieved at least five A* grades at GCSE.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received A or A* grades in all their GCSE examinations in 2007. [220849]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 23,746 (3.7 per cent.) pupils achieved at least an A grade in all their GCSEs.

Ofsted: Industrial Relations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will intervene in the dispute between Ofsted and the trades unions Unison and PCS. [221537]

Jim Knight: This is entirely a matter for Ofsted. Ministers have no powers to intervene. Ofsted has developed a new pay model, in consultation with staff and the

trade unions to address some historic concerns about its salary structure. The new model is designed to be simple, fair and transparent, and has helped to secure an above average settlement of 3.8 per cent. from Her Majesty's Treasury. It is based on one salary rate for each grade and Ofsted considers it to be both competitive and affordable. I have been advised by Her Majesty's chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, that Ofsted has engaged in extensive discussions with the unions about the settlement. There is no further money available for pay and Ofsted is unable to respond to the trade union demands regardless of the actions they are taking or may take in the future.

Playgrounds: Disabled

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of local authority playgrounds which have facilities suitable for children who use wheelchairs. [220894]

Beverley Hughes: Provision of playgrounds is a local authority responsibility. In planning and providing playgrounds local authorities ensure that there is suitable access for all children and comply with the disability discrimination legislation.

In the Children's Plan we committed to invest an additional £235 million to fund up to 3,500 public play areas nationally by 2011. The £235 million investment will build on existing funding, and provide a real opportunity to transform play areas throughout the country. We have been clear that the additional play areas should be accessible by disabled children.

This Government are fully committed to improving the life chances of disabled children, through an ambitious programme for transforming services.

Pre-U Qualification

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have applied for funding for the pre-U qualification. [219562]

Jim Knight: This information is not currently available.

Primary Education: School Meals

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase the provision and take-up of healthy school meals in primary schools. [221728]

Jim Knight: The Department is taking a number of steps to increase the take up of meals served in primary schools and to ensure all children have access to healthy food whilst at school.

School lunch take-up is one of the indicators in the new Child Health PSA and is one of the indicators in the National Indicator Set. New food-based nutritional standards were introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food. Nutrient-based standards will be introduced for school lunches in September 2008 for primary schools and September 2009 for secondary schools.

We are investing over £650 million between 2005 and 2011 to help improve school food and keep school lunch prices down. This includes funding to help build kitchens in areas with no kitchen facilities and to better support the development of training centres for the school food workforce. We are also providing an extra £6 million over the next three years to promote healthy food to young people and raise take up.

Increasing school lunch take-up is also a priority for the School Food Trust. The Trust is supporting schools through its Million Meals Campaign and encouraging healthier eating through its Get Real media campaign aimed at young people. That work is having an impact as shown by the provisional findings from their third annual survey of take up of school meals, reporting on the 2007-08 financial year. In primary schools take up in 2007-08 was 43.6 per cent. an increase of 2.3 percentage points on the value reported for 2006-07 of 41.3 per cent. These figures illustrate that the number of primary school children eating school meals rose by roughly 88000 from 2006-07 to 2007-08.

Pupil Referral Units: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 15 year old pupils in a pupil referral unit sat a GCSE examination in 2007. [217200]

Jim Knight: Statistics on GCSE entries and achievement by pupils in pupil referral units are not available for 2007.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1818-9W, on pupils: per capita costs, how the amounts per place for level 2 *(a)* engineering, *(b)* society, health and development, *(c)* IT and *(d)* creative and media were calculated; and if he will make a statement. [220878]

Jim Knight: Guidance was issued to local authorities and 14-19 Partnerships on the funding available, including how the grant has been calculated, and can be accessed through the 14-19 education and skills website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=43&pid=399&ctype=TEXT&ptype=Single

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what salaries were paid to each board member of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the last year. [221652]

Jim Knight: QCA board members do not receive a salary. They are however reimbursed for the cost of any travel and subsistence incurred in performing their duties for QCA.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school federations took place in each year since 2005; and how many federations are planned. [219563]

Jim Knight: Schools are not currently required to notify the Department when establishing or joining a federation so the Department does not keep a systematic record of this activity. As more schools become aware of the benefits of federation we expect numbers to grow over the coming years.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the socio-economic profile of those parents appealing to get their children into the school of their choice. [220658]

Jim Knight: We commissioned Sheffield Hallam university, in conjunction with NatCen, to map the effectiveness of the admission arrangements in England in 2006, and to assess parents' experience of these arrangements.

The study found no significant association between parents' family characteristics and the likelihood that they would appeal against not getting a school of their choice.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many applications for school places were found to have been made on a fraudulent basis in each of the last five years; [220918]

(2) what guidance is given to local authorities on the investigation of allegations of fraudulent activity in school preference applications. [220919]

Jim Knight: Information on fraudulent applications for school places is not collected centrally and we do not provide guidance to local authorities on investigating such applications.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in England have reported being the subject of violence perpetrated by *(a)* a pupil and *(b)* a parent or guardian of a pupil in each of the last five years. [220135]

Jim Knight: Data are not collected centrally on the number of teachers who have been subject to violence.

The Department does collect information on the number of exclusions from schools which occur following assault on an adult, this was collected for the first time for 2004/05. Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions due to assault against an adult, broken down by local authority, and covering the academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The latest information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions due to assault against an adult, broken down by local authority has been published at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Schools: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reserves *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools hold, broken down by local education authority. [221536]

Jim Knight: The latest available information on the revenue balances held by primary and secondary schools, broken down by local education authority, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Schools: Industrial Disputes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were closed in each London borough as a result of industrial action on 16 and 17 July 2008. [220125]

Jim Knight: Government Departments with responsibility for services delivered via local authorities were provided with data by Government Offices about service closures resulting from industrial action on 16 and 17 July. That data indicates that across all London boroughs around 140 schools in total were closed on each day of industrial action. However the Department has no means of validating the data, except by incurring disproportionate costs or burdens.

Schools: Safety

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department issues to schools other than that relating to the Criminal Records Bureau checking procedures on the steps schools should take to ensure safe school environments for children; [220916]

(2) whether employees of businesses offering work experience to diploma students will be required to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if he will make a statement. [221030]

Jim Knight: The Government issued comprehensive guidance for schools and other education institutions, "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" in November 2006 and this came into force in January 2007. This sets out the responsibilities of all local authorities, Schools and Further Education Colleges in England, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This guidance includes arrangements for safe and responsible recruitment of teachers and other staff in schools and further education colleges and sets out background and other checks required on new members of staff. The guidance is available online at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk

and hard copies have been made available to schools and colleges.

In addition, the Department have made available on the Teachernet website a range of guidance on health and safety and school security issues. This can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/

The relevant guidance to employees of businesses offering work experience to students at Key Stage 4 and to 16-18 year olds is contained in Annex A and Appendix 14 of the Department's guidance "Safeguarding Children

and Safer Recruitment in Education". In principle, any person whose normal duties will include regularly clearing for, training, looking after or supervising a child in the workplace should be vetted and subject to CRB disclosures to ensure he or she is not disqualified from working with children or otherwise unsuitable to be responsible for them. It is intended to apply to people who are specifically designated to have responsibility for looking after, supervising or directly training a child or children throughout the placement.

Schools: Standards

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children aged 16 years or under are attending the schools identified as part of the National Challenge in each local education authority. [219738]

Jim Knight: The proportion of students aged 11-16 attending a school where fewer than 30 per cent. of students achieved five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007 as a percentage of total students aged 11-16 attending schools in that local authority is set out in the following table.

Proportion of 11 to 16-year-olds attending schools identified as being part of the National Challenge

Local authority	*Percentage*
Barking and Dagenham	21
Barnet	7
Barnsley	46
Bath and North East Somerset	2
Bedfordshire	5
Bexley	28
Birmingham	29
Blackburn with Darwen	13
Blackpool	28
Bolton	22
Bournemouth	33
Bracknell Forest	14
Bradford	28
Brent	13
Brighton and Hove	11
Bristol, City of	38
Bromley	4
Buckinghamshire	18
Bury	5
Calderdale	20
Cambridgeshire	5
Camden	0
Cheshire	5
City of London	0
Cornwall	0
Coventry	29
Croydon	16
Cumbria	12
Darlington	27
Derby	28
Derbyshire	11
Devon	4
Doncaster	33
Dorset	6
Dudley	15

Proportion of 11 to 16-year-olds attending schools identified as being part of the National Challenge

Local authority	*Percentage*
Durham	10
Ealing	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	0
East Sussex	15
Enfield	18
Essex	15
Gateshead	10
Gloucestershire	11
Greenwich	25
Hackney	6
Halton	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	0
Hampshire	4
Haringey	22
Harrow	6
Hartlepool	28
Havering	5
Herefordshire	6
Hertfordshire	8
Hillingdon	16
Hounslow	20
Isle of Wight	0
Isles of Scilly	0
Islington	34
Kensington and Chelsea	0
Kent	27
Kingston upon Hull, City of	46
Kingston upon Thames	11
Kirklees	21
Knowsley	49
Lambeth	22
Lancashire	15
Leeds	28
Leicester	22
Leicestershire	0
Lewisham	18
Lincolnshire	19
Liverpool	29
Luton	0
Manchester	36
Medway	34
Merton	25
Middlesbrough	37
Milton Keynes	17
Newcastle upon Tyne	32
Newham	6
Norfolk	10
North East Lincolnshire	32
North Lincolnshire	5
North Somerset	7
North Tyneside	12
North Yorkshire	7
Northamptonshire	21
Northumberland	9
Nottingham	31
Nottinghamshire	20
Oldham	36
Oxfordshire	9
Peterborough	10
Plymouth	31

Proportion of 11 to 16-year-olds attending schools identified as being part of the National Challenge

Local authority	*Percentage*
Poole	12
Portsmouth	28
Reading	18
Redbridge	0
Redcar and Cleveland	20
Richmond upon Thames	7
Rochdale	12
Rotherham	15
Rutland	0
Salford	35
Sandwell	52
Sefton	14
Sheffield	30
Shropshire	2
Slough	8
Solihull	24
Somerset	5
South Gloucestershire	3
South Tyneside	7
Southampton	20
Southend-on-Sea	17
Southwark	19
St. Helens	16
Staffordshire	3
Stockport	0
Stockton-on-Tees	14
Stoke-on-Trent	23
Suffolk	7
Sunderland	28
Surrey	4
Sutton	12
Swindon	11
Tameside	19
Telford and Wrekin	39
Thurrock	27
Torbay	10
Tower Hamlets	12
Trafford	8
Wakefield	10
Walsall	46
Waltham Forest	8
Wandsworth	3
Warrington	12
Warwickshire	9
West Berkshire	4
West Sussex	7
Westminster	15
Wigan	12
Wiltshire	7
Windsor and Maidenhead	0
Wirral	21
Wokingham	0
Wolverhampton	31
Worcestershire	5
York	0

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which two regions had *(a)* the highest performing state schools and *(b)* the lowest performing state schools in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the possible relationship between school performance and average house prices in an area. [220688]

Jim Knight: There is no single measure of overall school performance across the different key stages. The individual indicators for each key stage are published at school and local authority level in the achievement and attainment tables found in the House of Commons Library.

No assessment has been made of the possible relationship between school performance and average: house prices, in an area.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England have school specific uniform. [221202]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. It is for the governing body of each school to decide whether to have a school uniform and set rules relating to appearance.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates Ministers in his Department have had meetings with the Leader of Essex County Council in respect of secondary school provision in Colchester constituency in the last 12 months. [214758]

Jim Knight: Our records indicate that, during the last 12 months, there were DCSF ministerial meetings with the Leader of Essex county council on 17 July 2007 and on 21 April and 4 June this year. Those discussions included matters relating to school improvement in the local authority, including the need for urgent action to be taken to improve educational provision for pupils attending some schools in Colchester.

Secondary Education: Consultants

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on consultants working on the new 14 to 19 curriculum in each of the last 24 months. [219281]

Jim Knight: I cannot provide a month by month breakdown of this expenditure at proportionate cost, therefore, annual figures have been provided. To date, for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 the Department has paid £1,428 million, £2.014 million and £319,000 respectively to consultants working on Diploma implementation.

Sixth Form Education: Collective Worship

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has provided to sixth-formers about their right to opt in and out of collective worship. [221161]

Jim Knight: The right of sixth-formers to excuse themselves from collective worship, as set out in section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, was commenced in September 2007. We have updated guidance which is sent out to schools and governors, as well as guidance on our websites to reflect the position.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much time it has taken on average for children to be placed in schools following the conclusion of special educational needs and disability tribunal appeals in each of the last three years. [219975]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* This information is not collected centrally.

We place great importance in ensuring local authorities comply with orders made by SENDIST within statutory time limits. The Secretary of State will not hesitate to use his powers to direct an authority as to the action they should take where he is aware an authority is failing to comply with a statutory duty.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department *(a)* spent on diplomas in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 and *(b)* plans to spend on diplomas in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10, (C) 2010-11 and (D) 2011-12, broken down by (1) development costs, (2) preparation costs, (3) direct and indirect delivery costs, (4) workforce development costs and (5) transport costs; and if he will make a statement. [216507]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collate costs in exactly the categories requested by the hon. Member, so I will write to him shortly with further information and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons the criteria for schools to become high performing specialist schools and entitled to a second specialism was changed; [220213]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of schools that no longer qualify for a second specialism following recent criteria changes; and what assessment he has made of the effect this change will have on *(a)* school finances and *(b)* his Department's finances. [220220]

Jim Knight: In 2008 we maintained the fundamental aspects of the 2007 high performing specialist school (HPSS) criteria but raised minimum thresholds for GCSE 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics. The reasons for these changes were: to reflect the introduction of the national challenge and the Government's target that all secondary schools should have at least 30 per cent. of their pupils achieving five or more A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics; to ensure that only the top third of re-designated schools qualify for the HPSS programme; and to make the best use of available resources.

We estimate that as at the end of June 2008, the changes to the criteria for HPSS introduced this year impact on eight existing HPSS. These schools still have the opportunity to maintain the status if their 2008 results are above the necessary threshold. Specialist schools receive an additional £60,000 to £90,000 per year depending on the HPSS roles acquired. Schools that do not meet the criteria will retain funding for these additional roles until August 2009 to plan for any loss in funding. The impact on the Department's budget is neutral as we continue to identify new HPSS and remain on schedule to identify a total of 30 per cent. of all specialist schools to take on an additional HPSS role by 2011.

Specialist Schools: Standards

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have high performing specialist status; [221511]

(2) in what percentage of high performing specialist schools at least 65 per cent. of pupils have been awarded five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in all three of the last three years; [221512]

(3) if he will list, for each designated high performing specialist school *(a)* its school context indicator, *(b)* the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in each of the last three years and *(c)* the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs in any subjects in each of the last three years. [221513]

Jim Knight: There are currently 600 high performing specialist schools in operation. Of these schools, 26 per cent. achieved at least 65 per cent. 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths in all of the last three years. The list which shows each high performing specialist school, the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs and the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths for each of the last three years has been placed in the Libraries.

It also includes details of contextual value added scores and eligibility for free school meals, as indicators of school context.

Teachers' Pensions: Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will publish the 2007-08 resource accounts for the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [221173]

Jim Knight: The 2007-08 resource accounts for the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be laid after the summer recess.

Teachers: Costs

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the average annual cost to local authorities of employing *(a)* supply teachers and *(b)* permanently employed teachers. [219900]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information centrally on the average cost to local authorities of employing supply teachers. However, from local authority Section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DCSF, local authority maintained schools in England spent

£872 million on supply teachers during the 2006-07 financial year (comprising of £433.3 million for directly employed supply teachers and £438.7 million for agency supply teachers).

The average cost per regular full-time qualified classroom teacher in England as at March 2006 was £38,400. This includes superannuation and national insurance. The average is for all regular full-time qualified classroom teachers in England except head, deputy and assistant head teachers.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher's salary was in each local authority area in each of the last two years. [220133]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Teachers: Stress

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has conducted into the effect of stress on *(a)* teachers and *(b)* the academic performance of pupils. [220750]

Jim Knight [holding answer 21 July]: The Department has not commissioned research to examine the effect of stress on teachers or its effect on the academic performance of pupils. However, DfEE research on teacher absence published in 2000 "(Health Retirement and absenteeism Amongst teachers, Research Report 235)" found stress was the fourth most common reason for absence.

We are aware of other research conducted by other organisations, such as a review conducted by the Institute of Education in 2004 on the impact of assessments and tests on student's motivation for learning.

Technology: Secondary Education

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what allocation his Department has made for expenditure on technology training for secondary school teachers in 2008-09. [219924]

Jim Knight: Technology is part of the design and technology curriculum. The DCSF is providing funding of around £1.8 million in 2008-09 for a number programmes that specifically support design and technology related teaching and learning in secondary schools.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210549]

Beverley Hughes: The Department maintains a record of requests for its publications in the Welsh language. It has not made a further recent assessment of the level of demand for its services, or those of its non-departmental bodies, provided in the Welsh language.

Work Experience: Accidents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions the board of his Department and its predecessor discussed children's workplace accidents since 2002. [220900]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Since 2002, the Board of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor has not specifically discussed children's workplace accidents.

Prevention of accidents has been given a new focus by this Government as it forms one of the key strands of work in Public Service Agreement 13 "Improve children and young people's safety." A cross Government priority review of accident prevention has also just begun which was a key commitment in the Staying Safe: Action Plan (February 2008). The review is likely to make recommendations to Ministers in autumn 2000.

Prior to a work experience placement a health and safety check will be carried out, either directly by a school or by an Education Business Partnership Organisation on behalf of a school. Advice, if it is needed, is given to the employer to help them take account of the young person's level of maturity. Health and safety of everyone on an employer's premises is the responsibility of the employer.

The DGSF Board regularly considers progress against the work set out in all its PSAs.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what use his Department makes of children's work experience accident data in terms of *(a)* accountability and ownership of risk and *(b)* appropriate reporting procedures; [220901]

(2) how many children under the age of 16 years have been involved in accidents while undertaking vocational work experience since 2002. [220902]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* It is our policy that all young people have the opportunity to benefit from work experience and we estimate that around 95 per cent. do so, amounting to over half a million placements each year during key stage 4, the final two years of compulsory education. We have published a new standard for work experience which includes specific references to roles and responsibilities for the health and safety of young people. Records of accidents during school hours, including those occurring during work experience, are held by schools who have the primary duty of care. Employers are also responsible for everyone on their premises. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect or hold such data centrally but anecdotal evidence suggests that, with such a massive volume of placements, the track record on safety is first rate and a credit to everyone involved.

Young People: Employment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people who left school in each region of England and Wales in 2007 *(a)* have secured full-time employment, *(b)* have secured part-time employment, *(c)* are on a training scheme and *(d)* are unemployed. [219926]

Jim Knight: Estimates of the number and proportion of 16-year-olds (that is, those in the academic year immediately following completion of compulsory education) participating in full-time education for each region in England at the end of 2007 are shown in the following tables, based on the Department's principal participation estimates, published in a Statistical First Release (SFR). Estimates from the Labour Force Survey from the first quarter of 2008 have then been applied to the SFR figures in order to estimate the number and proportion not in full-time education in *(a)* full-time employment, *(b)* part-time employment, *(c)* Government employment and training programmes, and *(d)* not employed. Participation rates for Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

Activity of young people of academic age 16 at end 2007, (Percentage)s

	Full-time education	*Full-time employment*	*Part-time employment*	*Government employment and training programme*[1]	*Not employed*
North East	74	8	3	7	9
North West	75	8	2	3	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	72	12	3	3	11
East Midlands	74	10	5	1	10
West Midlands	77	7	1	3	12
Eastern	79	8	3	0	10
London	87	2	1	2	8
South East	82	6	4	0	9
South West	78	6	6	1	10
England	78	7	3	2	10

Activity of young people of academic age 16 at end 2007, (Number)

	Full-time education	*Full-time employment*	*Part-time employment*	*Government employment & training programme*[1]	*Not employed*	*Population*
North East	24,600	2,500	900	2,200	3,000	33,500
North West	70,800	7,600	1,700	2,500	11,900	94,506
Yorkshire and Humberside	49,500	8,300	1,800	1,800	7,800	69,200
East Midlands	43,200	5,700	2,900	700	6,100	58,600
West Midlands	57,300	5,000	900	2,200	8,600	74,000
Eastern	57,200	6,000	2,500	—	6,900	72,600
London	75,300	1,700	600	1,400	7,200	86,200
South East	88,900	6,400	4,000	—	9,500	108,800
South West	52,400	3,700	3,800	400	6,900	67,200
England	519,100	47,200	19,000	11,600	67,600	664,500

[1] Note that young people on apprenticeships will be recorded as in full-time or part-time employment The Government employment and training programme category covers other work-based training and entry to employment.

Young People: Unemployed

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish statistics on those not in education, employment or training for the first quarter of 2008; what the schedule for publication of this statistical series is; and if he will make a statement. [220662]

Jim Knight: The labour force survey (LFS) NEET statistics for the first quarter of 2008 will be published on the Department's website at the same time as the quarter 2 figures, as part of the NEET quarterly brief. We intend to publish this by the end of August, following analysis of the raw quarter 2 LFS data, which will become publicly available on the 13 August.

The NEET quarterly brief is not a National Statistics publication and does not have a pre-arranged set of publication dates. It is published voluntarily by the Department, usually one or two weeks after the LFS data becomes available, in order that the public has access to NEET figures from a variety of sources. The latest published NEET quarterly brief, including data up until quarter 4 2007, is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/index.shtml

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on abortion, broken down by pay band; and if he will make a statement. [219711]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are seven officials in the Department who, as part of their duties, have direct responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policy on abortion.

	Number
Senior Executive Officer	1
Grade 7	1
Grade 6	1
Senior Civil Servant 1	1
Senior Civil Servant 2	1
Senior Civil Servant 3	1
Permanent Secretary (Chief Medical Officer)	1

Academic Health Science Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to have defined the criteria for becoming an Academic Health Science Centre, as referred to on page 57 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221071]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are determined to enable the successful development of academic health science centres and will be working on the practical arrangements for the designation process in the coming months.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with Monitor on proposals to develop academic health science centres; whether he expects such centres will apply for NHS Foundation Trust status; and if he will make a statement. [221072]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has discussed academic health science centres with Monitor.

As the NHS Next Stage Review sets out, a number of potential governance models have already emerged to suit local circumstances. The Government's approach will be broadly permissive; we are open to proposals for different forms of governance on a case-by-case basis, including, potentially, changing legislation where this would help an academic health science centre to achieve the optimal governance model to support its success. We will work with interested organisations on this.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of attendances at accident and emergency services were related to dental problems in each year since 1997-98. [220993]

Ann Keen: Information on the reasons for attendance at accident and emergency departments is not currently available centrally. Plans are in place for the Information Centre for health and social care to make an accident and emergency dataset available within hospital episode statistics in due course, which will include some information about reason for attendance. The publication is at an early stage of development and further work is ongoing to examine the level of detail and completeness of data. It is therefore unclear at the current time whether information on reasons for attendance will be part of the publication.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of admissions to hospital via accident and emergency departments were related to dental problems in each year since 1997-98. [220994]

Ann Keen: The information is as follows:

Total number of hospital admissions via Accident & Emergency (A&E), under the care of 'dental' consultants, as a proportion of all A&E admissions, for years 1997-98 to 2006-07, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

	Total A&E admissions under 'dental' consultants	All A&E admissions	Proportion of admissions to hospital via A&E which were under 'dental' consultants (percentage)
2006-07	17,736	3,484,367	0.51
2005-06	18,930	3,387,499	0.56
2004-05	17,309	3,148,996	0.55
2003-04	15,926	2,880,242	0.55
2002-03	14,289	2,603,820	0.55
2001-02	13,339	2,496,332	0.53
2000-01	12,963	2,380,985	0.54
1999-2000	12,998	2,315,986	0.56
1998-99	12,250	2,229,459	0.55
1997-98	12,478	2,124,198	0.59

Notes:
Main Consultant Specialty Used: 140 = Oral surgery 141 = Restorative dentistry 142 = Paediatric dentistry (available from 1999-2000) 143 = Orthodontics 145 = Oral and maxillo facial surgery (available from 2004-05). *Finished admission episodes* *The technical term for the data supplied is finished admission episodes. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. Admissions to hospital via A&E include admission methods 21 and 28 (21 = Emergency: via A&E service, including the casualty department of the provider/28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider). *Data Quality* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Specialty* Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as Acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time. *Ungrossed Data* The data are ungrossed. This means no estimates (grossing factors) have been added to the data set to make up for any shortfalls or gaps in the data.
Source:
HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department has spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in current prices on communications campaigns aiming to raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol in each year since 2005-06; what national communications campaigns have been launched since 3 December 2007; how these campaigns will be evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [221149]

Dawn Primarolo: On 19 May 2008, the Government launched the first major advertising campaign to raise awareness about units. The Units Know Your Limits campaign is intended to help people to estimate how much alcohol they drink. The spend to-date is as follows:

Advertising costs (not including production) £2,670,000

Print costs £62,146

Research costs £165,755

Total: £2,897,901.

We have a number of tools in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the Units Know Your Limits campaign. They are:

Throughout the campaign development we have tested potential messaging in independent qualitative creative development research to ensure creative material engages and resonates with the target audience;

We have quantitative campaign tracking research in place which will measure pre to post shifts in awareness, understanding, attitudes and motivations towards alcohol consumption in response to the campaign and will continue to measure these factors throughout the campaign's life. We will be able to "benchmark these results against other Government campaigns when establishing targets; and

The campaign will also be evaluated in terms of how effectively it generates responses and requests for further information and advice through online, phone and face to face services. This data will again be benchmarked against other Government campaigns to aid target setting.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS assistance is available for *(a)* treatment of people with alcohol addiction and *(b)* families of those people. [215001]

Dawn Primarolo: There are four different types of treatment for alcohol addiction—structured counselling, community detoxification, with support from a GP, nurse or alcohol treatment worker, specialised residential services, for those who are not able to receive or not suitable for community based treatment, and self-help groups. The effectiveness of these treatments is dependent on the degree of motivation of the individual and the severity of their addiction.

On 1 November 2005, the Department published the 'Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project' (ANARP) assessment of the alcohol treatment needs in England, with a main focus on the measurement of the gap between the demand for and provision of specialist alcohol treatment services in England at a national and regional level. Copies of this publication have been already placed in the Library.

ANARP conducted their research over a period of six months between September 2004 and February 2005 and concluded that there was a large gap between the need for alcohol treatment and access to alcohol treatment.

Aside from ANARP, data on those receiving alcohol treatment have not been routinely collected. However, on 1 April 2008 the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, which collects data on people in structured drug treatment in England, was expanded to include the collection of alcohol treatment data.

Called the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NATMS) this system will, in time, allow the Department, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs) to monitor alcohol treatment services in England. The latest data show that during the month of April 2008 there were 44,863 people receiving structured treatment for alcohol misuse.

A new national health service indicator has been put into place to measure the change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm from April 2008—the first ever national commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol health harms.

This indicator is expected to encourage PCTs to invest in earlier identification of people who drink too much, linked to advice and support from GPs or other health care staff—shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' drinking which over time leads to liver disease and other problems, including dependency.

From 2007-08 PCTs have received an extra £15 million of additional funding to improve alcohol interventions. The National Audit Office will carry out a value for money audit of NHS spend on alcohol interventions and specialist treatment, with a report expected this autumn.

In total 76 local authorities have chosen to set a target using National Indicator 31, rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm, of the National Indicator Set, as part of their local area agreement. The National Indicator Set allows progress against national priorities, agreed by Government, to be measured and strengthens the incentives for improved and closer partnership working.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who were *(a)* under 14, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* 17 to 18 years old died from alcohol-related causes in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust area. [218379]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people who were *(a)* under 14, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* 17 to 18 years old died from alcohol-related causes in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust area. (218379)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in persons aged *(a)* under 14 years (table 1), *(b)* 14 to 16 (table 2) and *(c)* 17 to 18 (table 3) in strategic health authorities in England, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures for alcohol-related deaths in these age groups are not available for primary care trust areas.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], persons aged under 14 years, strategic health authorities[2], England, 1997 to 2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

Strategic health authority	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	5	4	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	0
North East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
East Midlands	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
East of England	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East Coast	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], persons aged 14-to-16 years, strategic health authorities[2], England 1997 to 2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

Strategic health authority	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
North East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
East of England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Central	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
South West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], persons aged 17-to-18 years, strategic health authorities[2], England, 1997 to 2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

Strategic health authority	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	5	5	3	4	4	1	1	1	4	2
North East	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North West	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
East of England	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
London	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East Coast	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South West	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below. [2] Based on boundaries as of 2008. [3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code(s)
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding Biliary cirrhosis)	[1]K74
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

[1] Excluding K74.3 to K74.5

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for alcohol-only misuse in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [220551]

Dawn Primarolo: Prior to 1 April 2008 there was no routine collection of data on numbers receiving alcohol treatment in England. The Department commissioned an Alcohol Needs Assessment Review Project, which reported in 2005 that approximately 63,000 alcohol dependent individuals access treatment each year.

On 1 April 2008, a National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System begun operation to collect and report local and national information on the provision of alcohol treatment services in England. The first year's data will be reported in October 2009.

Ambulance Services: Standards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average journey time was for ambulances in *(a)* each region and *(b)* England in each of the last two years; and on how many times in each case this time was exceeded by more than 50 per cent. [220522]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The ambulance response data that is collected centrally, and which reports on numbers of calls received and the degree to which each ambulance trust in England met the national response time targets, is contained in the annual statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England". The latest version, covering data for 2008-09, was published in June 2008. Copies have been placed in the Library, and are also available on the Information Centre for Health And Social Care's website at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs.

The health service in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of anti-TNF drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis; [220036]

(2) what plans are in place to make anti-TNF drugs more widely available for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. [220037]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made any such assessment. In October 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published final guidance on the anti-TNF drugs adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in which it gave a restrictive recommendation. NICE is currently undertaking an appraisal of the clinical and cost effectiveness of the sequential use of anti-TNF drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE issued its final appraisal determination on 21 July 2008. Published NICE guidance is underpinned by a statutory three month funding direction.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast screening units there are in England; and how many of them had at least one full-field digital mammography set in the latest period for which figures are available. [220941]

Ann Keen: There are 83 breast screening units in England. Latest figures show that, as at July 2008, 11 units are using full-field direct radiography for digital mammography.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas breast cancer screening has been extended to women aged between *(a)* 47 and 50 and *(b)* 70 and 73 years since April 2008, as referred to in paragraph 3.21 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220942]

Ann Keen: Detailed planning for the expansion of the breast screening programme began in April 2008, and a stakeholder conference, including front line staff, was held at the Royal College of Physicians on 8 May 2008. The Cancer Reform Strategy stated that the necessary phasing of this expansion will be carefully considered to ensure that the most useful epidemiological data can be gathered to inform future decisions about the

programme. No consensus on the best way to achieve this was reached at the conference, so we hope to begin pilots in five breast screening sites in the autumn.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of eligible women were seen within the 36 month standard for breast cancer screening *(a)* in England and *(b)* by each breast screening unit in each quarter since June 2005. [220943]

Ann Keen: Information on breast screening coverage across England, broken down by breast screening unit for each quarter since June 2005, has been placed in the Library.

Coverage is the percentage of eligible women who have had a recorded screening result at least once in the previous three years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 987W, on breast cancer: screening, whether figures on the number of national interval cancers have been published. [221128]

Ann Keen: We expect the first national interval cancer figures to be published by the end of 2008.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving the target that each mammography screening unit has a full field digital mammography capability by 2010; what plans he has for local breast screening units to have access to such facilities; and if he will make a statement. [221722]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave the hon. Member for Gateshead, East and Washington, West (Mrs. Hodgson) on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 874W.

Cancer: Clinical Trials

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department has undertaken with the National Cancer Research Network to encourage the inclusion of more older people in clinical trials; what steps he is taking to monitor progress in the involvement of older people in clinical trials; and if he will make a statement. [220972]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2094W.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Cancer Director plans to publish his report on the uptake of cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, as referred to in paragraph 4.51 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220958]

Ann Keen: Work on the report is now under way and it is anticipated that it will be published by the end of the year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by his Department with the *(a)* pharmaceutical and *(b)* biotechnology industries to monitor how use of anti-cancer medicines in the NHS in England compares to other European countries; what the results of this work have been; and if he will make a statement. [220962]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of the innovation package arising from the negotiations on a new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, the Government have committed to the development of new metrics for the uptake of clinically and cost-effective medicines starting with a number of medicines, including anti-cancer medicines, positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, and to the publication of comparative international data.

Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department *(a)* is providing in 2008-09 and *(b)* plans to provide in 2009-10 on the social marketing campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms of breast, lung and bowel cancers, as referred to in paragraph 3.53 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220936]

Ann Keen: The Department has funded the Improvement Foundation to test local approaches to raising awareness of the symptoms of breast, lung and bowel cancers, and cardiovascular disease. Funding planned for 2008-09 is £1,132,000. There are no plans at this time for funding for 2009-10.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what cancer areas the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative intends to develop standardised messages to underpin awareness-raising campaigns, as referred to in paragraph 3.51 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007; and what progress has been made in developing these messages. [220937]

Ann Keen: Key messages have been developed for lung cancer and prostate cancer, and are being reviewed by stakeholders. Key messages for ovarian cancer are currently being developed.

In the immediate future, other areas to be considered are gynaecological cancers, lower gastro-intestinal cancers, skin cancer and head and neck cancers.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department plans to begin conducting regular national surveys of cancer symptom awareness, as referred to in paragraph 3.47 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; [220938]

(2) what progress is being made in *(a)* developing measurement tools for cancer symptom awareness and *(b)* developing and testing new interventions to raise awareness of cancer as referred to in paragraph 3.44 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220939]

Ann Keen: The awareness measurement tool being developed by researchers funded by Cancer Research UK is expected to be ready to test in the autumn 2008, and will provide the basis for the first national survey of public awareness of cancer symptoms.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what form the Football Foundation's pilot programme to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, as referred to in paragraph 3.55 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, will take; when he expects the pilot programme to begin; and if he will make a statement. [220948]

Ann Keen: Planning for this programme of work has begun and the specification is being drafted. The programme will run for approximately 12 months but we have not agreed start/finish dates at this time.

As detailed in paragraph 3.55 of the Cancer Reform Strategy an announcement will be made when this work begins.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which pilot projects the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative is supporting the evaluation, as referred to in paragraph 3.54 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220949]

Ann Keen: The Department is working with the National Cancer Research Institute and Cancer Research UK to develop an evaluation methodology.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has provided guidance to commissioners on how to commission cancer genetic services, as referred to in paragraph 2.53 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220934]

Ann Keen: As set out in paragraph 9.9 of the Cancer Reform Strategy, the Department is working with Macmillan Cancer Support to develop a chapter on commissioning cancer genetics services to be included in the "Guidance on Commissioning Cancer Services". The guidance is based on the evaluations of the jointly funded pilots of delivering cancer genetics services in the national health service in England. The guidance is due in the autumn, with the chapter on genetics services available shortly thereafter, as some evaluation data is still awaited. Data will also be included in the accompanying web-based commissioning toolkit.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to begin auditing all patients newly diagnosed with cancer, as referred to in paragraph 3.61 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220950]

Ann Keen: The Royal College of General Practitioners has begun work on developing an audit methodology, which will be tested in late 2008/early 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of all *(a)* drug treatment and *(b)* surgical treatments were delivered to cancer patients within 31 days in the latest period for which figures are available; when the 31-day treatment standard for cancer treatments begins, as referred to in paragraph 4.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and what the milestones are for meeting the 31-day treatment standard for radiotherapy services by December 2010; [220951]

(2) whether his Department has provided guidance on how patients with suspected cancer detected through national screening programmes enter the 62-day pathway, as referred to in paragraph 4.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; [220952]

(3) what progress is being made towards ensuring that all localities have implemented arrangements ensuring that patients highly suspected of having cancers are managed on the 62-day pathway, as referred to in paragraph 4.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; [220953]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1504W, on cancer: health services, if he will issue guidance to primary care trusts instructing them that all treatments for which funding is initially denied but then granted on appeal must be given to patients within the 31-day cancer waiting-time standard. [221140]

Ann Keen: The currently available performance figures, reflecting the current waiting times standards, are published quarterly. Performance data for the extended standards that come into force at the end of this year will be available for publication next spring.

Figures for the latest quarter available (January 2008 to March 2008) show that 99.5 per cent. of patients are first treated within one month of diagnosis. Thus the current standard has been met. This data is not currently broken down by treatment type, but the 99.5 per cent. achievement does cover all treatment types, including drug and surgical interventions. This data is available on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/

An extension to the current cancer treatment standards, building on their success, was announced in December's Cancer Reform Strategy, with a timetable for delivery:

the extension of the 31 day standard to include all surgical and drug treatments comes into force from December 2008, and for radiotherapy and all other treatments from December 2010—this covers subsequent treatments (not just the first treatment, which is the current standard);

the extension of the 62 day standard, putting patients referred from screening programmes onto the 62 day care pathway, comes into force from December 2008;

the extension of the standard enabling consultant upgrades (of patients highly suspected of having cancers) onto the 62-day pathway comes into force from December 2008; and

the extension of the two weeks standard (to include all patients referred with breast symptoms) comes into force from December 2009.

The Department is developing guidance, in liaison with the NHS, on all of these new standards, which will be published shortly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer networks *(a)* have met and *(b)* are on target to meet the milestones contained in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Improving Outcomes Guidance on supportive and palliative care for adults. [220963]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All Cancer Networks have submitted plans which will meet the requirements for partial implementation by December 2008. The expectation is that they will be fully compliant by the end 2009 and progress will be monitored by the National Cancer Action Team and peer review.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards developing a course on effective face-to-face communication skills for children and young people with cancer, as referred to in paragraph 5.14 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he expects the course to be launched. [220964]

Ann Keen: A working group has now been established to develop:

a group of course facilitators specialising in working with children and young people; and

specific materials and trigger tapes to support the training of those working with children and young people.

It is expected the first courses will run in spring 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which primary care trust areas clinical nurse specialist provision has been found to be insufficient, as referred to in paragraph 5.47 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what steps he is taking to encourage commissioners to address shortfalls in clinical nurse specialist provision; and if he will make a statement. [220966]

Ann Keen: Data on the number of clinical nurse specialists (CNS) are not collected centrally. It is for Cancer Networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, NHS trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their workforce needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer. Commissioners should benchmark their local CNS provision against similar primary care trusts and take action where the CNS workforce is found to be insufficient.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the NHS is providing advice on returning to work for patients of working age with cancer. [220967]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made an assessment of the provision by the national health service of advice on returning to work for patients of working age with cancer.

The Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, set out a number of initiatives to improve patient support services for those living with and beyond cancer which includes ensuring that patients receive high quality personalised information throughout their cancer journey. As part of this, the strategy makes clear that commissioners should make sure that information for people who work and have cancer is made available to patients on diagnosis and that advice on returning to work should be available for all patients of working age.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the report outlining the outcome of the event held in March 2008 on Making the Cancer Survivorship Initiative a Reality, as referred to in paragraph 5.61 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, which priority workstreams have been identified as part of the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative; and what future work he expects the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative to undertake. [220968]

Ann Keen: Work on the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative (NCSI) is being co-led by the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, and the chief executive of Macmillan Cancer Support, Mr. Ciaran Devane, and the steering group held its first meeting in July.

A summary of the ThinkTank event held in March 2008 has been published on Macmillan Cancer Support's website at:

www.macmillan.org.uk/Documents/Support_Material/Get_involved/Campaigns/Survivorship/survivorship_report.pdf

We hope to launch the NCSI's work streams at the initiative's conference on 11 September 2008. The future work of the NCSI will be based around those work streams.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.73 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, whether an NHS Cancer Patient Experience Survey Programme has been established; and when he expects the first annual patient experience survey will *(a)* take place and *(b)* be published. [220969]

Ann Keen: To support and advise on the development of the national health service cancer patient experience survey programme (NHS CPESP), an advisory group has been established, chaired by Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director. The advisory group met for the first time on 29 May 2008. It is intended to hold the first annual patient experience survey in 2009-10. Experience from previous such surveys suggests that results will be made available 6 to 12 months after the survey takes place.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, what specific goals have been agreed by his Department for reducing cancer mortality in each cancer network; and if he will make a statement. [220970]

Ann Keen: An advisory group has been set up to support and advise on the work of the newly established National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI). Work on agreeing challenging goals for reducing cancer mortality in every cancer network will be taken forward alongside the rest of the NCEI work programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of primary care trusts which have undertaken a local equality impact assessment, as referred to on page 86 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220971]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts, working together with their strategic health authorities, stakeholders and local cancer services, including cancer networks, to undertake local equality impact assessments and take appropriate steps to address local issues.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* have and *(b)* have not reviewed current bed utilisation by (i) tumour group and (ii) the split between elective and emergency use, as referred to in paragraph 7.37 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220973]

Ann Keen: The electronic commissioning toolkit, which is currently being developed and is expected to be launched during autumn 2008, will enable primary care trusts to review current bed utilisation for cancer patients as set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing an inpatient management programme for cancer patients, as referred to in paragraph 7.39 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he expects the programme to be implemented nationwide. [220974]

Ann Keen: We expect the steering group for the in-patient management programme to be established in the autumn. The steering group will agree the programme's work streams and begin work to take these forward.

The Cancer Action Team has held five events with cancer networks and primary care trusts to explore developing local programmes on in-patient management. These events have highlighted the following four potential work streams for the in-patient management programme to take forward:

Management of elective surgery

Management of elective oncology/haematology

Management of emergency in-patient treatment for patients with a cancer diagnosis; and

Management of emergency in-patient treatment for patients who are subsequently diagnosed with cancer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of NHS trusts submit data to cancer registries in an electronic format; and what steps he is taking to ensure that all NHS Trusts do so by 2009, as referred to in paragraph 8.16 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007. [220975]

Ann Keen: All trusts are providing some data to cancer registries in an electronic format. However, few trusts are currently submitting their entire registry dataset in an electronic format.

The Cancer Reform Strategy's estimated date of 2009 for trusts to provide data in an electronic format has been affected by wider delays in the national programme for information technology. As a result of these delays, the National Contract for Acute Services now requires all trusts to provide data in an electronic format by March 2011. The Clinical Outcomes Programme Manager at the National Cancer Intelligence Network is currently leading on this work with the cancer registries, cancer networks and NHS trusts.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the first annual report of the National Cancer Intelligence Network to be published. [220977]

Ann Keen: The first annual report of the National Cancer Intelligence Network is scheduled for publication in spring 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the guide for cancer commissioners referred to in paragraph 9.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [220978]

Ann Keen: The guidance on commissioning cancer services is currently in development and publication is expected during autumn 2008. The guidance will set out the appropriate level for the commissioning of different cancer services and identify key questions a commissioner should ask when assessing the quality of a service.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 9.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, what progress is being made in developing *(a)* an electronic commissioning toolkit for cancer services and *(b)* service specifications for each cancer pathway; and when he expects to make each available for use in the NHS. [220979]

Ann Keen: A demonstration version of the electronic commissioning toolkit was launched to the NHS in June 2008. Following further development a final version of the toolkit is expected to be launched to the national health service during autumn 2008.

Service specifications for each cancer pathway are still in development. A model generic services specification for colorectal cancer has been shared with cancer networks and a model colorectal pathway placed on the Map of Medicine. Cancer networks are each leading on the development of a service specification/model pathway for different tumours. This work is being facilitated by the National Cancer Action Team who are ensuring appropriate guidance around the sign off of the model pathways with Map of Medicine.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to ask the Care Quality Commission to undertake an improvement review of cancer services in 2009, as referred to in paragraph 9.25 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220980]

Ann Keen: We are working with the Healthcare Commission on assessing whether cancer services are delivering the Improving Outcomes Guidance. We will in due course work with the Care Quality Commission and this might involve asking it to undertake an improvement review.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health before which financial year he expects to include implementation of the Improving Outcomes Guidance in the national model contract, as referred to in paragraph 9.25 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220981]

Ann Keen: The details have still to be agreed but the plan is to make appropriate changes to the standard contract from April 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate for benchmarking purposes he has made of the level of spending on English cancer services compared with the spending of other countries. [220982]

Ann Keen: As part of our work on the Cancer Reform Strategy we looked at the latest information published by other countries about their expenditure on cancer services.

This published information showed that England spends 5.6 per cent. of its public healthcare budget on cancer, compared to 7.7 per cent. in France, 9.2 per cent. in the United States and 9.6 per cent. in Germany.

As stated in the Cancer Reform Strategy, we will continue to monitor how spending on spending on English cancer services compares with other countries.

The Department regularly publishes information on cancer spend in the national health service in England through programme budgeting figures. Programme budgeting figures provide a breakdown by programmes of how NHS resources have been spent.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a kitemark for good cancer facilities, as referred to in paragraph 11.18 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he expects it to be made available for use in the NHS. [220983]

Ann Keen: Following discussions with key stakeholders, it is anticipated that the kitemark for good cancer facilities will be made available by spring 2010.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects publication of the National Cancer Research Institute's five-year plan to take place, as referred to in paragraph 11.25 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220984]

Ann Keen: The National Cancer Research Institute's Strategic Plan 2008-13 was published on 28 April 2008 and is available on the Institute's website at:

www.ncri.org.uk

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has established a pilot training programme for laparoscopic surgery, as referred in paragraph 4.20 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he anticipates a training programme to be implemented nationwide. [220985]

Ann Keen: The pilot training programme for laparoscopic colorectal cancer was set up, following a tender exercise, by the national Cancer Action Team in January 2008. 10 training centres have been appointed, together with a national coordination centre, as follows:

Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust (Training Centre and National Coordination Centre);

Newcastle-upon-Tyne NHS Trust;

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust;

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust;

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust;

King's College Hospital And Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trusts;

Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust;

The Pelican centre and Basingstoke and North Hampshire Foundation Trust;

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust; and

The South West Laparoscopic Consortium (Bristol, Yeovil and Plymouth).

Imperial College London has been appointed to develop the underpinning educational and assessment materials. The pilot is due to run for a period of 18 months with an evaluation being carried out towards the end of the project.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information has been submitted to his Department by the NHS Cancer Action Team in each month since 3 December 2007. [220986]

Ann Keen: A list of the information received from the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) is not held centrally.

The NCAT supports delivery of the Cancer Reform Strategy and it is in regular communication with the Department. Information that it provides to the Department includes:

updates/progress reports on the areas of work it leads on;

draft and final copies of guidance, reports and other documents it produces for the NHS

feedback from cancer networks that might be of interest to the Department;

general advice on implementation strategies and ad hoc queries; and

information to contribute to parliamentary and ministerial business.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer treatments *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence through the single technology appraisal process since 3 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [220956]

Ann Keen: Since 3 December 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on the cancer treatments shown in the table. Information on cancer treatments not considered by NICE is not available.

Treatment	*Condition*	*Process*	*Publication date*
Alimta (pemetrexed disodium)	Mesothelioma	Single technology appraisal	January 2008
Mabthera (rituximab)	Relapsed or refractory Lymphoma (follicular non-Hodgkin's)	Single technology appraisal	February 2008
Erythropoetin (alpha and beta) and darbepoetin	Cancer-treatment induced anaemia	Multiple technology appraisal	May 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab)	Head and neck cancer	Single technology appraisal	June 2008

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* new cancer treatments and *(b)* significant new licensed indications for existing cancer treatments have been referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) since 3 December 2007; and whether NICE (i) has and (ii) has not initiated a technology appraisal for each. [220957]

Ann Keen: The 15th National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) work programme was referred to NICE on 14 December 2007 and included the following six cancer technology appraisals:

lenalidomide in combination with dexamethasone for the treatment of multiple myeloma in people who have received at least one prior therapy;

lapatinib in combination with letrozole for the first-line treatment of metastatic hormone-sensitive breast cancer;

capecitabine for the treatment of advanced pancreatic cancer;

cetuximab for the first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer;

cetuximab for the treatment of advanced non small cell lung cancer; and

ixabepilone for the treatment of metastatic or locally advanced breast cancer.

The 16th work programme was referred to NICE on 20 March 2008 and included the following five cancer technology appraisals:

cetuximab in combination with irinotecan-containing regimens for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer following failure of oxaliplatin-containing chemotherapy;

cetuximab in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy for metastatic and/or recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck;

intensity modulated radiotherapy for the treatment of head and neck cancer;

intensity modulated radiotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer; and

intensity modulated radiotherapy for the treatment of prostate cancer.

The 17th work programme was referred to NICE on 11 June 2008 and included the following eight cancer technology appraisals:

sorafenib, within its licensed indication for the first line systemic treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma;

eltrombopag within its licensed indication for the treatment of refractory chronic idiopathic (immune) thrombocytopenic purpura;

romiplostim within its licensed indication for the treatment of refractory chronic idiopathic (immune) thrombocytopenic purpura;

mifamurtide within its licensed indications as an adjunct to multi-agent chemotherapy for the treatment of osteosarcoma;

temozolomide within its licensed indication for advanced and metastatic melanoma;

dasatinib within its licensed indication for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia;

topotecan within its licensed indication for the second-line treatment of small cell lung cancer; and

dasatinib and nilotinib within their licensed indications for imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia.

We are minded to refer the following nine cancer technology appraisals to NICE as part of the 18th work programme. NICE were asked on 20 March 2008 to consult stakeholders on the remits and scopes for these topics, and the results of that consultation are currently being considered.

bortezomib within its licensed indication for the first line treatment of multiple myeloma;

sunitinib within its licensed indication for the treatment of unresectable and/or metastatic malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumours refractory to imatinib;

topotecan within its licensed indication for the treatment of recurrent and carcinoma of the cervix;

trabectedin within its licensed indication for the treatment of advanced metastatic soft tissue sarcoma;

pemetrexed within its licensed indication for the first line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer;

rituximab within its licensed indication for the first line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia;

rituximab within its licensed indication for the relapsed treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia;

azacitidine within its licensed indication for the treatment of high risk patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukaemia; and

capecitabine within its licensed indication for advanced gastric cancer.

We have recently agreed revisions to the topic selection process to implement the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) commitments and NICE's 19 work programme will be the first to be referred to NICE under the revised arrangements. NICE is currently consulting on the remit and scope for the following 13 cancer treatments as part of the 19th work programme, following which Ministers will be asked to make a final decision on referral of these topics to NICE.

vorinostat for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma;

bevacizumab in combination with fluouropyrimidine for metastatic carcinoma of the colon and rectum;

sunitinib for metastatic breast cancer;

aflibercept for advanced chemo-refractory epithelial ovarian cancer;

arsenic trioxide for promyelocytic leukaemia;

temsirolimus for mantle cell lymphoma relapsed and/or refractory;

bevacizumab for breast cancer;

erlotinib in combination with bevacizumab for advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer;

rituximab for follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;

vandetanib for thyroid cancer;

vandetanib for non small cell lung cancer;

trastuzumab for gastric cancer; and

trabectedin for relapsed ovarian cancer.

NICE commences work on technology appraisals once a final referral has been made by the Department.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when chemotherapy providers will begin returning an agreed dataset on all patients receiving chemotherapy, as referred to in paragraph 4.52 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what information is captured by the dataset; and if he will make a statement; [220959]

(2) when he expects the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group to have defined the information on chemotherapy to be submitted by NHS trusts to cancer registries. [220976]

Ann Keen: A small working group is currently scoping the requirements for chemotherapy data alongside a comparison of data items for chemotherapy that are already included within the National Cancer Dataset. Any dataset agreed will also include the requirements of the cancer registration dataset.

It is anticipated, subject to testing and approval by the NHS Information Standards Board, that implementation could begin by the end of 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the robustness of chemotherapy cost data submitted as part of the 2007-08 NHS reference cost collection. [220960]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been made. 2007-08 NHS reference cost data has not yet been collected.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* strategic health authority area received (i) chemotherapy for small cell lung cancer and (ii) chemotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer in each year since 1997-98. [220989]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many patients in each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* strategic health authority area received (i) chemotherapy for small cell lung cancer and (ii) chemotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer in each year since 1997-98. [220989]

The latest year for which data are available on the national cancer registry database, which ONS operates on behalf of the Department of Health, is 2005. Tables 1 and 2 show the number of cases of small and non-small cell lung cancer, newly diagnosed in each of the years 1997-2005 in the specified geographical areas, initially receiving chemotherapy. In 55 per cent. of lung cancer cases in the database, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having had no treatment. 10 per cent. of cases was recorded as receiving more than one treatment.

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of small cell lung cancer receiving chemotherapy treatment[1], by strategic health authority and Cancer Network[2], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	1,614	1,785	1,896	2,035	1,836	1,647	1,634	1,750	1,727
Strategic Health Authority									
North East	131	248	259	255	201	210	218	223	227
North West	257	219	282	296	248	148	239	264	248
Yorkshire and the Humber	275	304	272	315	273	298	272	271	253
East Midlands	92	99	116	129	101	97	94	91	85
West Midlands	145	162	180	192	180	159	141	167	156
East of England	172	200	188	193	213	170	159	203	173
London	228	235	231	291	250	220	228	200	230
South East Coast	118	142	132	137	123	136	116	130	131
South Central	66	67	77	112	96	75	68	56	77
South West	130	109	159	115	151	134	99	145	147
Cancer network									
3 Counties	23	19	17	27	26	24	20	32	26
Anglia	83	94	85	98	103	90	83	110	96
Arden	28	34	38	39	32	24	43	43	25
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	38	29	51	29	36	29	24	60	50
Central South Coast	6	12	29	34	34	23	12	22	22
Derby/Burton	13	9	12	12	14	13	11	11	9
Dorset	11	8	12	17	31	23	12	26	27
Essex	49	62	59	56	64	55	47	59	48
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	194	140	140	156	141	67	138	161	141
Greater Midlands	42	56	71	78	71	75	47	59	81
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	59	60	68	63	51	58	64	70	65
Kent and Medway	63	55	65	58	52	57	47	49	62
Lancashire and South Cumbria	48	63	58	67	65	64	81	88	81
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	37	45	51	39	42	33	29	38	34
Merseyside and Cheshire	3	2	65	53	26	11	5	6	14
Mid Trent	41	39	41	54	33	40	44	37	26
Mount Vernon	33	31	34	31	33	17	21	25	17
North East London	50	58	54	62	52	48	62	45	40
North London	36	39	53	50	46	46	39	37	44
North of England	154	273	286	284	220	227	248	234	247
North Trent	40	40	36	51	41	50	35	34	35
Pan Birmingham	65	59	61	62	62	45	38	40	36
Peninsula	62	58	78	46	62	65	45	35	50
South East London	64	60	52	79	59	50	50	44	74
South West London	51	49	58	72	55	46	47	55	48
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	24	30	32	35	35	29	25	34	30
Sussex	27	47	27	37	31	38	37	34	29
Thames Valley	59	65	57	85	68	57	66	50	62
West London	41	28	30	42	55	48	41	36	44

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of small cell lung cancer[1] receiving chemotherapy treatment[2], by strategic health authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Yorkshire	170	201	176	219	196	195	171	176	164

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
[3] Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of non-small cell lung cancer[1] receiving chemotherapy treatment[2], by strategic health authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	1,377	1,745	2,124	2,524	2,78	2,841	3,38	4,202	4,632
Strategic Health Authority									
North East	59	136	137	196	229	271	304	365	462
North West	141	215	351	354	358	225	409	774	671
Yorkshire and the Humber	112	148	116	183	230	293	395	438	539
East Midlands	61	92	128	172	144	144	159	227	236
West Midlands	194	224	277	262	267	297	309	343	393
East of England	136	168	186	250	311	406	427	437	555
London	348	386	430	493	514	541	661	707	697
South East Coast	158	172	195	263	281	310	309	392	364
South Central	54	81	114	129	136	123	121	161	257
South West	114	123	190	222	312	231	289	358	458
Cancer network									
3 Counties	8	12	24	19	41	25	46	68	88
Anglia	59	88	101	152	167	220	242	269	314
Arden	30	44	30	55	48	71	67	91	38
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	37	42	58	72	88	65	65	125	161
Central South Coast	14	25	62	54	56	53	25	34	87
Derby/Burton	6	8	8	2	6	16	21	43	36
Dorset	5	7	27	30	48	46	64	72	83
Essex	50	49	52	68	101	124	130	114	151
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	113	173	198	220	255	125	265	576	479
Greater Midlands	34	54	80	80	112	96	128	120	175
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	19	21	35	51	62	68	87	103	116
Kent and Medway	83	93	88	136	119	152	130	177	155
Lancashire and South Cumbria	29	34	62	46	57	58	104	153	147
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	37	52	69	112	85	79	67	88	102
Merseyside and Cheshire	0	7	87	83	37	21	13	17	21
Mid Trent	15	26	37	44	38	39	62	85	68
Mount Vernon	13	17	24	21	28	33	39	34	65
North East London	65	59	88	118	126	130	161	161	145
North London	70	79	95	71	89	119	120	123	129
North of England	61	139	143	209	244	294	335	409	503
North Trent	9	17	22	31	38	49	70	74	78
Pan Birmingham	123	117	152	118	93	108	88	76	127
Peninsula	68	70	79	102	133	97	115	109	144
South East London	83	106	85	100	133	140	145	167	185
South West London	113	112	119	157	125	122	144	146	144
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	38	43	60	64	77	81	91	98	90
Sussex	25	18	34	41	62	55	71	92	91
Thames Valley	42	57	68	84	88	81	108	146	193
West London	41	61	64	76	83	82	128	152	148
Yorkshire	87	115	73	108	143	192	252	280	369

1 Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
2 More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
3 Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work the NHS Cancer Screening Programme has undertaken since 3 December 2007 in sharing best practice in improving accessibility to screening for at-risk groups, as referred to in paragraph 3.10 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007. [220945]

Ann Keen: NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and the university of Leeds are currently working on a research project to provide guidance for communicating screening information to women from minority ethnic and low income groups. This guidance will be made available throughout both the breast and cervical screening programmes.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people suspected of having cancer were treated within *(a)* two weeks and *(b)* one month of referral (i) in 2005 and (ii) in the last 12 months. [220569]

Ann Keen: In England during the year 2005-06, 99.7 per cent. of patients were first seen by a specialist within two weeks, following an urgent referral for suspected cancer from a general practitioner, and 95.8 per cent. of patients started treatment within one month of receiving a cancer diagnosis.

In the year 2007-08 (the most recent for which data is available), 99.9 per cent. of such patients were first seen by a specialist within two weeks, following an urgent referral for suspected cancer from a general practitioner, and 99.6 per cent. of such patients started treatment within one month of receiving a cancer diagnosis.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce vascular health checks as referred to on page 35 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; if he will publish the projected number of people *(a)* being offered and *(b)* accepting vascular screening checks in each of the next five years; what funding he plans to provide centrally in support of the programme in each of the next five years; what contractual mechanisms he plans to use to encourage (i) GPs, (ii) pharmacies and (iii) community clinics to offer vascular health checks; and if he will make a statement. [219367]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At full implementation, there will be 3 million invitations nationally for vascular checks. Assuming 75 per cent. uptake of invitations, this would lead to an estimated 2.2 million actual checks carried out. Existing data demonstrates that approximately 1.1 million checks are already done each year, leaving 1.1 million additional checks being performed each year. The programme will begin roll-out from 2009-10 and will be at full implementation by 2012.

Cost estimates of the programme can be found in the Technical Consultation. The cost estimates are based on scenarios fed into the economic evaluation model and should not be taken as final estimates of the cost of the policy. The final costs will depend on the delivery route for the programme and roll-out plans. These are being developed via engagement with stakeholders during the summer and autumn. We expect to carry out further modelling to support the choice of delivery and roll-out plans.

Implementing the proposals in the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care for All", is core business for the national health service. The NHS budget for England for 2008-09 is £96 billion and will rise to £110 billion by 2010-11. The proposals will be funded from within that settlement. Some proposals require central funding to ensure effective implementation. Central funding of £150 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11 has been made available for this purpose.

The overall cost of the vascular checks programme is currently estimated to be from £180 million to £243 million per annum at full implementation.

There is a range of contractual mechanisms available and decisions on which will be most suitable will be taken on the basis of the discussions with the NHS and other stakeholders that are currently taking place.

Cataracts: Waiting Lists

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for treatment of cataracts in NHS hospitals were in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many treatments were provided (i) in 2005 and (ii) in the last 12 months. [220566]

Ann Keen: The information is in the following table.

Median days waited for cataract operations and number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a cataract operation was the main or secondary procedure in both 2005-06 and 2006-07 in NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS

	Median days waited	*FCEs*
2005-06	68	302,876
2006-07	69	305,612

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to increase participation of women aged 25 to 35 years in the cervical screening programme, as referred to in paragraph 3.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and what his latest estimate is of the proportion of 25 to 35-year-old women participating in the cervical screening programme *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* in the previous five years. [220935]

Ann Keen: NHS Cancer Screening Programmes is commissioning a £250,000 Improvement Foundation project to tackle the falling participation of women aged 25 to 35 in the NHS cervical screening programme. Five primary care trusts have been invited to participate in this project.

Information on the proportion of women aged 25 to 35 participating in the NHS cervical screening programme in 2008 is not yet available.

National policy for the NHS cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 49 are to be screened every 3.5 years. The following table shows the percentage of eligible women aged between 25 and 34 years with a cervical screening test result in the previous 3.5 years for the last five years.

					Percentage
Coverage	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Women aged 25-29	65	64.1	62.5	60.8	59.8
Women aged 30-34	71	70.2	68.9	68.5	68.1

Note:
Coverage is the percentage of eligible women with a cervical screening test result in the previous 3.5 years.
Source:
ONS/The Information Centre, Cervical Screening Programme: England 2006-07, Table 1.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to return cervical screening test results to women following a test; and what advice has been issued to the NHS on achieving the two-week turnaround time standard on cervical screening results, as referred to in paragraph 3.14 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220946]

Ann Keen: The information requested for England in 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available, is shown in the table for the 93 per cent. of local programmes where the result letter is sent by a primary care organisation:

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result in England, 2006-07

	Percentage
Up to 4 weeks	48
>4 weeks up to 6 weeks	26
>6 weeks up to 8 weeks	14
>8 weeks up to 10 weeks	7
> 10 weeks up to 12 weeks	4
Over 12 weeks	2

Source:
Cervical Screening programme England 2006-07 (National Statistics and The Information Centre).

Advice to the national health service (NHS, Gateway number: 9782) on achieving the new 14 day turnaround time for the results of cervical screening was issued in "The Week" (issue 42, 18-24 April 2008). The advice asked strategic health authorities to bid for their local cervical screening services to receive support in achieving the 14 day turnaround time from NHS Improvement: Cancer as part of a three year rolling programme. Nine local screening services have now been identified as part of wave 1 of the programme, and NHS Improvement: Cancer will begin working with them shortly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women he estimates participated in the cervical screening programme in the last year for which figures are available in each primary care trust area in England. [220947]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 617-36W, which provides information on cervical screening coverage across England, broken down by primary care trust.

Coverage is the percentage of eligible women who have had a cervical screening test result in the previous five years.

Children: Domestic Accidents

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in each region were admitted to hospital for accidents in the home in each of the last five financial years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* type of accident. [221012]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Information on admissions to hospital for accidental injury is available but the number of admissions for accidents in the home cannot be reliably identified.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at which five sites an extension to the bowel cancer screening programme to men and women aged between 70 and 75 years is being piloted, as referred to in paragraph 3.32 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [220940]

Ann Keen: The five sites piloting the bowel cancer screening extension to men and women aged 70 to 75 are Wolverhampton, Hull, South Devon, St. Marks (London) and Norwich. The first of these pilots are due to begin in September 2008.

Deca-BDE

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has held recent discussions on the human safety of Deca-BDE with the French Government; and if he will make a statement. [221184]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State has not held bilateral discussions about the human safety of Deca-BDE with the French Government in its capacity as Health Rapporteur. The assessment has been discussed at meetings of the European Competent Authorities for implementation of the Existing Substances Regulations. Officials from the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive have represented the UK throughout the risk assessment process. The Department, through toxicology experts in the Health Protection Agency, is routinely consulted on human health aspects.

Further information is still being collected by the French rapporteur in relation to human health before a final conclusion can be reached. The European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is now in force; the risk assessment process has now been transferred to that system. In the meantime, monitoring by the Health Protection Agency continues to ensure that prompt action can be taken if new evidence suggests that human health may be at risk.

Dental Health: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what indicators his Department uses to measure dental health in children; and what the figures for each indicator were for each primary care trust in each year since 1997. [221005]

Ann Keen: We use the average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) in children resident in the area of each primary care trust. The information is collected from decennial national child dental health surveys and more frequent local surveys of five and 12-year-olds co-ordinated by the Public Health Observatory for the North West in collaboration with the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry. Results from the last national survey conducted in 2003 are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/children/dentalhealth/

Information from the other surveys is available at:

http://www.bascd.org/annual_survey_results.php

Since 1993, levels of tooth decay have fallen in most age groups. The most significant change has been in older children with a reduction in DMFT in 12-year-old children from 1.4 to 0.7, which means that this age group now has the best oral health in Europe.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what internal *(a)* research papers and *(b)* reports his Department has produced or commissioned on NHS dentistry in the last 12 months. [221011]

Ann Keen: The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent dentists on primary care NHS lists in England and *(b)* people not registered with an NHS dentist there are in each strategic health authority area; and what the population is within each strategic health authority area. [221698]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of dentists on open national health service contracts, in England, as at 31 March 2007, are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006/07" report. This is the latest information available.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. Instead the number of patients receiving NHS dental services, 'patients seen' over a 24-month period is monitored and reported regularly.

Information on the numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, in the 24-month period ending 31 December 2007, and the proportion of the population this represents is available in Tables C1 and C2 respectively of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3.

Both of the aforementioned reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The population within each SHA area is given in the following table. The figures have been rounded to follow Office for National Statistics' (ONS) guidelines.

Mid-2006 population estimates using the ONS' 2007 methodology (rounded to the nearest 100)

SHA	*Mid-2006 population estimate*
North East	2,555,700
North West	6,853,200
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,142,400
East Midlands	4,364,200
West Midlands	5,366,700
East of England	5,606,600
London	7,512,400
South East Coast	4,248,300
South Central	3,989,500
South west	5,124,100
England	50,762,900

Note:
The sum of the SHA figures does not equal the England total due to rounding.
Source:
ONS.

These are the latest ONS mid-year estimates currently available. They are the population figures used for the periods ending March, June, September and December 2007 in Table C2 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report aforementioned, but not the period ending March 2006, which also appears in that table. This is because each period is based on the latest population estimates available at the time for the respective period. Further details are contained within the footnotes. Note also that the figures in Table C2 are based on un-rounded population estimates.

Dental Services: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many treatments in each treatment band were carried out by NHS dentists in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [220393]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The classification of courses of treatment (CoTs) into bands was introduced with the new dental contractual arrangements on 1 April 2006. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested prior to April 2006.

Information on the number of CoTs by treatment band, in England, for the first two quarters of 2007-08 is available in Tables A1 and A2 of Annex 4 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Information for quarter three of 2007-08 is available in Table A1 of Annex 3 of the aforementioned report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This report, published on 5 June 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Information on the number of CoTs by treatment band, in England, for 2006-07 is available in Table A2 of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07". This shows the total number of CoTs for the year, by treatment band and is provided by SHA and by PCT. The report, published on 23 August 2007, has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Information for the full year 2007-08, including updated quarterly information to account for CoTs reported late, will be available in the report "NHS Dental Statistics: 2007-08", which is due to be published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 21 August 2008.

Under the old dental contractual arrangements, in place up to and including 31 March 2006, information on the number of claims by treatment type is available in Annex D of "NHS Dental and Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided for 2005 and 2006, by SHA. This information is not comparable with data collected under the new dental contractual arrangements. The report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The aforementioned reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS dental patients in each region paid in charges in each year since 1997. [221006]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care published "NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997/98-2005/06" on 26 March 2008. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) for 1997-98 to 2005-06 at tables A1 and B1 of Annex 3. Table A1 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B1 relates to 'net' expenditure. 'Gross' expenditure refers to the full cost of the payments recorded; 'net' expenditure reflects the cost of these payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of Annex 3.

Information on NHS patient charges in England in 2006-07 is available in table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006/07" report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA. This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Patient charge data for 2007-08 is expected to be included in the NHS Information Centre report on "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006/07", due to be published on 21 August 2008.

Dental Services: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental practices in North Lancashire Primary Care Trust are accepting new NHS patients. [220650]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on the number of dentists taking on new patients. The hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of North Lancashire primary care trust which might hold this information.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220822]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not instruct the Treasury Solicitor in the appellate courts, preferring instead to conduct nearly all domestic litigation with the help of in-house lawyers.

Information on the number of times the Department itself has sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords, and on the number of times applications have been rejected, could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many arm's length bodies his Department *(a)* had at the beginning of 2008 and *(b)* will have at the end of 2008. [221055]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department had 25 arm's length bodies on 1 January 2008 and there will be 24 on 31 December 2008.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217869]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not undertaken any formal study to estimate of the number of computer devices left on overnight in departmental premises and therefore cannot provide the cost of leaving these devices on overnight in each of the last five years.

Staff are instructed to shut down their personal computers (PCs) at the end of the day and this automatically switches off the power. The PC monitor has to be manually switched off but if this is not done, the monitor goes into very low power mode until the PC is switched on again. Printers and other shared peripheral

devices connected to the network are not switched off overnight but automatically go to low power mode after a short period of inactivity both during the day and overnight. The Department will shortly be deploying a network tool that identifies PCs left switched on outside office hours and forces the equipment to shut down safely.

All computer equipment procured by the Department meets or exceeds Sustainability Mandatory Standards ('Quick Wins') 2007. The 'Quick Wins' are a set of minimum environmental standards covering a range of commonly-purchased goods, including information technology equipment. The standards relate to characteristics such as energy consumption, recycled content, and biodegradability.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what categories are used by his Department to classify *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* other correspondence it receives; and how many letters were received in each category in the last 12 months. [221007]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministerial correspondence is categorised as *(a)* letters and emails received from MPs and significant public figures; *(b)* letters and e-mails received from other members of the public and addressed to Ministers. Other correspondence consists of letters and e-mails addressed directly to officials. Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 we received 95,112 letters and e-mails categorised as ministerial correspondence. We do not collect centrally the amount of correspondence in the second category.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* employees of (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies reporting to his Department were (A) dismissed and (B) disciplined for matters related to their conduct in the last two years. [217603]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers of staff in the Department and its agencies who were dismissed or disciplined for matters related to their conduct in the last two years are presented in the following table:

	2007-08		*2006-07*	
	Dismissed	*Disciplined*	*Dismissed*	*Disciplined*
The Department	0	7	0	6
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	1	3	1	0
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	1	3	0	1

Providing information for other bodies reporting to the Department would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W, on departmental freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the information provided where the request was *(a)* agreed to and answered in full and *(b)* agreed to and answered in part; and if he will make a statement. [219662]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of the information requested by the hon. Member have been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his IT *(a)* systems and *(b)* services conform to the ISO 27001 standard. [215856]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's IT systems and managed services conform to the principles of the ISO 27001 information security standard.

Departmental Industrial Accidents

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department towards its target of a 20 per cent. reduction in the incidence of accidents by 2010 from the 1996 baseline. [221031]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department, in partnership with stakeholders including other Government Departments, has been working to prevent accidental injury and to promote safety. For example, the national service frameworks for children and o' 'er people, through their standards for health and well-being, recognise the importance of unintentional injury and the need for prevention initiatives led by the national health service in partnership with local authorities. The Department has also asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop a suite of guidance on the prevention of unintentional injury in children under 15 years old. It is also working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on its cross-government public service agreement to improve children and young people's safety.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212031]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies spent £33.09 million on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08.

The top three campaigns, in terms of expenditure, in this period were smoking—£12.7 million, tobacco legislation—£5.9 million and sexual health—£3.46 million.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214691]

Mr. Bradshaw: To calculate the costs of design and hosting for all public information websites from 1997 to date would incur disproportionate costs, as this information is not held centrally.

The Department does not record design costs separately from other aspects of print production for public information campaigns. Calculations to arrive at a separate design figure would incur disproportionate costs.

Total costs for broadcast media are as follows:

	£
1997-98	2,024,207
1998-99	7,608,024
1999-2000	14,981,014
2000-01	22,227,384
2001-02	17,270,643
2002-03	19,244,549
2003-04	35,418,249
2004-05	36,237,741
2005-06	29,700,128
2006-07	27,803,553
2007-08	28,358,908

Departmental Official Visits

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official visits each Minister in his Department has made to *(a)* dental practices, *(b)* opticians, *(c)* pharmacies, *(d)* general practitioner surgeries, *(e)* care homes, *(f)* community hospitals, *(g)* genito-urinary medicine clinics, *(h)* ambulance trusts, *(i)* mental health trusts, *(j)* rehabilitation services and *(k)* stroke units since May 2007; and what the purpose of each visit was. [214969]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library. This also corrects the information given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213527]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's central accounts for the last three years show the following expenditure on new furnishings and fittings:

	£000
2005-06	48
2006-07	2,887
2007-08	696

The Department has specified verifiable, legal and sustainable sources for the provision of timber and timber products purchased by this Department over the last five years, and will specify Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade licensed timber products for future purchases when it becomes available.

The following was the net cost to the Department of leasing new vehicles in the relevant period:

	£000
2005-06	17
2006-07	37
2007-08	32

Expenditure on art is not separately identified in the Department's accounts.

Departmental Records

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to establish mystaffspace, as referred to on page 71 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; what the cost of establishing mystaffspace will be; what assessment he has made of the effect on the confidentiality of staff records of establishing mystaffspace; and if he will make a statement. [221057]

Mr. Bradshaw: Precise implementation timing and cost details associated with mystaffspace will be established in line with the experience of and lessons from developing the prototype. A programme is now being initiated and planning will include the business case, and the development and implementation plans that expect a staged roll-out over the next two years.

The security controls and safeguards to prevent unrestricted or uncontrolled access, via mystaffspace, to personal staff records will be at least as secure as those systems to which it might provide access.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221616]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could not be procured without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has a standard retirement age; and how many employees have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218303]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a standard retirement age of 65, which was introduced on 1 October 2006. It works on the assumption that staff will not wish to work beyond the age of 65, but welcomes requests from those who wish to carry on working. Since 1 October 2006, no requests have been refused. The fairly recent introduction of a standard retirement age of 65 means that before 1 October 2006 staff were not asked or expected to retire on reaching 65.

Diabetes: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average ratio of children to paediatric diabetes specialist nurses in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England. [220708]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to deploy specialist nurses according to their local needs.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in Leeds have carried out a local needs assessment on the development of services for children and young people with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [220783]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Responsibility for developing services for children and young people with diabetes rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published 'Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter', the report of the Children and Young People with Diabetes working group, which looked at ways to improve diabetes services for children and young people. This report includes guidance to commissioners on the planning, design and provision of diabetes services for children and young people. A copy of this document has already been placed in the Library.

The Diabetes Commissioning Toolkit, published in November 2006, describes the importance of carrying out a health needs assessment for local diabetes populations.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether World-Class Commissioning will ensure that commissioners consider the rights and needs of children when developing appropriate diabetes services. [219501]

Mr. Bradshaw: The intent of the world class commissioning programme is to strengthen commissioners to improve health outcomes across all health needs and conditions in accordance with the needs of local populations. The vision is to achieve better health, better care and better value for all.

For children this means:

clear evidence-based decisions for the commissioning of children's services;

better targeting of services for children; and

the promotion of partnership working within commissioning.

Commissioners are required to engage with local patients and the public in order to ensure that services are being commissioned and delivered that best meet their needs. World class commissioning will therefore create services that are increasingly patient-led and customised to the needs of different groups and communities, including children.

Commissioners will be held to account on their commissioning performance through an assurance system that is intended to lead them towards world class commissioning of services.

In addition, the Department will be publishing a child health strategy and a joint commissioning framework in the autumn which will specifically support world class commissioning for children and young people.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to tackle geographical differences in access to insulin pumps for children and young people with diabetes. [219503]

Ann Keen: In February 2003, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines on the provision of insulin pump therapy to all people with type 1 diabetes, including children and young people. This is currently being reviewed, and the revised guidance is expected to be published shortly.

The Department is aware that access to pump therapy in England is variable. In March 2007, it published a joint report with Diabetes UK of the findings of the Insulin Pumps Working Group, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The Working Group made recommendations about how local services can implement the NICE guidelines and address variation across the country.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop guidance for the *(a)* quality and *(b)* appropriate timing of hospital meals for people with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [219611]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is published guidance on the quality and delivery of hospital food. An appropriate diet, based on acceptable standards, requires good food with the right nutritional content, properly prepared and available when patients need it (and this includes diets for patients with diabetes). The Food Standards Agency has published nutrient and food based guidance for major institutions, including hospitals. Guidance on nutritional information is available for all recipes in the National Dish Selector. To ensure that wholesome, high quality and value-for-money ingredients are used, the Purchasing and Supply Agency have developed specifications for ingredients.

Local national health service trusts are responsible for providing hospital meals at appropriate times. To help trusts devise their policies, including those around meal times, we have produced "Essence of Care" which sets benchmarks for screening and assessment to identify patients' nutritional needs in health and social care settings, and helps healthcare professionals form appropriate care plans.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that people with diabetes receive a comprehensive medical review every 12 months. [219646]

Ann Keen: The Quality and Outcomes Framework rewards practices for the number of patients with diabetes who receive key care processes, including measuring blood pressure, HbA1c (blood glucose) and cholesterol.

Guidance on the management of type 2 diabetes from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence recommends that key clinical and lifestyle interventions are carried out on a regular basis.

The Diabetes National Service Framework highlights the importance of people with diabetes having regular checks. This provides the opportunity for the results of key test and measurements to be discussed, and for any complications to be identified as early as possible.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisons provide the integrated drug treatment system; how many prisoners are undergoing treatment within the system; whether his Department met its March 2008 target for the implementation of the system; and if he will make a statement. [220526]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There was no departmental target for the implementation of the system. In 2008-09, the Department allocated funds to implement enhanced clinical treatment as part of an integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) in 91 prisons.

In 2007-08, good progress was made against implementation plans in the 53 prisons funded by the Department, in 2007-08 to implement enhanced clinical treatment as part of an IDTS. During this period, 25,519 prison drug clinical treatments were initiated in these 53 prisons.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the integrated drug treatment scheme in each year since its announcement. [221410]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental funding for the integrated drug treatment scheme in prison commenced in July, 2006. Funding for the remaining nine months of 2006-07 was £12 million, followed by £12.7 million in 2007-08 and £25.39 million in 2008-09.

Epilepsy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provides for *(a)* the Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy and *(b)* the National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy. [220857]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any direct funding provided by the Department to either the Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy, or the National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of core training in epilepsy awareness on *(a)* neurologists, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* nurses working in accident and emergency departments; [220858]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the programme for provision of specialist nurses for epilepsy; [220859]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of core training in epilepsy awareness on levels of misdiagnosis for epilepsy. [220860]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the effect on neurologists, nurses, and nurses working in accident and emergency departments of core training in epilepsy awareness.

We have made no assessment of the provision of specialist nurses for epilepsy.

We have made no assessment of the effect of core training in epilepsy awareness on levels of mis-diagnosis for epilepsy.

EU Employment Social Policy Health and Consumer Affairs Council

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1109-10W, on the EU Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, on which dates in each of the last five years senior officials have represented Ministers at the Council; and on which of these occasions Ministers were unable to attend owing to parliamentary commitments. [221391]

Dawn Primarolo: Under each presidency for the European Union, Ministers for Health from the 27 member states are invited to attend the Employment, Social Policy, Consumer Affairs and Health Council (EPSCO). From the period of 2003-08, there were two occasions where senior officials have represented Ministers at the EPSCO Council:

30 to 31 May 2007—Anne Lambert, Deputy Permanent Representative for UKRep; and

9 to 10 June 2008—Andy Lebrecht Deputy Permanent Representative for UKRep

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the Minister of State's statement on his interview published with the BBC News website on 3 July 2008 that one GP practice in the south of England has only two patients. [218305]

Mr. Bradshaw: The evidence to support the existence of this practice—Burrswood Nursing Home is taken from the Exeter—Connecting for Health GP payment system, using latest available data on practice list size, Global sum payments and minimum practice guarantee correction factor payments.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP surgery has two patients. [219382]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Burrswood Nursing Home practice is recorded as having two registered patients.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 GP surgeries have the lowest number of patients; and how many patients each of those surgeries has. [219383]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the 10 general practitioner (GP) practices with the lowest number of patients and the number of registered patients at each practice.

Practice	*Patients*
Burswood Nursing Home	2
Dyneley House	18
Dawcliffe Hall	19

Practice	Patients
The Surgery	39
The Windsor Centre	125
Cwll Health for Homeless	156
St. Margarets Health Centre	169
St. Weburgh's Medical	179
31 Monkgate	190
Nightingale House	226

The data are taken directly from the 2007 GP Census collection at 30 September 2007.

In addition, 28 practices have been identified that have no registered patients but who may nevertheless be continuing to provide primary medical care services to patients who are not registered with that practice.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish national figures on access to general practitioners. [220025]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2007-08 national GP Patient Survey results were published on 16 July 2008, by the Information Centre for health and social care. The survey was conducted from January to March 2008 and shows improvements in patients experience of access during core general practitioner (GP) opening hours, but with more patients wanting to see a GP at convenient times, including, later in the evening or at weekends. This further confirms patient and public support for the Government's initiatives to secure additional and more flexible access to GP services.

The GP Patient Survey 2008 for access and hospital choice have been placed in the Library.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of morale amongst general practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [220026]

Mr. Bradshaw: Assessments of general practitioner (GP) morale are carried out by independent bodies such as the British Medical Association, the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and the UK Medical Careers Research Group. The results indicate that job satisfaction among general medical practitioners is higher than it was before the introduction of the new GP contract in 2004-05.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to extend access to GP surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [220032]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have made three key commitments to improve patients' access to general practitioner services: to extend the opening hours of existing general practitioner (GP) practices, securing at least 50 per cent. of practices delivering extended opening hours to their patients; to establish over 100 new GP practices in under-or poorly-served areas; and to develop 152 GP-led health centres, one in each primary care trust (PCT), open 8 am to 8 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To achieve this, we have secured an agreement with the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association on extended opening, with investment of £158 million available to general practices; guaranteed additional investment of £250 million to PCTs to provided additional general practitioner services and proposed a further investment of £50 million by PCTs to initiate further local improvements for patients in accessing local GP services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.16 of his Department's Primary Care Strategy, whether *(a)* GP practice boundaries and *(b)* closed patient lists will be phased out. [221002]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no plans to change the regulations that set out the procedures that relate to either a contractor's practice boundaries or their ability to seek permission to close their patient lists. The Department will work with primary care trusts to ensure the current arrangements work better for patients.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 4.16 of his Department's Primary Care Strategy, over what timescale he plans to remove the obstacles to people's choice of GP practices. [221003]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are supporting the local national health service to work with general practitioners (GPs) and other primary medical care providers to ensure the public have a greater and more informed choice of GP practice. The range of measures includes procuring new additional practices and services, expanding the capacity of existing GPs, making more information available to the public about the performance of providers, and delivering a fairer and more equitable funding system.

There is already work under way in some parts of England to promote choice of GP practice.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways he plans to distinguish more clearly between the *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* provider role of GP practices, as referred to on chapter 7.10 on page 52 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care; and when he plans to do so. [221139]

Mr. Bradshaw: Practice-based commissioning has two elements, which when supported by appropriate governance arrangements, have the potential to improve-the range and quality of local services. Firstly, the multi-professional, collaborative work in commissioning better care for local populations. Secondly, the role of general practitioner practices in providing an enhanced range of services for their patients. For example by establishing a phlebotomy service in the practice so patients do not have to attend outpatients, or by employing an extra nurse to provide proactive care in the community in order to reduce the number of emergency referrals. The Department will provide further information on this later this summer as part of a package of measures to highlight the precise role and contribution of practice-based commissioning.

General Practitioners: Camden

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials had with Camden Primary Care Trust on the tendering

process on the alternative provider medical services contract to run Camden Road, King's Cross and Brunswick Centre GP practices; [208427]

(2) if he will call for a report from Camden Primary Care Trust on *(a)* the bids that were submitted, *(b)* the criteria used to select the successful bid, *(c)* the tendering process and timescale, *(d)* the bidder weighted score in each category and the overall total weighted score for each bid submitted and *(e)* the per patient cost estimates in each of the bids submitted, in respect of the alternative provider medical service contract to run Camden Road, King's Cross and Brunswick Centre GP practices. [208767]

Mr. Bradshaw: In March this year, I had a short conversation with the Chairman of Camden Primary Care Trust (PCT) in preparation for a local political meeting. During the conversation the Chairman briefly touched on the PCT's decision to award to United Healthcare Europe an Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract, for the management of the three GP practices. I understand that the PCT publicly announced this decision in January 2008.

The Department has not had any discussions with Camden Primary Care Trust (PCT) regarding the tendering process for the contract to run Camden Road, King's Cross and Brunswick Centre general practitioner (GP) practices. The Department does not collect information on locally managed procurements outwith the current procurements of new GP practices and health centres. Therefore we have no plans to call for a report from Camden PCT.

It is for PCTs in conjunction with their strategic health authorities (SHAs) and other stakeholders to plan and commission services to meet the needs of their local populations. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise his concerns with the chief executive of Camden PCT.

General Practitioners: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current average payment to GPs per registered patient *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in North Yorkshire is. [219783]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current general medical services (GMS) weighted capitation payment per registered patient is £54.72 but the protection of historic income by the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee means that most GMS practices receive more than this and there is wide variation in the payments that practices receive. If these protected payments were distributed fairly and equitably between GMS practices the average GMS weighted payment per patient nationally would be £66. In North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust the average GMS weighted capitation payments received by practices is £69. No information is held centrally on the level of similar payments made by primary care trust to PMS practices or other local contracted providers.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on average levels of payment to GPs per registered patient of removing the minimum practice income guarantee. [219784]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Minimum Practice Income Guarantee is currently worth £325 million annually and is unevenly distributed between General Medical Services (GMS) practices on the basis of their historic income for core essential patient services. The table below sets out the distribution of additional payments being made to GMS practices in terms of £s per registered patient.

Distribution of additional payments to GMS practices

Correction factor payment per patient (£)	*Number of practices*
0	341
2	131
4	261
6	333
8	458
10	571
12	621
14	568
16	454
18	328
20	200
22	175
24	117
26	79
28	66
30	33
30+	86
Total	4,822

General Practitioners: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of GP practices in Hemel Hempstead of the polyclinic proposed to be sited there; and if he will make a statement. [208765]

Mr. Bradshaw: West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) advises us it has no plans for a polyclinic in Hemel Hempstead. It does have proposals for a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre to provide services in addition to existing GP surgeries and is currently considering the results of its recent consultation. The PCT advises that this will lead to an increase in capacity and additional choice for patients.

General Practitioners: Income

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans the minimum practice income guarantee will be phased out, as referred to on page 39 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221019]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Employers are currently discussing with the British Medical Association's (BMA) General Practitioners Committee how best to achieve and implement a more equitable funding system for the provision of primary medical care services. These discussions include the possible timescale for phasing out the minimum practice income guarantee.

General Practitioners: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of a full-time general practitioner is. [219687]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on general practitioners' earnings is collected annually as part of the GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry and is based on general practitioners' tax self-assessment returns to HM Revenue and Customs. Both part-time and full-time general practitioners make these returns and it is not possible to separate them out to calculate an average earnings figure for full-time general practitioners only.

The latest available information from the GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry is for the financial year 2005-06 and was published in "GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry 2005/2006: Final Report" on 19 March 2008 and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gpearnex0506final

This publication has already been placed in the Library. The initial results from the 2006-07 Earnings and Expenses Enquiry are expected to be published in October 2008.

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to mandate the adoption of the Royal College of General Practitioners' accreditation scheme for GP practices, as referred to on page 53 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221119]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no plans to make the Royal College of General Practitioners' accreditation scheme mandatory. Following the completion of the pilot, working with the profession we will consider how to secure widespread take-up by all primary medical care contractors so as to drive up the quality of their organisation and services they provide to patients.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for his Department's decision to seek an extension of GP opening hours in England. [221231]

Mr. Bradshaw: There was a range of information that informed the basis for putting in place measures to improve patient access to general practice.

Responses to the 2007 GP Patient Survey indicated that 16 per cent. of people, around six and a half million patients, were unhappy with their general practitioner (GP) practices' opening hours.

The consultative event held in September 2007, which preceded Lord Darzi's interim report, showed that many people sought the opportunity to access routine primary care from a GP in the evenings or at weekends.

The British Medical Association's own survey of GPs in October 2007 showed that a majority of GPs would be willing to provide extended opening hours and agreed that patients wanted such a service.

Other surveys of the public carried out by Which? and other consumer representative organisations similarly show that patients want to have greater flexibility in opening times to be able to see a GP.

The 2008 GP Patient Survey results, carried out between January and March and published on 16 July 2008, showed that 18 per cent. of people—as many as seven and a half million patients nationally—want to see improvements in the opening hours of their local GP practice. This increase in dissatisfaction from the 2007 survey results reinforces the importance of primary care trusts working with local practices to deliver more flexible access for patients.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215107]

Mr. Bradshaw: 118 staff work in the Communications Directorate. Another 21 staff are employed in the Department in an embedded communications role. All of these staff are eligible to register with the Government Communications Network (GCN).

Currently no staff within the Purchasing and Supply Agency or Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are classified as Government communicators.

Hazardous Substances: Screening

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what tests for toxins are available on the NHS. [221036]

Dawn Primarolo: A wide range of tests for toxins is available on the national health service. These include tests for chemical compounds or other agents which cause illness or death when ingested, breathed in or injected; and testing for the presence in the body of toxins produced by microbes, in order to diagnose an infection or disease.

The Health Protection Agency runs the National Poisons Information Service, which provides information and advice to health professionals on the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients who may have been accidentally or deliberately poisoned, and supports NHS Direct and NHS 24 in providing advice to members of the public.

Health Centres

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP practices and *(b)* primary care centres were (i) opened and (ii) refurbished in the last 12 months; and how many of each are planned to be opened in the next three years. [220577]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Plan, published in July 2000, set national targets to replace or significantly refurbish up to 3,000 general practitioner (GP) premises and create 500 one-stop primary care centres by 2004. Both targets were met. The target for one-stop centres was extended to create an additional 250 by December 2008.

In the 12 months to 31 March 2008 the number of one-stop primary care centres has increased by 27 to 719 in total. Information on the number of GP practises opened or refurbished and primary care centres refurbished is not collected centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who will register with new GP-led health centres. [220996]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts to estimate the number of patients that will choose to register at a new general practitioner led health centre.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts that will not open a new GP-led health centre because to do so would be inappropriate given the health needs of their population. [220997]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department expects each primary care trust (PCT) to secure a general practitioner (GP) led health centre during 2008-09. As the recent national GP Patient Survey demonstrates, patients across all parts of the country wish to have greater and more convenient access to GP services. It is for primary care trusts to develop models of primary care and community services that focus more strongly on promoting health, preventing illness and managing long-term conditions. PCTs may therefore chose to commission a wider range of responsive services that reflect local health need and maximise integration with other services such as diagnostics, dentistry, pharmacy and social care.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has made for the training of additional GPs to staff the new GP-led health centres. [220999]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has worked with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and the general practitioners (GP) postgraduate deans to expand GP training to ensure that there are sufficient training places to meet expected future demand. Since 1997 there has been an 85.4 per cent. increase in the number of GP registrars, qualified doctors in training for general practice, with 2,337 GP registrar posts being recruited to this year. The total number of doctors in training in the NHS has grown annually over the last 10 years at an average of 4.4 per cent. a year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a patient in treated in a GP-led health centre without being registered there, whether funding will be transferred from the GP where the patient is registered to the health centre to cover the cost of treatment. [221017]

Mr. Bradshaw: No.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trusts that do not open a new GP-led health centre will receive the money they would have otherwise received within their allocations to fund the centre. [221233]

Mr. Bradshaw: The "NHS Operating Framework 2008-09" set out the Department's expectation that all primary care trusts (PCTs) will secure a new general practitioner led health centre using their share of the new and additional £250 million access fund and all PCTs are currently planning to deliver these extra services.

Health Centres: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated annual GP-led average payment per registered patient will be in health centres. [220024]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a local contractual matter for each primary care trust (PCT). However, we have advised PCTs to set a local equitable price per patient per year of care (i.e. a fair and equitable weighted capitation payment per patient); or to obtain a cost per registered patient through the procurement process. Where PCTs choose to set a local price, the payment mechanism should be calculated on a weighted capitation basis i.e. based on the expected age/sex/deprivation and demographics of the population to be covered. Where PCTs decide to ask bidders to bid on a price per registered patient, per year basis, a comparison should be made with the price per patient for existing practices with similar patient demographic characteristics.

In considering pricing, PCTs will also need to take into consideration the additional opening hours new health centre providers will need to deliver, any locally enhanced services being contracted for, or additional clinical or qualitative requirements being sought against which providers contracts will be performance management against.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital funding has been allocated to each primary care trust to build a new GP-led health centre. [221008]

Mr. Bradshaw: A £250 million access revenue fund was secured for the NHS through the Comprehensive Spending Review process to support the delivery of GP-led health centres in every primary care trust (PCT) and 100 new GP practices in the most poorly served PCTs. Collectively, £120 million of this is for health centres and will be included in PCT allocations using a weighted capitation formula to determine each PCTs target share of available resources. All revenue funding allocated to PCTs will be on the basis of continuing to meet recurrent expenditure.

No capital funding has been allocated specifically for the GP led health centres. Where capital investment is required to support the development of new GP facilities, they can use the funds available to them for local capital investment priorities. The Operating Framework for the NHS in England in 2008-09 stated that £400 million, £480 million and £565 million of would be available to fund the local investment priorities of the PCT sector, respectively, in this and the next two years. After careful consideration of local investment plans, to ensure the maximum possible investment in this sector, the budget for 2008-09 was increased to £500 million.

New health centre buildings may also be procured under NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust. There are currently 48 NHS LIFT schemes covering half of the country.

Health Centres: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many polyclinics he expects will be established in North East Hertfordshire constituency. [219348]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are currently no plans to establish polyclinics in the North East Hertfordshire constituency. East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust is in the process of procuring a general practitioner-led health centre.

Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 10 of the NHS Next Stage Review Final Report, how much money his Department has allocated to the Reduce your Risk campaign; and when this campaign will be launched. [219376]

Dawn Primarolo: Implementing the proposals in the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review, High Quality Care for All, is core business for the national health service. The NHS budget for England for 2008-09 is £96 billion and will rise to £110 billion by 2010-11. The proposals will be funded from within that settlement. Some proposals require central funding to ensure effective implementation. Central funding of £150 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11 has been made available for this purpose.

We are confident all the commitments are affordable within this overall total, though precise funding for individual initiatives is still subject to further detailed planning work on implementation including whether they are taken forward nationally or by the NHS locally. The campaign will run alongside the introduction of vascular checks, which will begin from 2009-10 with full implementation by 2012.

Health Education: Public Participation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to begin work with *(a)* professional and *(b)* patient groups to provide better incentives in the Quality and Outcomes Framework for maintaining good health, as referred to on page 37 of his Department's document, High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; with which (i) professional and (ii) patient groups he plans to work; when he expects the agreed changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework will come into effect; and if he will make a statement. [219362]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our vision for primary and community care—"High Quality Care for All" published on 3 July as part of Lord Darzi's national health service review proposes a new strategy for developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework, including an independent and transparent process for developing and reviewing indicators.

The report states our intention to:

discuss with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and with stakeholders including patient groups and professional bodies how this new process should work;

discuss how to reduce the number of organisational or process indicators, and refocus resources on new indicators for prevention and clinical effectiveness; and

explore the scope to give greater flexibility to primary care trusts to work with primary healthcare teams to select quality indicators (from a national menu) that reflect local health improvement priorities.

We will discuss with a wide range of professional and patient groups and other stakeholders how the new process should work. Further details will be announced later.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans primary care trusts (PCTs) to begin commissioning comprehensive well-being services, as referred to on page 35 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; what the evidential basis is for focusing these services on *(a)* obesity, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* drug addiction, *(d)* smoking, *(e)* sexual health and *(f)* mental health; what other areas were considered in assessing where to focus comprehensive well-being services; what national funding will be made available to PCTs to support them in commissioning comprehensive well-being services; what contractual mechanisms PCTs will use to commission comprehensive well-being services; in what settings he anticipates the comprehensive well-being services being provided; and if he will make a statement. [219364]

Dawn Primarolo: Implementing the proposals in the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care for All", is core business for the national health service. The NHS budget for England for 2008-09 is £96 billion and will rise to £110 billion by 2010-11. The proposals will be funded from within that settlement.

To support decisions on how to spend their allocated resource, primary care trusts have developed operational plans on the specific national requirements for all primary care trusts to deliver, alongside locally determined stretch targets which focus on local ambitions. To support this new approach the Vital Signs indicator set was published with the "Operational Plans 2008/09-2010/11".

Lord Darzi's review, "High Quality Care For All" foresees that in an NHS with a stronger focus on preventative healthcare, there will be large scale investment in wellbeing services, according to local needs. All of the areas highlighted by "High Quality Care For All" (obesity, alcohol, drug addiction, smoking, sexual health and mental health) appear in Vital Signs and the National Indicator Set, either as national priorities for local delivery (Tier 2 indicators), or local priorities which can be prioritised by primary care trusts in conjunction with local partners (Tier 3 indicators).

Improving preventative and wellbeing services was a priority in every strategic health authority vision document published as part of Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review of the NHS. Each vision document is based on an assessment of the evidence by over 2000 clinicians across England, and each one highlighted some or all of these areas (obesity, alcohol, drug addiction, smoking, sexual health and mental health) as requiring action, hence their inclusion in "High Quality Care For All".

The World Class Commissioning programme was launched in July 2007 by the Department in order to provide support and improve commissioning across the NHS. This programme will bring about a step-change in commissioning, with one aspect of this change being a stronger focus on long-term health issues.

Through stronger engagement of stakeholders, and strategic planning with a greater focus on the longer-term, we expect to see increased investment in wellbeing services throughout the NHS as a result of the World Class Commissioning programme and "High Quality Care For All".

Primary care trusts commission services from appropriate providers to deliver the services and care required. Services could be commissioned from a range of possible providers who are able to meet the service specifications identified by that primary care trust, in line with NICE guidance, where appropriate. It is up to primary care trusts to decide the appropriate settings for services as part of the commissioning process and the decisions are likely to take account of preferences of the target groups for that service.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways he plans to work with third sector groups to reach those less able to access services, as referred to on page 35 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432. [219365]

Ann Keen: Third sector groups are part of the ongoing stakeholder engagement work that has been undertaken since vascular checks were announced in Putting Prevention First at the beginning of April this year. Regular meetings are held with the Cardio Vascular Coalition third sector group, as well as with individual third sector organisations. They provide vital information about their own work in reaching those less able to access services and we will continue to work closely with them through the development of the programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to bring forward legislation introducing a new right to choose, as referred to on page 10 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; whether the legislation will be *(a)* primary or *(b)* secondary; whether he plans to consult on the legislation in draft; and if he will make a statement. [219369]

Mr. Bradshaw: The draft NHS Constitution proposes that the new right be underpinned by new statutory directions from the Secretary of State to primary care trusts (PCTs). This is subject to consultation. This could be done through directions under section 8 of the National Health Service Act 2006 by requiring PCTs to ensure choice. These could specify which services are covered and any exceptions. They will also require PCTs to provide information to enable choice, and to make arrangements to enable a patient to exercise choice if not offered by their general practitioner.

In addition, we propose to use the forthcoming National Health Service Reform Bill to place a legal duty on all NHS organisations to take account of the Constitution when performing their functions.

The draft NHS Constitution and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The details, including how to feed in views, may be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 9 of the NHS Next Stage Review Final Report, which organisations are participating in his Department's coalition for better health. [219375]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government will build a Coalition for Better Health to work in partnership with the many other organisations outside Government that seek to promote healthier lifestyles. The Coalition for Better Health will first focus on tackling obesity and we expect partner organisations to include health, non-Government organisations, the food industry, the fitness industry, employers and others.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the level of rurality of different primary care trust areas. [221000]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not made any assessment of the level of rurality of primary care trusts. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs did publish such a classification of the then 303 primary care and care trusts in England in 2005, based on research led by Birkbeck college at the university of London.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he plans to be included in the Patients' Prospectus, as referred to on page 40 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; whether *(a)* professional, *(b)* patient and *(c)* other groups will contribute to the information included in the Patients' Prospectus; whether the information included in the Patients' Prospectus will be disease-specific; and if he will make a statement. [221021]

Ann Keen: The Patients' Prospectus aims to empower and support people with long term conditions to understand and exercise their choice around support for self care so that they can better control their condition and ultimately improve their quality of life. The Prospectus will be a national product, generic and will cover the four pillars of our existing policy on support for self care (information, tools, skills and support networks) together with healthy lifestyle choices. A wide range of stakeholders, including patients, clinicians, third sector representatives and staff from national health service organisations and local government are involved in developing the content, which will be launched first on NHS Choices in the autumn.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the anticipated trajectory of the number of people *(a)* being offered and *(b)* accepting a personalised care plan over the next five years, as referred to on page 41 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; how he plans to monitor uptake of personalised care plans; what information will be included in personalised care plans; and if he will make a statement. [221022]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing a range of options to measure and incentivise the delivery and impact of care planning including the use of patient surveys to monitor patient experience at a local level. Planned trajectories for the uptake of care plans will be decided locally. Information included in care plans will also be decided locally using recommended minimum standards.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to have developed the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation scheme, as referred to on page 42 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, whether he will consult on a draft of the scheme; how often he expects to alter the incentives in the scheme;

whether the incentives in the scheme will be determined *(a)* nationally and *(b)* locally; which organisation will evaluate the scheme; what conditions will be prioritised in the scheme; whether the scheme will cover community services; and if he will make a statement. [221025]

Mr. Bradshaw: High Quality Care For All outlined the commitment to make payments to hospitals reflect the quality of care given to patients through a Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) scheme. Over the next few months, we will be working with stakeholders and national health service colleagues to develop a national enabling framework for the scheme. These discussions will include the scope of the framework, both in terms of services and specialties covered, and how the incentives will work. We will then clarify the framework later this year. The CQUIN scheme will commence from 2009 and evaluation will be subject to a competitive tender process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons primary care trusts will have local discretion in choosing which Never Events to prioritise in their annual operating plans, as referred to on page 45 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, when he expects the National Patient Safety Agency to publish a list of Never Events; whether he expects the National Patient Safety Agency to consult publicly on the list; and if he will make a statement. [221027]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) will work with interested Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and wider stakeholders (including patients and members of the public) to draw up a list of Never Events. This list will be published later in the year and will be available for PCTs to use in their operating plans from April 2009. The incidence of each of these events will vary between PCTs and therefore it will be important that PCTs have the flexibility to prioritise and select the events which will have the most impact on their own health population. The Department also anticipates that, over time, PCTs will expand their list of Never Events and the NPSA will keep under review the national list to incorporate more events that PCTs are able to use as we continue to learn from safety incidents and develop evidence-based interventions to prevent them happening again.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce NHS Evidence, as referred to on page 49 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221028]

Dawn Primarolo: The first release of the NHS Evidence Service is scheduled for April 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in what ways integrated care organisations will be rewarded for delivering better health outcomes amongst registered patients for groups of GP practices, as referred to on page 65 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; [221062]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on competition in referrals to secondary care resulting from the creation of integrated care organisations, as referred to on page 65 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221063]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Next Stage Review and the Primary and Community Care Strategy announced that the Department would pilot models of integrated care. A prospectus inviting pilots to submit applications against pre-agreed selection criteria will be published over the summer. This will also set out funding available for the pilots to support set up costs and project management.

The pilots will be evaluated and the criteria will include the delivery of better health outcomes, patient satisfaction, and the effects of competition and choice.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways practice-based commissioning has not lived up to its aspirations, as referred to on page 65 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221064]

Mr. Bradshaw: Practice-based commissioning (PBC) has the potential to transform healthcare services, allowing clinicians to develop better services for patients in local communities. However as noted by the Audit Commission's report on PBC, "Putting Commissioning into Practice" (November 2007), while there are examples of PBC thriving in a growing number of areas, the scale of service redesigns undertaken have been limited in comparison with the potential impact of PBC. "High Quality Care for All" signals the Department's intention to intensify its implementation programme and as PBC matures locally, we expect to see more ambitious redesign of local services undertaken.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the standard contract for community services, as referred to on page 64 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, will be available for commissioners to utilise for the 2009-10 financial year; whether all *(a)* commissioners and *(b)* providers of community services will be required to use the standard contract for community services; and if he will make a statement. [221065]

Mr. Bradshaw: The standard contract for community services is being tested in all strategic health authority areas for implementation from April 2009. From this date all primary care trusts (PCTs) taking the lead role in awarding new contracts for community services will use the standard contract. The contract will apply to all relevant providers, including the third and independent sectors, and it will also be used as a service level agreement for PCT provider organisations. Where there is a legally binding contract in place which commenced prior to 1 April 2009, and is not due to expire until after this date, this agreement will remain in force until the expiry date unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the work led by Sir Ian Carruthers on innovative delivery models, as referred to on page 63 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221067]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the national health service next stage review process, Sir Ian Carruthers examined the drivers of change for delivery models with a particular emphasis on rural settings. This work will be published in due course.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish advice on the range of options for the governance of community health services, as referred to in paragraph 15, page 62 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221068]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are developing a legal and governance framework for new organizational models, which we expect to issue later this year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have established arm's length provider organisations, as referred to on page 62 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; and in which areas the NHS is exploring *(a)* community foundation trusts and *(b)* social enterprises for community services. [221069]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect comprehensive information on arms length provider organisations or on primary care trusts exploring social enterprises as an organisational model for community services.

We are working with six community foundation trust pilots, covering Ashton, Leigh and Wigan, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Liverpool, Oldham, South Birmingham and Cambridgeshire

We are also supporting four social enterprise pathfinders that are primary care trust provider arms exploring the potential for separation and the development of a social enterprise model. These are Hull, Milton Keynes, Surrey and the Forest of Dean.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health before which financial year he first expects to publish details of *(a)* the tariff uplift and *(b)* efficiency gains on a multi-year basis, as referred to page 52 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221120]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is anticipated that projections for multi-year tariff uplift and efficiency gains will be announced later in the year, at the same time as the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expected timeframe is for *(a)* developing acceptable methodologies for drawing up information on clinical effectiveness, and *(b)* publishing this information, as referred to on page 51 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221121]

Mr. Bradshaw: Clinical effectiveness is one of the principal elements of the quality of health services. Therefore, information on clinical effectiveness will form part of the full set of quality measures for acute patient care that are being identified by the Department. Officials have begun identifying measures from existing sources in the national health service, other health-related organisations and internationally. The first set of national quality measures will be assessed for robustness, accuracy and relevance and improvement will be supported by a National Quality Board and strategic health authority-based quality observatories.

Discussion with clinical staff and expert bodies on the initial set of measures identified by the Department will take place in the autumn. This will ensure that measures are drawn up in partnership with clinical and expert stakeholders prior to the announcement of the national set of measures alongside the next NHS operating framework.

In partnership with Royal Colleges and specialist associations, work will shortly commence to develop further generations of more sensitive and specific measures of care quality and outcomes. These will exploit new sources of data and research evidence, and will deliver better indicators for clinicians to use locally over coming years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next plans to review the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the General Medical Services contract to be reviewed; whether he plans to bring forward proposals to make the process for developing and reviewing indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework more *(a)* independent and *(b)* transparent, as referred to on page 51 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; what plans he has for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to lead on the (i) development and (ii) review of indicators in the Quality and the Outcomes Framework; whether he plans new indicators of prevention and clinical effectiveness to be added to offset the reduction in process and organisational indicators, as referred to on page 51 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; and if he will make a statement. [221122]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care published on 3 July as part of NHS Next Stage Review proposes a new strategy for developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework, including an independent and transparent process for developing and reviewing indicators. The report states our intention to:

> discuss with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and with stakeholders including patient groups and professional bodies how this new process should work;
>
> discuss how to reduce the number of organisational or process indicators, and refocus resources on new indicators for prevention and clinical effectiveness; and
>
> explore the scope to give greater flexibility to primary care trusts to work with primary healthcare teams to select quality indicators (from a national menu) that reflect local health improvement priorities.

Some of these matters are subject to the outcome of negotiations with general practitioner representatives and therefore it is not appropriate to set out details in advance of those negotiations. We will discuss with professional and patient groups and other stakeholders how the new process should work.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact on competition in referrals to secondary care resulting from the integration of community providers with NHS acute trusts, as referred to on page 44 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [221132]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have reviewed the potential impact on choice and competition of arrangements where NHS foundation trusts hold contracts for list-based primary medical care and we issued guidance in "The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2008/9 Annex D—

Principles and rules for co-operation and competition" copies of which have already been placed in the Library. The guidance sets out the safeguards that primary care trusts, as commissioners of services, should apply both in considering whether to award primary care contracts to secondary care providers and through the contracts for such services. These principles and safeguards apply to any service that involves referrals from community providers to secondary care.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department plans to assess the prevalence of illness amongst the populations served by different GP practices, as referred to on page 40 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [221133]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care published on 3 July as part of NHS Next Stage Review states "we will work to ensure that QOF rewards better reflect the prevalence of illness amongst the populations served by different GP practices".

We are currently discussing with the British Medical Association changes to the prevalence formula which weights Quality and Outcome Framework payments according to prevalence of disease as measured through Quality Management System, which receives data extracted from general practitioner clinical systems.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned timescale is for exploring the use of patient-reported outcome measures in the Quality and Outcomes Framework, as referred to on page 45 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care; whether he plans these patient-reported outcome measures to be disease-specific; and if he will make a statement. [221136]

Mr. Bradshaw: We will be exploring with the profession the feasibility of developing indicators based on Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) for the Quality and Outcomes Framework. These may include PROMs for specific disease areas depending on the evidence base for such indicators.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what greater freedoms he expects to provide to practice-based commissioners which can show they can take on increased responsibility, as referred to on page 52 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [221138]

Mr. Bradshaw: Greater freedoms in managing resources will become available to practice-based commissioners who can demonstrate an ability to undertake increased responsibility. The precise nature of these freedoms, including their application, will be developed this autumn in consultation with primary care trusts and practice-based commissioners.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways he envisages the NHS Constitution encouraging open and transparent explanation by local NHS organisations if they choose not to fund a drug or treatment that a patient and clinician feels appropriate, as referred on page 44 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; what elements of decision-making on the funding of new treatments and drugs he defines as irrational; and if he will make a statement. [221143]

Dawn Primarolo: The draft NHS Constitution (copies have already been placed in the Library) was published on 30 June 2008 and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The Government will consider these issues, including the principles to support NHS decision-making, following the consultation.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to have developed ways to *(a)* monitor uptake of new clinical technologies and *(b)* measure the uptake of clinically-effective and cost-effective medicines once introduced, as referred to on page 44 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; what plans he has to repeat the National Cancer Director's report on the uptake of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)-approved cancer medicines in future years; whether his Department will produce a report on the uptake of all NICE-approved medicines in future years; and if he will make a statement. [221144]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of the innovation package agreed through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme negotiations, and in support of the objectives set out in "High Quality Care for All", the Government have committed to developing new metrics for the uptake of clinically and cost-effective medicines, starting with a number of drugs positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and to publishing comparative international data. Detailed arrangements for the publication of these metrics have yet to be finalised.

The National Cancer Director's latest report on the uptake of cancer treatments recommended by NICE will be published later in 2008.

NICE currently publishes information on the uptake of a number of treatments it has appraised on its website at:

www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/evaluationandreviewofniceimplementationevidenceernie/niceimplementationuptakecommissionedreports/nice_implementation_uptake__commissioned_reports.jsp

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the clinical effectiveness of pre-hospital care as carried out by *(a)* doctors, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* paramedics. [221315]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have made no such assessment. The Department recognises that a range of professionals have a role to play in the provision of safe, high quality pre-hospital care but that it is for the local national health service to plan and provide such services and that the particular mix of clinical staff in such services is a local matter. Consultants, doctors and paramedics undergo professional regulation to ensure that standards are maintained.

Health Services: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for spending on primary care in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in the next three years. [219884]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to constituencies. The revenue allocation made to Cumbria PCT for 2008-09 is provided in the following table.

Cumbria Teaching PCT	*2008-09*
Allocation (£000)	726,801
Cash increase (£000)	37,642
Percentage age increase	5.5

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations will be announced in the autumn alongside the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10.

It is the responsibility of individual PCTs to commission appropriate services to meet the needs of their local populations.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* acute healthcare in (i) Cumbria, (ii) West Cumbria and (iii) Copeland constituency since 1997. [219885]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is hot available as requested. Information showing primary, general and acute health care by the Cumbria Primary Care Trust (PCT) and its predecessor organisations, from the earliest and latest dates available, is shown in the following table.

£000

	Total primary healthcare purchased	*General and acute*
2000-01		
North Cumbria Health Authority	64,412	96,321
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	62,236	115,311
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	n/a	n/a
Eden Valley PCT	n/a	n/a
West Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay PCT	n/a	n/a
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	126,648	211,638
2001-02		
North Cumbria Health Authority	19,637	501
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	18,928	0
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	16,933	39,665
Eden Valley PCT	10,230	22,053
West Cumbria PCT	24,045	47,157
Morecambe Bay PCT	47,631	128,756
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	137,404	238,132
2002-03		
North Cumbria Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	58,564	0
Carlisle and District PCT	22,785	44,165
Eden Valley PCT	14,122	27,701
West Cumbria PCT	29,787	56,072
Morecambe Bay PCT	63,860	140,999
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	189,118	268,937
2003-04		
North Cumbria Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	30,735	53,611
Eden Valley PCT	18,930	25,643
West Cumbria PCT	37,038	59,734
Morecambe Bay PCT	79,802	147,689
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	166,505	286,677

£000

	Total primary healthcare purchased	General and acute
2004-05		
North Cumbria Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	38,209	58,125
Eden Valley PCT	21,728	29,009
West Cumbria PCT	41,900	66,748
Morecambe Bay PCT	91,673	173,629
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	193,510	327,511
2005-06		
North Cumbria Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	37,904	57,794
Eden Valley PCT	23,571	31,841
West Cumbria PCT	44,062	68,665
Morecambe Bay PCT	102,567	184,532
Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Total	208,104	342,832
2006-07		
North Cumbria Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	n/a	n/a
Carlisle and District PCT	n/a	n/a
Eden Valley PCT	n/a	n/a
West Cumbria PCT	n/a	n/a
Morecambe Bay PCT	n/a	n/a
Cumbria PCT	176,609	295,700
Total	176,609	295,700

Sources:
Audited health authority summarisation forms 2000-01 to 2001-02
Audited Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority summarisation forms 2002-03
Audited primary care trust summarisation schedules 2001-02 to 2006-07

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce inequalities of health outcomes and life expectancy within Cumbria. [219886]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

The Department has put in place a number of measures to tackle health inequalities. On 9 June 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State launched the document Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps. The document highlights successes in reducing inequalities and identifies how effort will be increased to meet the health inequalities 2010. National Public Service Agreement target for life expectancy and infant mortality. The document also sets the direction of travel for tackling health inequalities. It commits the Government to work together to develop the structures, systems and actions to sustain long-term delivery on health inequalities.

The document also publicised an improved health inequalities intervention tool, jointly owned by the Department and the Association of Public Health Observatories. The tool is an interactive website to help local health services and councils improve life expectancy in local areas.

The Department has also established national support teams for health inequalities and for tobacco control to disseminate best practice across all spearhead areas and areas with high infant mortality rates, and to provide intensive support for those areas that need it.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Lamley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons health care providers not working for or on behalf of the NHS will not be required to publish quality accounts, as referred to on page 51 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221115]

Mr. Bradshaw: The remit of Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review was to consider the future of the national health service, not health care in general. Independent health care providers who are currently subject to regulation by the Healthcare Commission are required to publish information about their services and, subject to passage in Parliament, similar regulatory requirements will be laid on all providers registered by the Care Quality Commission.

Health Services: North West

Mr. Lamley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* structure and *(b)* objectives are of NHS North West's pay-for-performance scheme, referred to on page 42 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221024]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. Information about the national health service North West's Advancing Quality scheme is available on the Advancing Quality website at:

www.advancingqualitynw.nhs.uk.

Health Services: Royal Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 201W, on health services: Royal Household and 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 149-50W, on general practitioners: Buckingham Palace, for what reasons his Department was not aware on 25 March 2008 of the arrangements for provision of primary health care service to staff of the Royal households; and if he will make a statement. [220846]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts have a duty to secure primary medical services or secure their provision within what it considers necessary to meet reasonable requirements. That includes arrangement for the provision of primary health care services to staff of the Royal Household who live in the PCT area.

The Department does not monitor the individual performance of practices or registration of individual patients with the practice.

The arrangements for the provision of primary care services to the Royal Household predate this Government and it was not until after the 25 March 2008 that it was brought to the Department's attention the arrangement that has historically been provided under existing general medical services.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of public transport provision on accessibility of the health services in rural areas. [219883]

Mr. Bradshaw: The effect of public transport provision on the accessibility of local health services is a matter for consideration by the local commissioners and providers of those services.

Health Services: Telephone Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of a three-digit telephone number for urgent care which his Department is considering, as referred to on page 40 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; which (i) officials and (ii) other parties are involved in the next phase of work on the matter; when he plans to set out further details on the next phase of work; whether his Department plans to encourage the development of local three-digit urgent care numbers ahead of its national review, as recommended in the visions documents of England's strategic health authorities; and if he will make a statement; [221020]

(2) what each of the options being considered by his Department for an urgent care number are as referred to on page 27 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [221049]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Next Stage Review set out that we are currently considering various options to introduce a new three-digit telephone number to help people find the right local service to meet their urgent, unplanned care needs. Part of this phase of work will include considering the costs and benefits of introducing a three-digit number.

Officials in the Commissioning and System Management Directorate are leading this project and working with others in the Department and stakeholders including from strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts, ambulance trusts, out of hours providers, clinicians and NHS Direct. Officials will be exploring with SHAs their plans for implementing a three-digit number to inform options development. Further details from this phase of work will be set out in the autumn.

Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made towards implementation of the Government's commitment to introduce full cost recovery for the voluntary sector; and when the commitment will be fully implemented. [221430]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department fully supports the principle of full cost recovery (FCR) for the voluntary sector. Its new Third Sector Investment programme, launched on 17 July 2008, has been designed so that Compact principles, including FCR, are embedded from the outset and reflected in the guidance for applicants for grant funding, to support applicants in submitting well costed proposals.

Policy supporting procurement activities for goods and services within the Department signpost staff to the Office of Government Commerce and the Home Office document "Think smart, think voluntary sector" on procurement from the voluntary and community sectors.

Guidance within the "Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing" makes clear that Commissioners should adopt procurement practices that are fair and open—meaning neutral between different types of providers and transparent on pricing—minimising transaction costs and allowing providers to frame realistic economic tenders. We believe this is the most straightforward way to deal with the issue of 'full cost recovery'.

Heart Diseases: First Aid

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to encourage people to learn resuscitation techniques for heart attack and stroke victims. [220013]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific steps are being taken by the Government to encourage people to learn resuscitation techniques for heart attack and stroke victims.

The NHS Plan made a commitment to provide 3000 automatic external defibrillators (AED) in public places. This helps to save the lives of those heart attack sufferers who have a cardiac arrest. National Defibrillator Programme resulted in over 6,050 site personnel from public places such as airports, railway stations and bus stations receiving training in basic life support (BLS) and the use of an AED. By the end of 2006, a further

11,405 people had been trained and 10,642 re-trained. Current responsibility for training lies with the Ambulance Service Trusts.

The Department has been working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Healthy Schools initiative to improve the information available to schools wishing to provide first aid and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to their pupils. A number of first aid and CPR training providers have been involved in this work and it is intended to publish a package of information for schools shortly.

People with stroke also require urgent treatment initiated by a 999 call. At the launch of the National Stroke Strategy in December 2007 (copies of which have already been placed in the Library), £12 million of central funding was set aside for raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of stroke and the need to call 999. This work is in progress and will support a more urgent and timely response of the national health service and the public to stroke.

Heart Diseases: Waiting Lists

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for heart operations in NHS hospitals were in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* the last 12 months; and how many operations were carried out in each period. [220567]

Ann Keen: The information is in the following table:

Mean and median days waited for heart operations and the number of finished consultant episodes where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure in both 2005-06 and 2006-07, NHS hospitals England, and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Mean days waited	*Median days waited*	*Finished consultant episodes*
2006-07	65	56	294,811
2005-06	74	60	287,215

Data quality Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. *Finished consultant episode (FCE)* An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. *Main procedure/intervention* The main procedure/intervention is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. *Heart operations* K01-K78 *Secondary procedure* As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (three prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care. *Time waited (days)* Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension. The IC have provided the mean (average) and median (middle in ranking) days waited where there was a main procedure of 'heart operation' in 2005-06 and 2006-07. The median figures are a better proxy to the average time waited as mean figures can cloud the real picture as some anomalies (long-waiters) may be artificially increasing the average. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Herbal Medicine

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applications under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency expects to receive for *(a)* single ingredient products and *(b)* more complex products; [221075]

(2) if he will list the principal quality and efficacy tests which must be met by manufacturers submitting products for registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and if he will indicate in the case of each such test the costs of compliance assumed in the context of the regulatory impact assessment produced in connection with this legislation; [221076]

(3) what the requirements are under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive for a qualified person to be employed to authorise the release of herbal products to the market; what purpose is served by this requirement; and what assessment he has made of the costs associated with this provision for a small manufacturer of specialist herbal remedies; [221077]

(4) what the outcome was of the recent review of the operation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive undertaken by the European Commission; what period was covered by the review; and whether he intends to make it his policy to press for the review to be repeated now that member states have had the opportunity to use the provisions of the Directive. [221079]

Dawn Primarolo: It is a commercial decision for individual companies whether to apply for a traditional herbal registration (THR) under the provisions flowing from directive 2004/24/EC. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is not in a position to estimate how many applications will be submitted. So far, the MHRA has received 38 THR applications, of which 33 are for products containing a single active ingredient and five are for combination products. The MHRA expects that a high proportion of early applications will be for relatively simple products while companies become accustomed to meeting the regulatory requirements of the scheme.

There is normally no requirement for applicants to submit information on the efficacy of the product under the THR scheme. The quality requirements for herbal medicinal products and traditional herbal medicinal products are set out in detailed guidance documents following consultation with industry. The European Pharmacopoeia also sets out legally binding standards for herbal ingredients as well as excipients used in herbal medicinal products. The purpose of the quality tests is to ensure that the herbal medicinal product is safe for use and has a reproducible quality over its proposed shelf-life. Tests are required to ensure that the correct plant materials are used, free from potentially hazardous contaminants such as pesticide residues, fumigant residues, heavy metals/other toxic elements, mycotoxins, bacteria/fungi. Where herbal extracts are employed, tests are required on all materials used, including solvents and reagents used for extraction, to ensure that they are as intended and of acceptable quality. The herbal extract undergoes tests to ensure it is of reproducible quality and that it is free from hazardous levels of, for example,

residual solvents, micro-organisms or potential contaminants from the starting plant materials. The finished dosage form is tested to ensure that it contains the declared amount of herbal ingredients and that it will remain of suitable quality throughout the proposed shelf-life.

European and United Kingdom medicines legislation requires manufacturers and/or importers of registered traditional herbal medicines for human use to hold a manufacturer's licence. It is a condition of such a licence that the holder must have a Qualified Person (QP). The QP must either meet existing specific educational and vocational requirements or attain status through transitional arrangements. The QP has a personal responsibility for certifying that each batch of registered traditional herbal medicine, has undergone the appropriate tests, complies with its registered specification and has been manufactured in accordance with good manufacturing practice. The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that a safe quality traditional herbal medicine is placed on the market.

In its regulatory impact assessment of the THR scheme, the MHRA estimated that typically the costs of registering a product under the scheme could be several tens of thousands of pounds but that the figure would vary widely according to specific circumstances, not least depending on whether companies already had systematic quality control systems in place. This assessment has not changed.

The European Commission launched a public consultation in May 2007 on the review of the operation of directive 2004/24/EC. The consultation included data up to March 2007. It is the European Commission's responsibility to report on the findings of that review and, pending that outcome, we have no present plans to press for an early second review.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the requirements are under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive for the certification of manufacturing premises; what charges are levied by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for inspections associated with such certification; and how many facilities have *(a)* been inspected and *(b)* been certified as meeting the necessary standards. [221078]

Dawn Primarolo: The Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products requires manufacturers of registered herbal medicines to be authorised by the national competent authority. In the United Kingdom, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency authorises and inspects manufacturers. The inspection fee is currently £1,496 for a full day and £920 for half a day. Manufacturers must meet certain conditions and employ a qualified person in order to be authorised. A number of manufacturers were already authorised to manufacture herbal medicines before the Directive came into force. Since the implementation of the Directive all of the small number of manufacturers who have applied specifically to manufacture registered herbal medicines have been authorised.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for product registrations under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive have been received by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to date; and how many of those applications have been approved. [221691]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has so far received 38 applications from 14 companies to register products under the traditional herbal registration scheme. To date 17 registrations have been granted and the remaining applications are under assessment.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the regulatory impact of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive on *(a)* small and medium-sized specialist manufacturers of herbal remedies, *(b)* specialist retailers and *(c)* consumer choice. [221692]

Dawn Primarolo: In its regulatory impact assessment of the traditional herbal registration (THR) scheme the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) estimated that typically the costs of registering a product under the scheme could be several tens of thousand pounds but that the figure would vary widely according to specific circumstances, not least depending on whether companies already had systematic quality control systems in place. This assessment has not changed. A steadily expanding THR scheme, alongside the availability of licensed herbal medicines, will offer consumers wide choice of over the counter herbal medicines made to assured standards of safety, quality and product information. The likelihood of increased consumer confidence in the standards of products, including the reliability of product information, could also be of benefit to responsible specialist manufacturers and retailers.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of herbal products marketed under the provisions of Section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968 as medicines exempt from the need for a licence in the last 30 years; how many and what percentage of those products will need to secure registrations under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and what steps he is taking to assist manufacturers with this process. [221693]

Dawn Primarolo: Companies are not required to notify the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of products marketed under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968, therefore no estimates are available in relation to these products. Following the expiry of the transitional period permitted under Directive 2004/24/EC manufactured herbal medicines placed on the market will require either a marketing authorisation or a traditional herbal registration (THR). As now there will continue to be some herbal products that potentially can be placed on the market either as medicinal products or under other product regulatory regimes depending on their presentation.

The MHRA continues to provide a range of help to companies aimed at helping them to progress plans to register products including holding meetings with companies to discuss the progress of actual or prospective applications under the THR scheme and providing a range of detailed advice via the agency's website.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date herbal products marketed under the provisions of Section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968 as medicines exempt from the need for a licence will need to secure a registration under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and whether he plans to ask the European Union to extend that deadline. [221694]

Dawn Primarolo: From 30 April 2011 no herbal medicine within the scope of Directive 2004/24/EC may be placed on the market or distributed by way of wholesale dealing without a traditional herbal registration. As now there will continue to be some herbal products that potentially can be placed on the market either as medicinal products or under other product regulatory regimes depending on their presentation. We have no plans to ask the European Commission to propose legislation extending the deadline in Directive 2004/24/EC.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what charges are levied by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for processing applications for product registrations under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive for *(a)* single ingredient and *(b)* complex products. [221695]

Dawn Primarolo: The current fees for registering applications for products under the traditional herbal registration scheme range from £555 for single existing ingredient to £7,480 for complex new products. The fees charged by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are set at a level to reflect fairly the cost related to each activity. These fee levels and costs are reviewed closely every year. This is in line with HM Treasury guidance.

MHRA fees for registering herbal products are significantly lower than those levied on pharmaceutical companies for the registration of other medicines. The fees are based on an estimate of the amount of time it takes to undertake each of the activities and the costs of the relevant staff required to undertake these activities. Applications that are more complex take longer to assess and can require staff with more experience to undertake the work. These costs are reflected in the fee charged. The fee of £7,480 for processing applications for registration of complex herbal products containing two or more ingredients not previously assessed by the agency reflects the additional work necessary when assessing ingredients for the first time.

HIV Infection: Prisoners

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of conducting the last Public Health Laboratory Service survey into HIV and hepatitis rates in prisons. [220098]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The last Public Health Laboratory Service study of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales was conducted in 1997 and 1998. The cost to the Department at that time is not available.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219012]

Mr. Bradshaw: Neither the Department nor its agencies have commissioned a home information pack in respect of the marketing of a residential property.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of mixed sex accommodation in hospitals. [218514]

Ann Keen: We are committed to reducing mixed sex accommodation to an absolute minimum, and where possible eliminating it. To this end, "The Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09", requires primary care trusts to review the current situation in all trusts and agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement in delivering single sex accommodation, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms. The framework specifically requires that patient survey results, where available, be used as the monitoring mechanism.

The need to treat and admit patients will on occasions need to take priority over provision of a single sex accommodation. We emphasise that under such circumstances, good standards of segregation can be achieved within a mixed ward, for example by using single rooms or single sex bays.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement on page 21 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care that rates of emergency hospital admissions for long-term conditions vary more than twofold across the country. [221050]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses hospital episodes statistics data, which provides information on emergency hospital admissions in each primary care trust.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to repeat its deep clean of all NHS hospitals in 2008-09. [221232]

Ann Keen: There are no plans for the Department to take part in planning a further national-level programme of deep cleaning hospitals in England. Rather, national health service trusts' strategic and operational cleaning plans are expected to make provision for ongoing deep cleaning activity.

Hospitals: Food

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he provides to hospitals on reducing waste from the meals they provide. [219846]

Ann Keen: The Department issued 'Managing Food Waste in the NHS' in March 2005. This document provides best practice guidance for catering managers, nurses, ward housekeepers, doctors, dieticians and the ward-based teams in general. It identifies reasons why wastage occurs and provides guidance on reducing the volume of food that is supplied or cooked, but is not subsequently served. It also provides guidance on identifying the responsibilities for reducing waste and on the factors likely to be involved in wastage. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many missed appointments there have been *(a)* at St. Albans City Hospital, *(b)* in West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and *(c)* in East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust in the last 12 months; and what the cost of missed appointments in each category was in that period. [221411]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about missed appointments ('did not attends'—DNAs) is collected at national health service trust level, not at individual hospital level. The following table contains information about DNAs at West Hertfordshire hospitals NHS trust, which includes St. Albans City hospital, and at East and North Hertfordshire NHS trust in 2007-08. Information about the cost of missed appointments is not collected centrally.

DNAs in Hertforashire acute NHS trusts in 2007-08

	DNAs			
Organisation	*First out-patient attendances*	*Subsequent out-patient attendances*	*In-patient*	*Total*
West Hertfordshire hospitals NHS trust	6,939	25,570	725	33,234
East and North Hertfordshire NHS trust	8,950	18,414	561	27,925

Source:
Department of Health Form Quarterly activity return: provider-based.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average cost to the NHS is per in-patient of treating healthcare associated infections, including those who do not contract an infection; [216134]

(2) what the average cost to the NHS is of treating a patient with *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile, *(c)* norovirus and *(d)* other healthcare-associated infections. [216135]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect this information and no single definitive cost figure exists. However, a study by the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS)[1] in 1999 estimated that hospital-acquired infections (HCAIs) cost the national health service £1 billion a year. This is still the best available estimate of NHS costs, although based on data from 1994-95. There were 11.4 million in-patient episodes in 1994-95. This suggests that the cost of HCAIs in 1994-95 was equivalent to £87 per patient. A cost of £87 in 1994-95 would be equivalent to £137 in 2006-07 prices (applying standard deflators).

Estimates of the cost of treating specific infections are not available. The Department published a 'HCAI productivity costing[1]' tool in May 2006, which suggested a cost of around £4,300 per HCAI case in 2003-04. This analysis was based primarily on the PHLS report and figures were uprated to 2003-04 prices using standard deflators.

Sources:

[1] R. Plowman, N. Graves, M. Griffin, J. A. Roberts, A. V. Swan, B. Cookson, L. Taylor. The socio-economic burden of hospital acquired infection. Public Health Laboratory Service 1999.

2 Costing tool available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4134551

Hospitals: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what standards his Department expects NHS trusts to meet in relation to the privacy and dignity of changing facilities provided for patients. [221015]

Mr. Bradshaw: Health Building Note 12: 'Out-patients Department' (NHS Estates, 2004) recommends for consulting examination rooms, that there should be sufficient space within a curtained area for a patient to undress/dress in privacy, with assistance when required.

Health Building Note 10-02: Surgical Services' (Department of Health, May 2007) recommends the provision of individual changing rooms for admissions leading to either a dedicated individual waiting space for every patient or separate male, female and children's waiting provision.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the size of NHS waiting lists was *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [220561]

Mr. Bradshaw: The waiting lists for in-patient admission and for first consultant led out-patient appointment following general practitioner referral are shown in the following table:

Period ending	*In-patient*	*Out-patient*
December 2005	784,316	1,190,637
May 2008	543,595	854,210

Note:
Figures are provider based, for NHS trusts in England.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average inpatient treatment waiting times were *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [220562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table:

Period ending	Median in-patient waiting time (weeks)
December 2005	7.6
May 2008	4.3

Note: Figures are commissioner based collated from primary care trusts in England.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Plan's target of a maximum six month wait for inpatient treatment has been achieved. [220563]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service continues to deliver the 26-week in-patient maximum waiting standard established in December 2005, with only a small number of breaches representing a tiny fraction of the total waiting list.

At the end of May 2008, 42 patients were waiting longer than the 26 weeks in-patient admission compared with 284,000 at the end of March 1997, a reduction of around 99.9 per cent. The average waiting time for an in-patient admission has fallen from 13 weeks in 1997 to 4.3 weeks in May 2008.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of NHS trusts in reducing accident and emergency waiting times to below the four hour target. [220564]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts in England are expected to meet the four hour accident and emergency (A and E) operational standard of 98 per cent. of patients being seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival at A and E. This standard is set out as an existing commitment for the NHS to meet in The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09.

The waiting experience for millions of patients in A and E has dramatically improved from just a few years ago. For two out of the last three financial years, trusts have exceeded the A and E four hour operational standard. For 2007-08 as a whole performance was just below the operational standard, however the overwhelming majority of trusts are still achieving the four hour standard. Performance against the standard is published on a quarterly basis and is available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/index.htm

The Healthcare Commission also uses A and E performance as part of its annual health check.

It is a local matter for NHS trusts to ensure that they meet the A and E four hour operational standard. In cases of underperforming trusts, the Department seeks assurances via the strategic health authority that NHS trusts have plans in place for improvement in A and E performance, in providing high quality, timely care to patients.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* emergency and *(b)* elective admissions to NHS hospitals there were in each of the last three years. [220568]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of emergency and elective admissions to hospital in England during the last three years for which figures are available.

	Emergency admissions	Elective admissions
2006-07	4,700,017	6,225,149
2005-06	4,659,054	6,000,013
2004-05	4,429,121	5,700,347

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data Quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been on-going improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be counted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Human Embryo Experiments

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consideration he has given to the development of a policy on single embryo transfer. [221732]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has launched a strategy to reduce the number of multiple births following fertility treatment from 24 per cent. nationally to 10 per cent. over three years. The basis of the strategy is that the transfer of one embryo at a time, where this is clinically appropriate, will reduce the health risks of multiple births for mother and babies. The strategy is being implemented in partnership with professional bodies, patient groups and clinics. We have established an expert group on commissioning national health service infertility provision, which will take account of the HFEA's programme of work in this area.

Industrial Health and Safety: Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned an analysis of estimated radiation doses to members of critical groups living near nuclear power plants from (i) nuclide emissions averaged over one year and (ii) nuclide emissions over a few days resulting from reactor re-fuelling. [221035]

Dawn Primarolo: We have been advised that the Food Standards Agency conducts assessments of doses to

members of the public, including critical groups, living in the vicinity of licensed nuclear sites. These are based on both authorised annual and short term discharge limits to ensure they are within the dose limit of 1 millisievert. Actual doses to the critical groups are estimated from the findings of annual food and environmental monitoring surveys, published in the Radioactivity in Food Environment reports annually. The Environment Agency is responsible for the authorisation of radioactive discharges from nuclear power plants.

Infectious Diseases

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the trend in cryptosporidium infections has been in the last five years; and what steps are being taken to combat the sources of this infection. [220881]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of cases of Cryptosporidium infections reported in England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Total
2003	5,540
2004	3,431
2005	4,075
2006	3,479
2007	2,881

Source:
Health Protection Agency

The Water Supply (Water Quality) 2000 (amendment) Regulations 2007 as amended require all water companies to assess their water supplies for the risk of Cryptosporidium and to take appropriate measures to ensure water is safe to drink.

Infertility: Medical Treatments

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the NHS co-payment scheme to infertility treatment. [221733]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is up to individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission infertility services, taking into account local health care commissioning priorities. We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice in the provision of these services and we have established an expert group on commissioning national health service infertility provision to provide advice to the Department and to PCT commissioners.

This is separate from the review that the Secretary of State announced on 17 June 2008, where he asked Professor Mike Richards, National Clinical Director for cancer, to review policy relating to patients who choose to pay privately for drugs not funded on the NHS and who, as a result, are required to pay for the NHS care that they would otherwise have received free. The review will report to the Secretary of State in October.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 361-62W, on injuries: offensive weapons, how many people were admitted to hospital with *(a)* stab wounds and *(b)* gunshot wounds aged (i) under 16, (ii) between 16 and 18 and (iii) over 18 years (A) in each year from 1996-97 to 2001-02 and (B) in 2007-08, broken down by strategic health authority. [218256]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 July 2008]:* Information is collected on the number of finished admission episodes to hospital. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission as part of an episode of care within the year.

Part (i) of this parliamentary question refers to "stab wounds" therefore the clinical code "X99—Assault by sharp object", has been used. This code includes cases where someone has been attacked using a sharp object of some kind (including but not exclusive to knives).

There is another code "W26"—contact with a knife, sword or dagger. This code is used for such diagnoses as accidental knife injuries and excludes assault. Therefore code W26 has not been used in this answer.

Information is not available for 2007-08 until December 2008. For this reason, 2006-07 data has been provided instead. The following three tables provide numbers by strategic health authority and age category; provides rates (number of admissions per 100,000 of the population) per strategic health authority; and summarises national data. When interpreting the data, reference should be made to the notes and clinical codes.

Total number of admissions to hospital for stab wounds** and gunshot wounds*** for 2006-07, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of Residence, national health service hospitals, England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

			*Gunshot wounds****		
	SHA of residence	*Under 16 admissions*	*16-18 admissions*	*Over 18 admissions*	*Unknown age*
	England total	181	208	925	1
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	14	11	46	0
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	50	38	190	0
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	21	24	93	0
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	18	9	69	0
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	21	28	123	0
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	13	16	74	0
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	10	38	160	1

Total number of admissions to hospital for stab wounds** and gunshot wounds*** for 2006-07, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of Residence, national health service hospitals, England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

		Gunshot wounds***			
	SHA of residence	*Under 16 admissions*	*16-18 admissions*	*Over 18 admissions*	*Unknown age*
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	9	19	45	0
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	8	9	40	0
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	13	14	52	0
Y	Unknown	0	2	17	0
—	Non-English SHA of residence	4	0	16	0

		Stab wounds**			
	SHA of residence	*Under 16 admissions*	*16-18 admissions*	*Over 18 admissions*	*Unknown Age*
	England total	179	752	4,786	3
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	10	36	313	0
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	24	142	968	0
032	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	19	58	498	0
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	9	29	321	0
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	16	93	474	0
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	6	39	249	0
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	72	252	1,071	0
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	*	21	209	0
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	*	29	194	1
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	12	25	267	0
Y	Unknown	1	21	103	1
—	Non-English SHA of residence	0	7	119	1

Total number of admissions to hospital for stab wounds** for years 1996-97 to 2001-02, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

		2001-02				2000-01			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
	England Total	132	508	3,973	29	130	444	3,662	13
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	*	15	86	—	*	*	108	—
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	*	10	77	—	*	*	64	—
Q03	Essex HA	*	10	90	—	*	12	77	—
Q04	North West London HA	6	33	207	8	*	23	171	2
Q05	North Central London HA	9	22	198	1	11	24	173	1
Q06	North East London HA	9	42	273	—	17	46	246	—
Q07	South East London HA	13	33	217	1	8	28	218	—
Q08	South West London HA	7	9	122	3	*	15	81	1
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	7	21	168	—	*	21	152	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	11	14	129	—	*	11	97	—
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	*	*	76	3	*	9	67	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	*	24	176	—	9	19	139	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	*	22	176	—	8	13	144	—
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	12	49	305	—	17	40	347	—
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	9	36	261	—	*	26	203	—
Q16	Thames Valley HA	*	14	81	—	*	*	85	—
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	*	10	64	—	*	7	58	—

Total number of admissions to hospital for stab wounds** for years 1996-97 to 2001-02, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

		2001-02				2000-01			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	*	12	65	—	*	*	69	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	6	15	88	3	*	12	92	2
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	*	9	98	—	*	13	109	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	*	*	59	—	*	7	39	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	0	*	27	—	*	10	43	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	*	11	86	—	*	10	108	—
Q24	Trent HA	*	16	160	—	*	16	170	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	*	7	94	—	*	6	59	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	*	*	35	—	*	*	39	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	7	34	306	1	7	42	278	1
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	*	10	79	—	*	*	78	—
S	Scotland	0	0	*	—	0	*	*	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	0	*	53	2	0	6	52	2
W	Wales	*	0	10	—	0	0	10	—
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	0	*	7	—	0	*	7	—
Y	Not Known	0	6	94	7	*	*	72	4
Z	Northern Ireland	0	0	*	—	0	0	*	—

		1999-2000				1998-99			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
	England Total	118	437	3,549	21	88	355	3,206	18
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	0	8	106	—	*	7	77	—
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	*	7	46	—	*	*	47	—
Q03	Essex HA	*	13	86	—	0	10	64	—
Q04	North West London HA	*	25	157	4	*	17	146	0
Q05	North Central London HA	8	31	150	2	*	15	124	4
Q06	North East London HA	7	27	199	3	*	25	172	—
Q07	South East London HA	8	31	171	—	*	11	154	2
Q08	South West London HA	*	10	76	1	*	8	74	—
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	*	24	149	—	*	14	142	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	*	11	103	—	*	12	92	1
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	*	*	77	—	6	13	91	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	8	15	149	—	*	16	134	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	*	12	143	—	*	11	131	—

		1999-2000				1998-99			
		Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age	Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	16	54	422	—	14	35	347	2
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	6	25	208	—	8	22	205	1
Q16	Thames Valley HA	0	15	91	—	0	8	74	1
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	0	6	58	—	*	7	75	—
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	*	8	56	1	*	*	52	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	*	*	101	—	*	6	67	—
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	*	9	112	—	*	9	110	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	*	7	48	—	*	7	54	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	0	6	37	—	*	*	47	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	*	7	98	—	*	12	80	—
Q24	Trent HA	9	13	155	1	*	20	111	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	*	9	56	—	*	8	89	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	*	*	51	—	*	*	46	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	6	34	253	1	*	30	239	1
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	*	7	70	—	*	*	68	—
S	Scotland	0	*	*	—	0	*	*	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	—
W	Wales	0	*	20	4	0	0	18	3
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	*	*	*	—	*	*	9	—
Y	Not Known	0	*	91	4	*	10	65	3
Z	Northern Ireland	0	0	0	—	0	0	*	—

		1997-98				1996-97			
		Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age	Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age
	England Total	112	422	3,283	58	114	416	3,360	52
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	*	10	99	—	*	11	89	—
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	*	8	61	—	*	14	69	1
Q03	Essex HA	0	*	85	—	0	6	69	—
Q04	North West London HA	*	29	198	—	*	9	172	4
Q05	North Central London HA	*	14	129	—	*	16	130	2
Q06	North East London HA	*	22	187	2	10	28	228	—
Q07	South East London HA	7	22	151	2	8	28	158	1
Q08	South West London HA	6	12	79	—	*	19	107	—
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	*	12	127	—	7	17	143	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	8	17	82	—	6	13	107	—

		1997-98				1996-97			
		Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age	Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	*	*	32	—	0	8	36	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	8	18	142	—	7	12	139	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	7	17	133	—	*	10	110	—
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	14	48	382	—	17	50	358	—
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	*	28	194	—	*	20	242	1
Q16	Thames Valley HA	*	8	87	—	*	15	68	—
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	*	9	50	—	*	*	41	—
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	*	6	61	—	0	*	56	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	*	11	105	1	*	9	122	—
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	*	9	84	—	*	14	109	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	*	14	62	—	0	10	52	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	*	*	32	—	*	6	33	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	*	9	82	—	*	7	72	—
Q24	Trent HA	6	13	106	—	*	18	126	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	*	9	74	—	0	8	60	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	0	6	45	—	0	*	38	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	*	33	233	1	18	39	270	—
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	*	10	75	1	*	6	70	—
S	Scotland	0	0	*	—	0	0	*	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	0	*	21	1	0	*	16	4
W	Wales	*	*	13	—	0	*	6	—
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	0	0	*	—	0	*	*	—
Y	Not Known	0	14	65	50	*	*	39	39
Z	Northern Ireland	0	*	*	—	0	0	0	—

Total number of admissions to hospital for gunshot wounds*** for years 1996-97 to 2001-02, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

		2001-02				2000-01			
		Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age	Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age
	England Total	321	206	890	3	287	192	641	2
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	12	*	26	—	6	*	19	—
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	*	*	15	—	6	8	12	—
Q03	Essex HA	6	6	13	—	7	*	16	—
Q04	North West London HA	*	*	27	—	*	—	28	—
Q05	North Central London HA	*	7	41	—	*	*	21	—

Total number of admissions to hospital for gunshot wounds*** for years 1996-97 to 2001-02, broken down by age and strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

		2001-02				2000-01			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
Q06	North East London HA	6	*	51	—	12	*	32	—
Q07	South East London HA	9	*	44	—	*	*	40	—
Q08	South West London HA	*	*	17	—	*	—	12	—
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	9	14	24	—	24	12	16	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	18	*	15	—	14	6	*	—
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	13	9	24	1	10	10	20	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	16	21	64	—	18	14	35	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	16	15	32	—	14	11	37	—
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	35	26	62	—	33	22	54	1
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	27	14	56	—	15	11	43	—
Q16	Thames Valley HA	8	7	21	—	9	*	25	—
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	8		24	—	*	*	19	—
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	13	9	25	—	9	*	14	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	9	*	28	1	6	*	16	—
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	13	*	32	—	11	*	16	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	8	*	13	—	9	*	15	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	11	*	17	—	6	*	*	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	21	10	30	—	18	9	21	—
Q24	Trent HA	17	11	41	—	14	10	22	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	*	*	19	—	*	7	18	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	11	*	13	—	9	6	14	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	15	10	61	—	15	10	37	—
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	*	*	16	—	*	*	16	—
S	Scotland	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	—	*	7	—	—	—	0	—
W	Wales	*	—	*	—	*	—	*	—
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	—	—	10	—	*	*	*	—
Y	Not Known	*	*	17	1	*	*	6	1
Z	Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		1999-2000				1998-99			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
	England Total	362	189	618	1	279	158	548	2
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	10	7	28	—	13	*	32	—

		1999-2000				1998-99			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	11	*	12	—	*	*	9	—
Q03	Essex HA	12	*	21	—	8	*	19	—
Q04	North West London HA	*	—	24	1	—	*	15	1
Q05	North Central London HA	*	*	16	—	*	*	8	—
Q06	North East London HA	13	6	22	—	*	*	22	—
Q07	South East London HA	7	*	26	—	*	*	34	—
Q08	South West London HA	*	*	16	—	*	*	7	1
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	12	6	31	—	18	11	22	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	7	9	12	—	15	8	12	—
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	9	*	15	—	7	8	17	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	18	8	37	—	22	14	18	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	22	13	17	—	12	10	22	—
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	50	22	74	—	23	18	55	—
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	33	10	31	—	29	10	33	—
Q16	Thames Valley HA	14	7	16	—	*	*	16	—
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	11	*	16	—	9	—	14	—
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	*	6	*	—	6	*	12	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	9	*	13	—	12	*	23	—
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	14	*	23	—	*	8	14	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	12	*	14	—	10	*	11	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	*	*	*	—	6	*	12	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	15	10	17	—	16	*	18	—
Q24	Trent HA	20	9	37	—	18	8	37	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	9	*	14	—	*	*	15	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	8	13	16	—	10	6	12	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	16	9	34	—	8	*	18	—
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	8	*	13	—	8	*	11	—
S	Scotland	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W	Wales	*	*	*	—	—	*	*	—
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	*	—	*	—	—	—	*	—
Y	Not Known	*	*	*	0	—	*	*	—
Z	Northern Ireland	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	—

		1997-98				*1996-97*			
		Under 16	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*	*Under 16*	*16 to 18*	*Over 18*	*Unknown age*
	England Total	260	146	579	9	333	168	572	11
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	8	6	17	—	9	*	24	—
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	*	*	8	—	7	*	13	—
Q03	Essex HA	*	*	16	—	9	6	16	—
Q04	North West London HA	*	6	24	—	6	*	17	—
Q05	North Central London HA	*	*	17	—	*	*	12	—
Q06	North East London HA	*	*	20	—	*	*	19	—
Q07	South East London HA	8	*	32	—	*	8	37	—
Q08	South West London HA	*	*	14	—	*	—	21	—
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	17	9	15	—	29	6	30	—
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	8	*	19	—	19	*	11	—
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	7	*	*	—	*	*	6	—
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	21	10	26	—	18	7	32	—
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	17	14	22	—	20	7	20	—
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	24	20	53	—	34	23	51	—
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	14	6	38	—	17	12	47	—
Q16	Thames Valley HA	*	*	18	—	9	*	14	—
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	8	*	15	—	9	*	10	—
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	*	*	18	—	8	*	15	—
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	*	*	24	—	11	6	19	—
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	7	*	22	—	6	9	14	—
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	9	6	10	—	10	*	6	—
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	*	*	10	—	9	*	6	—
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	11	6	*	—	13	11	17	—
Q24	Trent HA	12	12	30	—	23	8	22	—
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	9	*	18	—	*	*	17	—
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	12	*	17	—	13	*	8	—
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	17	—	33	—	17	12	23	—
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	*	*	9	—	8	*	23	—
S	Scotland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England—Not Otherwise Specified	—	—	*	—	—	*	*	—
W	Wales	*	—	*	—	6	*	*	—
X	Foreign (Including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—
Y	Not Known	*	—	16	9	*	*	13	11

		1997-98				1996-97			
		Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age	Under 16	16 to 18	Over 18	Unknown age
Z	Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:
* The technical term for what has been supplied is finished admission episodes.
Assignment of Episodes to Years
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Cause code—stab wounds** and gunshot wounds***
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to gunshot wounds and knife-related injuries.
** Stab wounds:
X99.—Assault by sharp object
*** Gunshot wounds:
W32.—Handgun discharge
W33.—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34.—Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72.—Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73.—Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74.—Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93.—Assault by handgun discharge
X94.—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95.—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22.—Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23.—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24.—Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0 Legal intervention involving firearm discharge
Y36.4 War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected, the NHS there have seen ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).
PCT and SHA Data Quality
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Source:
HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Lasers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 205W, on lasers, what further research and evidence was brought to light to support the proposals to deregulate class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources. [220471]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will shortly publish its response to the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Consultation. It will include an analysis of further research and evidence that has come to light and this will be fully taken into account when drawing up the final impact assessment regarding the proposals to deregulate class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much income each local authority received in *(a)* fees and charges and *(b)* charges only from services for adults with a learning disability expressed as a percentage of total expenditure on such services over the last five years; and what such total expenditure was over this period. [221531]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on fee and charges only and charges only is not collected centrally. However, data on sales, fees and charges is available.

A table which shows the gross expenditure and the sales, fees and charges of clients age 18-64 with learning disabilities as a percentage of gross expenditure on that client group from 2002-03 to 2006-07 has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total net expenditure on services for people with a learning disability under 65 years was for the last 10 years for each local authority for *(a)* assessment and care management, *(b)* nursing home placements, *(c)* residential care home placements, *(d)* supported and other accommodation, *(e)* direct payments, *(f)* home care, *(g)* day care, *(h)* equipment and adaptations, *(i)* meals and *(j)* remaining services. [221538]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information has been placed in the Library.

Data prior to 2000-01 is not held centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total net expenditure on services for people with a learning disability over 65 years was for the last year for which figures are available, *(a)* excluding and *(b)* including expenditure on the Supporting People initiative. [221539]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This data is not held centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many assessment reviews have been carried out for people with a learning disability in each local authority over the last 10 years; and what the outcome of such assessments were in each case; [221542]

(2) how many first time service assessments have been carried out for people with a learning disability in each local authority area in the last 10 years; and what the outcome of such assessments were in each case. [221563]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information has been placed in the Library.

In 2003-04 an assessment was re-defined as the first assessment for a new client. In the years prior to 2003-04 an assessment included the re-assessment or unscheduled review of need of a current service user. A review prior to 2003-04 was defined as an examination of the client's needs and services at or by a pre-determined date.

Therefore data from 2003-04 onwards is not comparable with previous years.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218056]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of working days lost due to industrial action in each year since 2003 are presented in the following table. The Department changed payroll provider contracts in 2003 and the cost of retrieving the required information for 1997 to 2003 would be disproportionate.

	Total	*Dates of industrial action*	*Number of staff days lost due to industrial action*
2008 (Up to 11 July)	0	—	0
2007	493	1 May	203
		31 January	290
2006	0	—	0
2005	0	—	0
2004	267	5 November	267

Lung Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many lung cancer patients there were in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many lung cancer patients there were aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* over 80 years in each cancer network in that year. [220990]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated, 1 September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lung cancer patients there were in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many lung cancer patients there were aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59, (c) 60 to 69, (d) 70 to 79 and (e) over 80 years in each cancer network in that year.[220990]

The latest estimations of prevalence can be found in p19-20 of Cancer Trends in England and Wales 1950-1999, available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=4822

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for patients diagnosed with lung cancer by specified age group and Cancer Network are given in the table below.

Table 1: Lung cancer[1] patients in 2005, by cancer network[2] and age group

Cancer Network	*0-49*	*50-59*	*60-69*	*70-79*	*80+*	*All ages*
England	954	3,583	7,864	11,027	7,569	30,997
Lancashire and South Cumbria	32	123	320	363	256	1,094
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	68	260	642	820	492	2,282
Merseyside and Cheshire	47	196	490	650	433	1,816
Yorkshire	46	220	450	644	387	1,747
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	24	80	185	275	143	707
North Trent	36	158	368	542	345	1,449
Pan Birmingham	40	137	334	472	257	1,240
Arden	10	66	138	201	121	536
Mid Trent	33	134	229	383	227	1,006
Derby/Burton	17	54	103	148	123	445
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	24	116	212	347	219	918
Mount Vernon	25	68	163	222	167	645
West London	36	104	212	254	208	814
North London	23	81	171	223	181	679
North East London	30	90	155	268	201	744
South East London	38	98	212	289	211	848
South West London	31	77	196	214	189	707
Peninsula	31	122	244	333	290	1,020

Table 1: Lung cancer[1] patients in 2005, by cancer network[2] and age group

Cancer Network	*0-49*	*50-59*	*60-69*	*70-79*	*80+*	*All ages*
Dorset	13	33	109	173	110	438
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	43	114	227	374	273	1,031
3 Counties	16	56	134	180	138	524
Thames Valley	29	117	237	356	267	1,006
Central South Coast	36	135	252	402	275	1,100
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	14	58	122	166	156	516
Sussex	12	81	160	241	231	725
Kent and Medway	34	98	242	306	280	960
Greater Midlands	35	124	320	399	271	1,149
North of England	71	302	691	955	560	2,579
Anglia	40	189	349	541	382	1,501
Essex	20	92	197	286	176	771

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Lung Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many lung cancer patients in each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* strategic health authority area received (i) surgical resection, (ii) active, anti-cancer treatment and (iii) radiotherapy in each year since 1997-98. [220988]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lung cancer patients in each (a) cancer network and (b) strategic health authority area received (i) surgical resection, (ii) active, anti-cancer treatment and (iii) radiotherapy in each year since 1997-98. [220988]

The latest year for which data are available on the national cancer registry database, which ONS operates on behalf of the Department of Health, is 2005. Tables 1-3 below show the number of cases of lung cancer, newly diagnosed in each of the years 1997-2005 in the specified geographical areas, receiving (i) surgical, (ii) hormonal and other treatments and (iii) radiotherapy as initial treatments. In 55 per cent of lung cancer cases in the database during the period, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having had no treatment. Ten per cent of cases were recorded as receiving more than one treatment.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] receiving surgical treatment[2], by Strategic Health Authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	3,339	2,907	3,026	3,000	2,913	2,750	2,701	2,775	3,120
Strategic Health Authority									
North East	110	178	180	182	187	209	203	176	229
North West	435	366	402	393	324	244	271	283	418
Yorkshire and the Humber	442	361	370	363	347	370	342	329	310
East Midlands	424	357	362	337	296	262	247	248	207
West Midlands	357	336	337	369	330	325	303	337	377
East of England	311	310	304	299	325	317	309	283	472
London	361	377	362	394	366	366	338	343	354
South East Coast	162	178	157	189	195	188	206	215	202
South Central	266	155	195	173	159	150	160	162	145
Southwest	471	289	357	301	384	319	322	399	406
Cancer network									
3 Counties	56	47	60	56	57	59	44	51	51
Anglia	165	161	156	162	146	161	168	162	162
Arden	49	60	60	45	49	44	48	61	56
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	148	80	128	90	132	91	97	147	153
Central South Coast	201	73	115	106	116	131	108	137	124
Derby/Burton	61	52	45	55	32	86	55	64	53
Dorset	133	40	53	53	59	50	40	51	63
Essex	50	49	48	36	77	75	77	57	211
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	174	158	157	130	145	143	159	179	194

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] receiving surgical treatment[2], by Strategic Health Authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Greater Midlands	130	117	106	125	123	121	108	128	132
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	104	89	103	78	84	83	75	78	76
Kent and Medway	49	56	51	70	66	66	62	77	80
Lancashire and South Cumbria	73	81	85	78	67	77	78	55	52
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	108	138	122	139	119	97	91	98	84
Merseyside and Cheshire	178	119	149	162	92	8	17	33	158
Mid Trent	234	150	174	126	124	70	82	80	57
Mount Vernon	83	81	85	77	80	59	51	51	59
North East London	78	71	71	93	90	85	101	78	63
North London	80	111	102	104	79	85	77	71	91
North of England	131	188	196	214	218	233	227	201	251
North Trent	128	122	97	83	105	100	82	65	57
Pan Birmingham	147	128	136	168	124	126	124	117	162
Peninsula	136	127	119	105	137	133	142	157	151
South East London	86	72	64	63	84	76	58	86	90
South West London	63	67	69	80	70	69	59	80	74
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	47	53	58	66	65	54	78	57	52
Sussex	51	56	48	36	46	41	51	58	56
Thames Valley	95	109	104	98	75	43	75	50	37
West London	76	82	74	89	77	89	67	53	86
Yorkshire	225	170	191	213	175	195	200	193	185

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
[3] Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] receiving hormonal and other treatment[2], by Strategic Health Authority[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	3,166	2,472	2,077	409	381	455	443	368	594
Strategic Health Authority									
North East	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0
North West	339	236	9	9	10	5	35	35	14
Yorkshire and the Humber	745	739	639	45	15	27	36	13	27
East Midlands	1,637	1,369	1,129	39	61	83	89	87	100
West Midlands	11	6	17	5	0	2	1	0	10
East of England	62	43	138	155	155	172	156	97	315
London	150	53	114	126	108	125	102	119	112
South East Coast	78	19	31	27	30	37	22	14	16
South Central	30	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0
South West	114	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
[3] Provision of Cancer Network figures for this table would entail disproportionate cost since detailed checks would be needed on whether comparison of the low numbers of treatments between the SHA and CN geographies might allow disclosure.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 3: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] receiving radiotherapy treatment[2], by Strategic Health Authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	9,229	9,799	9,905	9,309	8,349	7,722	8,008	7,917	7,617
Strategic Health Authority									
North East	431	925	963	898	844	760	718	727	759
North West	1,226	1,266	1,538	1,525	1,337	753	983	1,177	1,194

Table 3: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1] receiving radiotherapy treatment[2], by Strategic Health Authority and Cancer Network[3], England, 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,128	1,163	1,081	1,072	1,007	952	886	847	831
East Midlands	478	456	560	551	491	450	389	377	343
West Midlands	1,323	1,306	1,209	1,064	934	913	887	890	848
East of England	1,342	1,240	1,217	1,149	1,030	1,112	1,010	1,010	1,028
London	1,574	1,538	1,442	1,467	1,286	1,143	1,161	1,099	945
South East Coast	972	1,049	891	963	827	745	706	681	640
South Central	426	457	516	458	433	531	678	618	500
South West	329	399	488	162	160	363	590	491	529
Cancer network									
3 Counties	86	118	100	56	42	31	21	69	118
Anglia	658	626	612	611	490	550	524	541	619
Arden	286	294	268	288	251	271	246	229	189
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	191	239	237	74	103	143	256	209	233
Central South Coast	62	91	131	33	40	214	393	299	162
Derby/Burton	49	43	60	39	50	50	38	46	34
Dorset	24	61	124	2	9	52	127	87	102
Essex	341	325	297	279	293	355	310	289	230
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	783	745	802	762	710	198	467	689	580
Greater Midlands	541	501	439	412	350	307	335	329	278
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	275	305	311	303	264	281	284	287	260
Kent and Medway	414	416	376	409	354	302	294	273	218
Lancashire and South Cumbria	374	411	425	455	420	404	402	373	349
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	285	278	246	246	217	209	167	153	182
Merseyside and Cheshire	21	23	222	206	106	49	29	30	187
Mid Trent	94	97	200	197	189	162	133	131	86
Mount Vernon	301	244	243	223	200	162	149	125	124
North East London	365	309	299	300	250	206	208	168	97
North London	269	259	270	244	231	219	181	193	175
North of England	511	1,053	1,085	1,035	978	894	838	847	871
North Trent	181	162	153	157	124	130	129	124	86
Pan Birmingham	413	385	389	297	276	294	277	295	283
Peninsula	86	87	76	61	39	145	172	100	129
South East London	351	367	318	341	349	318	311	328	298
South West London	298	321	332	354	255	228	251	225	241
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	262	249	180	197	164	152	145	131	121
Sussex	243	290	253	285	242	224	197	236	258
Thames Valley	379	410	459	468	422	364	356	385	381
West London	381	385	344	316	292	255	269	265	225
Yorkshire	705	705	654	659	639	553	499	481	501

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] More than one type of treatment was recorded for some cases.
[3] Cancer Network boundaries as at January 2008.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* care homes and *(b)* hospitals were rated high risk by the malnutrition universal screening tool in each of the last 24 months; and what the (i) mean, (ii) range and (ii) distribution in terms of length of time rated at high risk was. [221558]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Medical Education England

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Medical Education England will not have a commissioning function in addition to its advisory role, as referred to on page 73 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221053]

Ann Keen: The Next Stage Review document "A High Quality Workforce" sets out the role and remit of Medical Education England in more detail than "High Quality

Care for All". It clarifies and confirms the role of the strategic health authorities (SHA) as commissioners of education. They are best placed to translate the workforce plans submitted by providers into education commissions, taking a whole system approach rather than just focussing on individual professions.

The role of Medical Education England (MEE) in an advisory and scrutiny role will enable them to provide an overview of commissions at a local and national level and enable them to provide advice to the Department. This function could not be effectively performed if MEE were also commissioners of education.

Professor Sir John Tooke provides a response to "A High Quality Workforce" in the document, in which he states

"I am particularly pleased to see the creation of Medical Education England which will give a strong voice and the scrutiny function that it needs".

Medical Examinations: Males

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to encourage men between the ages of 20 and 35 years to have regular medical check-ups. [220011]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not targeted men in this age group specifically to encourage them to have regular medical check-ups. However, under the General Medical Services contract, general practitioner practices are required to invite all newly registered patients including men aged 20 to 35 years for a consultation within six months of registration and provide, on request, a consultation for patients aged 16-74 who have not had a consultation within the last three years.

Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data is currently being stored on the Summary Care Record. [221545]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the summary care record (SCR) is extracted from the general practitioner's record and, at present, is limited to basic information—personal demographic details, current medications, adverse reactions and allergies.

Whether additional information is added in the future will depend on decisions taken through the normal governance process to include clinical representations and patient preferences. Eventually, summaries of health problems and the care provided could be added and updated each time patients who choose to have a SCR receive national health service care. Clearly, the precise information stored on the SCR will differ from patient to patient.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many detailed care records are currently held in data centres operated by each of the National Programme for IT's local service providers; [221552]

(2) whether National Programme for IT's local service providers plan to operate a data centre for the detailed care records of each NHS care provider; [221559]

(3) how many data centres each of the National Programme for IT's local service providers plans to hold detailed care records; [221560]

(4) how many detailed care records are currently held in data centres operated by each of the National Programme for IT's local service providers. [221561]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national programme for information technology systems which are able to be deployed to the national health service via a hosted solution from a secure, resilient, reliable, enterprise standard, data centre are supported through that means with appropriate business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements in place. By exception, there are some existing systems or additional services provided through local service providers that do not lend themselves to this technical approach at present.

Currently the number of data centres used by local service providers (LSPs) is as follows:

CSC: 4;

BT LSP: 2;

Fujitsu: 2; and

Accenture: 2, for its Picture Archiving and Communications Service.

There are no current plans to increase or decrease this number.

Information is not held centrally on the number of detailed care records currently held in data centres.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the independent evaluation of the care record system commissioned from UCL cost; [221555]

(2) what plans he has to fund further independent evaluation of the Connecting for Health programme; [221556]

(3) when he will publish a response to the independent evaluation of the care records system commissioned from UCL. [221557]

Mr. Bradshaw: The contracted cost of the independent evaluation of the summary care record (SCR) early adopters programme, carried out by a team from the Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences at University College London, was £272,204.

We have no current plans to publish a formal response to the evaluation team's findings. NHS Connecting for Health is considering and discussing the important issues raised in the evaluation report with key stakeholders, and the summary care record advisory group was asked to consider urgently the report's findings and to advise on how these will inform the future roll out of the SCR. As we have stated consistently, the findings and recommendations of the independent review will be taken into account in planning further roll out of the SCR.

Under its Health Evaluation Programme, NHS Connecting for Health has commissioned a number of further projects to evaluate aspects of the national programme for information technology. The University of Birmingham has been commissioned to manage the evaluation programme. Further information on the programme, including details of current projects and on-going work, together with final reports and publications,

is on the NHS Connecting for Health evaluation programme website, run by the university of Birmingham, at:

www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/cfhep/

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS care providers will maintain their own electronic patient records once the National Programme for IT's local service providers roll-out their strategic solutions on a national basis. [221562]

Mr. Bradshaw: All clinicians are required by their professional bodies, and for clinical governance and medico-legal reasons to keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records, and to keep these secure and confidential. This is most often likely to be in electronic form. This is irrespective of the national programme for IT and systems implemented by local service providers. Patients are able to opt out of having their clinical information uploaded to the "spine", the national database of key information about patients' health and care within the national health service care records service, by choosing not to have a summary care record.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the risks to patient confidentiality of publishing patients' care records to HealthSpace, as referred to on page 41 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221023]

Mr. Bradshaw: While it is never possible to eliminate all risk, stringent security controls and safeguards have been put in place to prevent unrestricted or uncontrolled access to personal information accessible through HealthSpace. Authentication of patients seeking a HealthSpace account has been designed to operate within the specified e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-gif) requirements and industry best practices. In due course, when the technology to do so becomes available, registration requirements will be uprated to the next highest level.

In addition, the HealthSpace system has been subjected to exhaustive penetration testing to demonstrate its resilience to unauthorised attempts by third parties to access data held within it. This testing will be repeated on a regular basis.

Users will also be advised that securing confidentiality of their information accessible through HealthSpace is also in part a personal responsibility. The safeguarding of access controls, including PINS and passwords, is an example of personal responsibility, along with not choosing to access records at a time or location where others may see them. Users will be supported in this by means of standard technical measures used widely in secure electronic transactions, for example by the setting of a 'timeout', so that after a given period of inactivity the user is automatically logged off the system.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact on the security of confidential data of increasing the scope of access to the NHS Care Records Service to *(a)* social care, *(b)* voluntary sector, *(c)* private sector, *(d)* pharmacy and *(e)* other organisations, as referred to on page 50 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [221135]

Mr. Bradshaw: The vision for the NHS Care Records Service (NHS CRS) is that it will support the delivery of care across all the settings where national health service patients may present for that care, including services provided by the private and voluntary sectors and in social care, pharmacy and other organisations. We have set out clearly in the Care Record Guarantee precisely what security and confidentiality standards must be met by all organisations that have access to the NHS CRS and all such organisations are required to provide assurance that they are meeting these standards. Compliance will be audited.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how legitimate relationships are established for determining access to the NHS care records service. [221550]

Mr. Bradshaw: Legitimate relationships are a form of access control that prevent those who are not working in a team that is involved in providing national health service care to an individual from accessing that individual's clinical information. NHS organisations will determine which of their staff work within which teams for this purpose.

A new legitimate relationship is normally created when a patient is referred to a team for care. This referral may be from a different part of the NHS or may be a self-referral by a patient, for example when attending a minor injuries unit, or when registering with a general practitioner's practice.

Some clinicians, particularly those working in emergency care environments, are also able to establish a legitimate relationship with a patient when this is needed to support emergency care. These "self-declared" legitimate relationships generate an alert to staff responsible for ensuring that the facility is not misused.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which applications will have access to data stored in the NHS care records service; and which applications do not require a valid smartcard in order to access data in the NHS care records service. [221551]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Care Record Service links patient information from different parts of the national health service electronically so that authorised NHS staff and patients have the information they need to make care decisions. It comprises a number of national services, and compliant local applications, for example trust patient administration systems, and general practitioner systems. These local applications hold their own data and interact through messages with national services such as choose and book, the summary care record, and the personal demographics service. All local applications that interact with the national services require a valid smartcard.

A number of interim stand-alone local systems have been deployed to support the NHS. These do not interact with the national services and may not use smartcards.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases, whether *(a)* private sector suppliers, *(b)* third sector suppliers and *(c)* providers under the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioning will have access to patient data through the Secondary Uses Service. [221447]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current proposals for pseudonymised data extracts from the Secondary Uses Service are that these will be available for any supplier who agrees the terms and conditions. The terms and conditions are being agreed but include, for example, limitations on the disclosure of data to third parties and the copying of data, and termination and liability clauses in the event of unauthorised disclosure of personally-identifiable information. There will also be a right of audit to verify adherence to the terms and conditions, which will be the key condition determining permission to access for those wishing to use the service.

Once finalised, the terms and conditions will be published.

Medical Records: Lost Property

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who will be responsible for the investigation aimed at finding lost patient NHS records in Leicester; [218138]

(2) what information was contained in the patients' NHS documents recently stolen in Leicester; and what investigation is taking place to retrieve the documents. [218139]

Mr. Bradshaw: The police and Leicestershire County and Rutland primary care trust are responsible for the investigation.

The East Midlands strategic health authority reports that a print out containing details of approximately 233 home oxygen patients; including name, address, national health service number and general practitioner details; and a laptop computer, containing the names, dates of birth and oxygen levels of three patients, were stolen from the boot of a nurse's car.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many treatments referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and assessed through its single technology appraisal process *(a)* have and *(b)* have not received a final appraisal determination within six months of receiving a product licence; [221141]

(2) what improvements he anticipates making to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's appraisal process, as referred to on page 44 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; [221142]

(3) whether he plans to introduce a maximum time period in which the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence must undertake technology appraisals; and what proportion of treatments he expects will receive their final appraisal determination within *(a)* three and *(b)* six months of receiving their product licence following the changes announced in High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221147]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 21 July 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published final guidance for 21 single technology appraisals (STAs). NICE issued a final appraisal determination for four of these within six months of licensing.

The Government are exploring with NICE options for further improving the topic selection and technology appraisal processes to support rapid appraisal of significant new drugs.

We have no plans to introduce a maximum time period in which NICE must undertake technology appraisals as the time taken to develop guidance on a treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each case. NICE'S Guide to the Single Technology Appraisal (STA) process sets out the expected timescales for the development of guidance through the STA process, and is available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/8DE/74/STA_Process_Guide.pdf.

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1708W, on medical treatments: lasers, if he will ensure that his Department's response to the Private and Voluntary Healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000 consultation will include, in addition to an identification of organisations and individuals that responded, a list of those respondents who *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed the Government's proposals for the deregulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light sources. [219474]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's response to the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Consultation will include a full list of all the respondents and whether they supported or opposed the various proposals, including those relating to class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light sources.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of well-being is. [220695]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing, 2007, defines wellbeing as:

> "The subjective state of being healthy, happy, contented, comfortable and satisfied with one's quality of life. It includes physical, material, social, emotional ('happiness'), and development and activity dimensions."

MRSA

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates changes to the measurement of his Department's target to halve MRSA rates by March 2008 were agreed; and on each date *(a)* what change was made and *(b)* which Minister approved the change. [221009]

Ann Keen: The target to halve meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections by March 2008 was announced in November 2004. The measurement period was not set at that point. However, the Department worked with strategic health authorities from 2005 on the assumption that achievement of the target would be judged by performance in the first quarter after the target date, i.e. in the quarter April to June 2008. This position was formally agreed with Ministers in February 2007. At no point have we changed how we are measuring the target. It is being measured in the same way as other national targets.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1653W, on MRSA, what examples of where a deep clean has had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and experience have now been drawn up; and how these have been disseminated across the NHS. [221158]

Ann Keen: A number of national health service trusts have sent the Department case studies, which identify a range of activities undertaken as part of the deep clean programme. Trusts have also sent details of some of the initial benefits they have seen as a result of their deep cleaning activities. The Department is compiling a compendium of these case studies which will be published on the Department's website in due course.

MRSA: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects screening for MRSA for *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency admissions to be introduced; and what assessment he has made of progress towards the objective in each case. [221010]

Ann Keen: We will introduce meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening for all elective admissions by March 2009 and for all emergency admissions by 2011.

The Operating Framework, which was published in December 2007, set out the priorities for the national health service for 2008-09. It put cleanliness and health care associated infections as one of five national priorities that require particular and sustained attention from primary care trusts, working with every organisation that provides care to national health service patients.

As part of our ongoing discussions with the NHS, we are ensuring that the commitments set out in the framework are delivered.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms at current prices (i) was in each year since 1999-2000 and (ii) will be in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [221145]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested for the financial years between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 is shown in the table. Departmental funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has not yet been finalised.

Departmental funding[1] for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) since 1999-2000

	Cash (£)	*Real terms (£)*
1999-2000	9,826,000	12,016,485
2000-01	9,280,000	11,189,351
2001-02	12,023,000	14,157,864
2002-03	14,510,000	16,568,088
2003-04	16,602,000	18,422,922
2004-05	18,215,000	19,669,564
2005-06[2]	27,000,000	28,541,528
2006-07	27,700,000	28,506,741
2007-08[3]	33,400,000	33,400,000
2008-09	32,415,000	31,470,874

[1] NICE has other sources of funding that are not included in the table.
[2] NICE took over the functions of the Health Development Agency on 1 April 2005. The step change in the NICE budget reflects this.
[3] Includes non-recurrent brokerage of £2.7 million from 2006-07.

NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Statement made by the Prime Minister on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1387, on the draft legislative programme, what minimum standards of *(a)* access, *(b)* quality and *(c)* safety he is considering incorporating in the NHS constitution; whether those minimum standards will differ from the registration requirements to be enforced by the Care Quality Commission; whether he plans to incorporate the minimum standards in legislation; and if he will make a statement. [216939]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The draft NHS Constitution sets out a range of rights and national health service pledges relating to access, quality and safety.

It is our intention to legislate to provide a legal duty on NHS organisations to take account of the Constitution in the decisions they make. Similarly, the government of the day will be obliged by law to renew the NHS Constitution every 10 years.

Registration requirements will be set in regulations and will list the essential safety and quality requirements that providers must meet in order to be registered to provide health and adult social care services. The registration system will sit as a key part of a wider quality improvement framework that encourages excellent care.

The draft NHS Constitution and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The details, including how to feed in views, may be found at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways he plans to accelerate the rate at which existing NHS trusts achieve NHS Foundation Trust status, as referred to on page 61 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; and whether it is his policy that all hospital trusts should be able to apply for NHS Foundation Trust status by the end of 2008. [221070]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government want all acute and mental health trusts to attain the national health service foundation trust (NHSFT) standard at the earliest opportunity.

Good progress is being made. There are already 103 NHSFTs which account for over 45 per cent. of all eligible acute and mental health trusts. By the end of this financial year, we expect over half of all these trusts to become NHSFTs. Strategic health authorities are charged with delivering NHSFTs. Increasing the flow of strong applicants to Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) is a priority and we are considering options for accelerating the rate of NHSFT authorisations.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers strategic health authority medical directors, as referred to in paragraph 29 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, will have to direct service planning in NHS foundation trusts. [221117]

Mr. Bradshaw: The appointment of strategic health authority (SHA) medical directors does not alter the existing relationship between SHAs and national health service foundation trusts (NHS FTs). SHAs have no powers of direction over NHS FTs. SHA medical directors will provide medical leadership and oversee on-going work by the SHAs to implement their local clinical visions.

NHS Leadership Board

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will establish the NHS Leadership Board, as referred to on page 67 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; how many members the NHS Leadership Board will have; if he will place a copy of the terms of reference of the NHS Leadership Council in the Library; what powers the NHS Leadership Council will have; whether the NHS Leadership Council will have a role in determining the NHS Operating Framework; what the cost of the NHS Leadership Council will be in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [221060]

Ann Keen: We are in the early stages of developing this work. Further information will be available in due course.

NHS Pensions Agency: Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the 2007-08 resource accounts for the NHS Pension Scheme. [221164]

Ann Keen: We expect the NHS pension scheme resource accounts for the 2007-08 financial year to be published after Parliament returns from the summer recess.

NHS Treatment Centres

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have used NHS walk-in centres in each region. [220576]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures for attendances at NHS walk-in centres for the latest year for each strategic health authority are as follows:

2007-08

SHA	*Number of attendances at NHS walk-in centres*
East Midland	121,365
East of England	134,903
London	741,517
North East	135,994
North West	698,018
South Central	180,281
South East Coast	205,852
South West	154,714
West Midlands	171,931
Yorkshire and the Humber	132,626

Source:
Department of Health QMAE dataset

NHS Trust Boards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost will be of developing a new development programme for NHS Trust boards, as referred to in paragraph 39, page 67 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, 2008. [221059]

Ann Keen: We are in early stages of developing this work. Further information will be available in due course.

NHS: Advisory Bodies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to have established new professional advisory bodies, as referred to on page 73 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; how many such bodies he plans to establish in total; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function of each such body will be; what the cost of (i) establishing and (ii) running each body will be; and if he will make a statement. [221054]

Ann Keen: The Next Stage Review has recommended that three advisory functions are set up:

Medical Education England;

regional advisory boards; and

advisory boards for other professions.

Medical Education England will have the following core functions for doctors, dentists, health care scientists, pharmacists and low volume specialities:

bringing a coherent professional voice on matters relating to education and training and advising the Department on policy;

providing high level scrutiny of and advice on the quality of workforce planning at a national level;

providing professional scrutiny of and advice on the education and training commissioning plans developed at strategic health authority (SHA) level;

coordination of changes to postgraduate training pathways at a national level;

integration of service and professional perspectives into curricula development; and

liaison with other relevant bodies.

The main functions of the SHA advisory bodies are:

bringing a coherent professional perspective to advise the SHAs on education and training needs so that the workforce model that service providers need can be developed e.g. community based cardiology services;

engaging with higher education institutions to translate workforce models, based on clinical needs into training and education;

providing a professional high level overview and assurance of quality of the workforce plans created at SHA level; and

bringing a multi professional perspective and regional perspective in advising the national advisory boards on workforce plans.

The advisory boards for other professions have yet to be agreed. The Department will be working with professional bodies and other key stakeholders over the coming months to establish exactly which professional bodies should be set up. Consequently no timescale or specific costings have been prepared yet for this function.

We will also be working with SHAs to support the development of regional advisory groups. This will be funded from within existing budgets.

It is planned that Medical Education England will be in place by January 2009.

NHS: Apprentices

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many apprenticeships there are in the NHS; what the baseline year is for measuring adherence to the commitment contained in High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, to double apprenticeships over the next four years; how much is being spent on apprenticeships in 2008-09; whether future spending will be ring-fenced; whether he expects that the doubling of expenditure on apprenticeships will lead to a doubling in the number of apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [221051]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of apprenticeships in the NHS is not available centrally. We are currently working with key partners to design apprenticeship policy that meets the needs of NHS staff, employers and above all, our patients. Decisions on ring-fencing and aspirations on numbers of apprentices will be considered as part of ongoing work.

NHS: Buildings

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds his Department has received from the sale of former NHS buildings in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [220706]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last 10 years, the total receipts from the sale of former national health service land and buildings by the Department were £2,047 million. Records indicate that, of that sum, £66 million was received from the sale of surplus NHS property in Leeds. These figures do not include sales made by NHS bodies themselves.

The receipts from the Department's sale of land and buildings are centrally reinvested as a part of the capital funding provided to the NHS.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of the NHS estate in England was not *(a)* fire safety and *(b)* health and safety compliant in each of the last five years; what the estimated cost of the works required to achieve such compliance was at year-end in each case; what the cost of the total general repair backlog on the NHS estate in England was in March (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; and what the outstanding cost of related repairs is estimated to be as of the end of 2008-09; [221530]

(2) what the repair backlog was of the NHS estate, broken down by *(a)* high, *(b)* significant, *(c)* moderate and *(d)* low risk in each of the last five financial years; and what the overall risk adjusted backlog was; [221620]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of outstanding maintenance in the NHS in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08 *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by NHS organisation; [221621]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of reaching *(a)* estate code condition B, *(b)* fire safety standards and *(c)* health and safety standards for all mental health trusts in England, broken down by trust; [221622]

(5) what targets he has set in relation to reducing disrepair on the NHS estate. [221625]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recent record levels of capital investment in the national health service estate have resulted in a quarter of the estate occupied by NHS trusts being replaced since 1997 and the proportion of the estate that predates the establishment of the NHS itself has fallen from 50 per cent. in 1997-98 to 20 per cent. in 2006-07.

NHS organisations are responsible for the provision and maintenance of facilities to support the delivery of high quality clinical services. Therefore the NHS will locally prioritise investment to reduce backlog maintenance based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which trusts will undertake through maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority. While levels of backlog maintenance vary across the NHS, it is estimated that around 75 per cent. of the total costs to eradicate backlog maintenance is concentrated in 20 per cent. of organisations.

The backlog maintenance categorised according to its risk level is provided in the following table.

Backlog maintenance

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Risk level/definition	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
High risk						
Urgent priority work needed to prevent catastrophic failure, major disruption to clinical services or deficiencies resulting in serious injury or prosecution	358.2	11.4	329.9	9.0	308.1	8.2
Significant risk						
Requires short-term expenditure but can be effectively managed to avoid risk to healthcare services or concern to enforcement bodies	778.2	24.8	982.2	26.6	943.5	25.2

	Backlog maintenance					
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Risk level/definition	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage
Moderate risk						
Requires close control and monitoring but can be managed in the medium term	902.1	28.7	1,219.4	33.1	1,231.5	32.9
Low risk						
Can be addressed through agreed maintenance programmes or through strategic plans	1,103.2	35.1	1,152.1	31.3	1,256.6	33.6
Total	3,141.7	100	3,683.6	100	3,739.7	100
Risk Adjusted Backlog Maintenance	1,342	–	1,744	–	1,542	–

The total backlog maintenance for England since 1997-98 is provided in the following table.

	Total backlog maintenance (£ million)
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,517
2003-04	3,193
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684
2006-07	3,740

The information for NHS organisations has been placed in the Library. Data relating to 2007-08 are currently being collected.

Information on the percentage of the total patient occupied floor area in the NHS estate in England that is not fire or health and safety compliant has not been collected centrally since 2003-04. At that time the figures were 7.1 per cent. and 8.8 per cent. respectively. The estimated cost of achieving compliance for physical condition, fire safety and health and safety, which in total represent the investment needed to reach Estatecode condition B, for 2003-04, the last available period, have been placed in the Library. This includes NHS mental health trusts. NHS organisations, including foundation trusts, remain responsible for compliance with fire and health and safety laws and regulations.

The data provided has not been amended centrally and the accuracy and completeness of this data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have been found to have asbestos in buildings within their responsibility. [221627]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Responsibility for the identification, safe handling and disposal of asbestos found in any national health service property is a matter for local management. The NHS, along with all other industries has been alert to the risks associated with asbestos for many years, and managers are aware of their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS trusts which make use of the CPORT tool to plan for the safe introduction of new drugs. [220961]

Ann Keen: Currently around 63 trusts have access to C-PORT and are being trained to use the tool to assess the impact of drugs. Roll out continues across 20 Cancer Networks who are at various stages in learning how to use the tool.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which patients who have been denied funding for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)-approved drugs by their primary care trust (PCT) are aware of the obligations on PCTs to fund NICE-approved drugs; what assessment he has made of the extent to which patients will become more aware of these obligations as a result of the inclusion of this right in the NHS constitution; and what proportion of patients who have been denied funding for NICE-approved drugs he estimates will have access to NICE-approved drugs following the changes proposed in High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221137]

Dawn Primarolo: Our overall assessment is that compliance with technology appraisal guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is high and that patients are not routinely denied treatments that have been recommended by NICE.

Research with patients and the public suggests that, while the perceived "postcode lottery" for access to drugs is a major concern, many people are unaware of the process for funding drugs and treatments and are not aware that primary care trusts already have a statutory responsibility to fund drugs and treatments that are recommended in NICE's technology appraisal guidance. The Government believe that the NHS Constitution can play an important part in addressing these issues.

The draft NHS Constitution was published on 30 June 2008 (copies have already been placed in the Library) and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The Government will consider these issues following the consultation.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has allocated to central capital budgets in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [219380]

(2) with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a similar breakdown of the NHS capital settlement for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [219381]

(3) pursuant to the Answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 197-8W, on departmental public expenditure, how much his Department spent on each of its programme capital budgets for 2007-08; and what programme capital budgets have been planned for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [219384]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amounts allocated against each of the Department's 2007-08 programme capital budgets are shown in the table.

Other than the amounts (£480 million in 2009-10 and £565 million in 2010-11) announced in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09" (copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library) for the local capital investment priorities of primary care trusts, capital budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been set. The Department cannot, therefore, for those years, issue information on central capital budgets, or programme capital budgets, or issue a breakdown in the format of page 148 of Departmental Report 2008.

£000

	2007-08		
	Budget	*Allocations issued*	*Funds unallocated at the year-end*
Community Hospitals Programme	75,000	33,591	41,409
Learning Disability—Grants to permit transfer of service users from NHS facilities to tenanted facilities in community	50,000	4,969	45,031
Healthy living centres for offenders	932	0	932
Iris recognition and desk-top analysis to support opium substitution in prisons	4,300	4,295	5
Dental Premises improvement grants	60,000	59,998	2
Choose and Book Capital Incentives	42,825	8,100	34,725
Drugs Misuse Treatment Strategy	64,895	24,067	40,828
Capital resource cover for Wave 1 Independent Sector procurements	48,121	45,978	2,143
Pulmonary Rehab Equipment	1,000	0	1,000
Operational Capital—Adjustments to allocations	3,196	2,519	677
Social Enterprises	2,421	2,421	0
Research and Development Funding agreed and announced	45,000	45,000	0
Screening—a retinopathy screening database pilot	200	200	0
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	38,000	37,941	59
Psychiatric Intensive Care Units and 'places of safety'	88,174	51,906	36,268
High Security Services	60,000	14,511	45,489
Broadmoor re-development	5,000	0	5,000
Coronary Heart Disease—Completing "Heart Centres"	49,731	43,347	6,384
Radiotherapy training	5,000	4,734	266
Genetics	3,617	0	3,617
Workforce—Medical school expansion	9,000	8,007	993
Workforce—Dental school expansion	20,000	20,976	-976
Emergency vehicles and equipment	9,000	678	8,322
Workforce—Radiological academies	3,300	1,760	1,540
Occupational Health Outreach Sites	10,000	9,600	400
Great Ormond Street 'Phase 2'	30,000	30,000	0
Funds for enabling works for major Private Finance Initiative schemes	144,579	91,199	53,380
Pilot project to evaluate nursing implications of 100 per cent. single rooms	800	800	0
Funds to support improved energy efficiency in national health service buildings	60,000	19,622	40,378
Local Implementation of Connecting for Health	97,174	93,714	3,460
Decontamination	50,800	20,669	30,131
NHS Direct	8,200	8,200	0
End of Life Care	600	0	600
Hazardous Area Response Team Equipment	2,200	0	2,200
Total	1,093,065	688,802	404,263

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue primary care trust allocations for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [219876]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2009-10 and 2010-11 primary care trust revenue allocations will be announced in the autumn alongside the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS budget will be in 2009-10. [220560]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total NHS plan expenditure for 2009-10 is £102,642 million. This is as set out in the NHS Departmental Report 2008 (Figure A1).

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the full breakdown of each primary care trust's expenditure by programme budget category for 2007-08. [221001]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates of primary care trust (PCT) expenditure by programme budgeting category are not scheduled to be collected from PCTs until December 2008 and therefore are not currently available.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource expenditure in (i) cash and (ii) real terms at current prices (A) on end-of-life care was in (1) 2004-05, (2) 2005-06, (3) 2006-07 and (4) 2007-08 and (B) is planned to be in (x) 2008-09 and (y) 2010-11. [221004]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect information on national health service expenditure on end of life care services centrally.

To support the development of the End of Life Care Strategy, a survey was undertaken on primary care trust expenditure on specialist palliative care services. The results of this survey were published on the Department's website on 16 July.

The End of Life Care Strategy published on 16 July sets out a clear direction for delivering and ensuring access to high quality, responsive services across all settings for all adult patients at the end of life irrespective of who or where they are. As set out in the strategy, we will be investing an additional £286 million in end of life services in the two years up to 2011.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether moving away from block grant funding, as referred to in paragraph 24, page 64 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, will entail the creation of a payment-by-results system for community services; and if he will make a statement. [221066]

Mr. Bradshaw: To ensure services are commissioned and provided on a high quality, cost-effective basis, the national health service is moving increasingly to a contractual structure where the level of funding is linked to the actual performance of providers.

To support the commissioning of community services on a more effective basis, we are working with the NHS to develop effective currencies (units of payment) for these services. Only when these currencies are developed, will we be able to evaluate their robustness and suitability to underpin any national tariff for community services. This staged approach is in line with our proposals in the consultation on the "Options for the Future of PbR 2008-09 to 2010-11", which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that the regional innovation funds held by strategic health authorities, as referred to on page 56 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, will be ring-fenced; whether regional innovation funds will vary between each strategic health authority area; whether funding for the innovation fund will be additional funding from his Department's central budget; and if he will make a statement. [221112]

Mr. Bradshaw: The specific purpose of the regional innovation funds are to identify, grow and diffuse tomorrow's best practice. All local applications for awards will be subject to assessment by an independent expert panel to ensure that the funds awarded are deployed for that purpose. The fund monies will be additional funding from the Department's central budget, and will be apportioned equally between each of the 10 strategic health authorities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that best practice tariffs, as referred to on page 55 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432, should adjust prices *(a)* up and *(b)* down vis-a-vis the current equivalent tariff. [221113]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no predetermined requirement for best practice tariffs to be either higher or lower than current equivalent tariffs.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimate annual cost to the public purse the new *(a)* medical directors, *(b)* clinical advisory groups and *(c)* quality observatories will be in each strategic health authority area. [221118]

Mr. Bradshaw: Implementing the proposals in the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care for All", is core business for the national health service. The NHS budget for England for 2008-09 is £96 billion and will rise to £110 billion by 2010-11. The proposals will be funded from within that settlement.

NHS: Fires

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fires there were on NHS premises in each of the last 10 years. [221544]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures in the following table have been obtained from information contained in the database held by the Department. National health service trusts are required to report all outbreaks of fire to which the fire and rescue service attend.

	Number of incidents
1996-97	1,038
1997-98	1,136
1998-99	912
1999-2000	1,125
2000-01	1,045
2001-02	948
2002-03	809
2003-04	832
2004-05	1,194
2005-06	1,151
2006-07	1,089
2007-08	775

The figures may not be representative of the actual number of incidents attended by the fire and rescue services as, for example, NHS Foundation Trusts are not mandated to provide information in relation to fire incidents.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W, on the NHS: IT, on which dates resets have been applied to the contracts with *(a)* Fujitsu, *(b)* BT and *(c)* CSC; and what the resulting total contract value was following each reset. [212213]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the table. Where there are increases in the value of the reset contract when compared to the original contract value, this is due to changes or additional requirements that have been negotiated as part of the reset agreement and these have been approved through normal governance arrangements.

Contract	*Reset data*	*10 year contract value (£ million)*
BT Local Service Provider (LSP) London	May 2007	1,082
CSC LSP NE	January 2007	1,179
CSC LSP Eastern	January 2007	1,064
CSC LSP NW West Midlands	January 2007	1,110
Fujitsu LSP Southern	September 2005	1,182
BT National Application Service Provider: Spine	February 2008	1,000

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* current and *(b)* projected delays are in each of the NHS organisations assigned to Fujitsu's cluster under the NHS IT contract. [213323]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about planned and actual deployments in the area covered by the Fujitsu contract at the point of termination of the contract are shown in the table that has been placed in the Library.

It is not yet possible accurately to predict the consequential impact on deployments as a result of the termination of the contract. However, it is possible that some services, such as systems to support mental health and community health services, may in the event be delivered more quickly than was originally anticipated through existing contracts with other suppliers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum penalty that can be levied on Fujitsu as a result of the termination notice issued under the NHS IT contract is; and what the maximum Government liability is. [213325]

Mr. Bradshaw: Financial liability for performance under the contract with Fujitsu, terminated on 28 May 2008, will ultimately be determined by agreement between the parties, or failing that by arbitration, or by a court. The contract, which was reset in September 2005, provides for caps of liability. Fujitsu's liability to the Department is capped at £100 million per contract year, and an aggregate total of £500 million. The Department's liability is capped at £50 million per contract year. In both cases, the liabilities have potential to apply from the last contract reset.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the installation cost of the new version of the Connecting for Health system is; and what additional costs NHS trusts have incurred as a result of its installation; [220863]

(2) whether the original allocation of funding for the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* running of the Connecting for Health initiative has been exceeded; and if he will make a statement. [220864]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is contained in Figure 7 on page 26 of the National Audit Office report "The National Programme for IT in the NHS : Progress since 2006", which can be found at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/0708484i.pdf.

The National Audit Office report confirms that the National Programme for IT remains within budget and there has been no change to the original contract costs except where new or additional requirements have been included. Information on expenditure by local NHS trusts on the national programme has not in the past been collected centrally. An annual survey has sought to establish local IT expenditure but the returns, published annually, have included all NHS IT expenditure. It is proposed to collect National Programme-specific information on a sample basis.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 26W, on NHS: ICT, what timetable changes there have been which are not attributable to the transfer of ownership from iSoft to IBA; and to what they are attributable. [221153]

Mr. Bradshaw: As the National Audit Office has recently reported, although deployment by local service providers has started, the completion of deployment of systems to all hospitals is likely to take some four years longer than originally planned. This delay is regrettable and is related to the scale and complexity of the task. This is because the new systems have taken longer to be developed and because they are being installed into acute hospitals that already have between 20 and 40 existing systems, built to different standards over many years. The new systems need to be made to operate seamlessly and safely with these non-standard existing systems and interfaces, with associated data cleansing and data quality requirements.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 210W, on NHS: ICT, what the delivery timescales are for the Lorenzo solution to the NHS. [221154]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 475-77W to the hon. Member for South Norfolk (Mr. Bacon). I understand that the supplier of the Lorenzo software remains confident that Release 1 will be deployed into the early adopters in the summer as planned. The deployment and timetable of subsequent releases will depend to some extent on the experience of the early adopters.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on NHS: ICT, where three early adopter sites are; whether release 1 of Lorenzo has been delivered; and whether development plans have been extended in light of the recent National Audit Office Report into NHS IT. [221155]

Mr. Bradshaw: The early adopter sites comprise University of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, and South Birmingham primary care trust.

Release 1 of the Lorenzo software was delivered into initial testing for the national health service in England in May 2008 and is currently being tested prior to go-live, at Morecambe Bay NHS Trust.

Development plans have not been extended in the light of the recent National Audit Office Report into the NHS IT Programme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 123-4W, on NHS: ICT, how much capital and revenue expenditure was made by *(a)* local NHS organisations and *(b)* central NHS organisations and Connecting for Health; and what the (i) capital and (ii) revenue expenditure on IT in the NHS was in each year from 1989-90 to 2004-05 expressed as a percentage of NHS expenditure in each year. [221263]

Mr. Bradshaw: All the information in the earlier answer relates to expenditure by NHS Connecting for Health. In the past, information on expenditure by national health service organisations on the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) has not been collected centrally. An annual survey has sought to establish local IT expenditure but the returns, published annually, have not been restricted to the National Programme for IT. It is proposed to collect the information, on a sample basis.

Information on total NHS capital and revenue expenditure on information technology is in the following tables. Information was not collected centrally for years prior to 2003-04 (capital) and 2002-03 (revenue).

Capital

	2003-04	*2004-05*
NHS Capital (£ million)	2,735.008	2,461.254
Local IT capital (£ million)	234.296	205.555
Local percentage spend	8.57	8.35

Revenue

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
NHS Revenue (£ million)	50,813.614	55,036.276	61,867.068
Local IT revenue (£ million)	832.020	914.232	1,046.259
Local percentage spend	1.64	2.16	2.44

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts are held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Connecting for Health with suppliers to the National IT programme. [221439]

Mr. Bradshaw: Contracts under the national programme for information technology, held by NHS Connecting for Health on behalf of the Secretary of State, comprise local service provider (LSP) contracts with BT and CSC; contracts for the 'spine' and the new national broadband (N3) network, also with BT; for choose and book with Atos Origin; with Accenture for Picture Archiving and Communications systems; with Cable and Wireless for NHS Mail; and a contract with Fujitsu to cover transitional arrangements following termination of the company's original LSP contract. In addition, NHS Connecting for Health holds numerous enterprise wide agreements on behalf of the national health service and other contracts that relate to aspects of its work which are not a part of the national programme, and for its day-to-day operational needs, such as accommodation and staff.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have a national programme for IT patient administration system in place. [221554]

Mr. Bradshaw: As at 21 July 2008 NHS Connecting for Health had deployed patient administration systems in 138 NHS organisations, which are listed as follows. Information on which of the organisations concerned include a hospital site, and which may have more than one hospital site, is not held centrally.

Patient Administration System deployments as at 21 July 2008

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Trafford PCT
Blackburn with Darwen PCT
Salford PCT
Stockport PCT
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Blackpool PCT
Bolton PCT
Warrington PCT
Knowsley PCT
Oldham PCT
Bury PCT
Tameside and Glossop PCT
Cumbria PCT
North Lancashire PCT
Central Lancashire PCT
East Lancashire PCT
Sefton PCT
Wirral PCT
Liverpool PCT
Halton and St. Helens PCT
Western Cheshire PCT
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT
Manchester PCT
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Pennine Care NHS Trust
Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust

Lancashire Care NHS Trust
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust
Airedale NHS Trust
Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust
Barnsley PCT
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
Babington Hospital
Wilderslowe
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust
Herefordshire PCT
South Birmingham PCT
Shropshire County PCT
Walsall Teaching PCT
Coventry Teaching PCT
Telford and Wrekin PCT
Wolverhampton City PCT
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT
Dudley PCT
Sandwell PCT
Birmingham East and North PCT
North Staffordshire PCT
Stoke on Trent PCT
South Staffordshire PCT
Worcestershire PCT
Warwickshire PCT
Hereford Hospitals Trust
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital and NHS Trust
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
Archer Unit
Danesbury Hospital
Gossoms End Elderly Care Unit
Cambridgeshire PCT
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Part
RWN South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Trust
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
Epsom and Saint Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
Bromley PCT
Greenwich Teaching PCT
Barnet PCT
Hillingdon PCT
Enfield PCT
Barking and Dagenham PCT
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT
Ealing PCT
Hounslow PCT
Brent Teaching PCT
Harrow PCT
Westminster PCT
Lambeth PCT
Southwark PCT
Lewisham PCT
Wandsworth PCT
Richmond and Twickenham PCT
Sutton and Merton PCT
Waltham Forest PCT
Bexley Care Trust
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust
Barts and the London NHS Trust
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
West London Mental Health NHS Trust
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Surrey PCT
West Sussex PCT
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust
Milton Keynes PCT
Hampshire PCT
Buckinghamshire PCT
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
North Somerset PCT
Somerset PCT
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the Care Quality Commission to take account of staff satisfaction indicators in its evaluations of *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* other NHS organisations. [221058]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission will take over from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission, and the Mental Health Act Commission on 1 April 2009.

The 2008-09 Annual Health Check will include an assessment of national health service organisations against an indicator of NHS staff satisfaction.

The new Commission will consult on its assessment for 2009-10 in due course. However, this will need to reflect the national priorities including staff satisfaction.

In addition, from April 2010 the new Commission will move to a common system of registration for all providers of regulated health and adult social care. The Department recently consulted on what the essential requirements of safety and quality of care should be that providers have to meet in order to maintain their registration. The responses are currently being analysed and the Government's response will be published in due course.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* midwives and *(e)* hospital doctors were employed in the NHS in (i) Slough, (ii) Berkshire and (iii) England in (A) 1997, (B) 2002 and (C) 2007. [221195]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Dental and Eye Care Team contribution to part (b) dentists

The number of national health service (NHS) dentists, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E and Annex G of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006'. Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the House of Commons Library (deposited paper reference 07/1059) and is available on-line at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

The numbers of dentists on open NHS contracts, in England, as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007, are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07' report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006 and is not comparable to information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Information by constituency is not available under the new dental contractual arrangements.

This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the House of Commons Library (deposited paper reference 07/1985) and is available on-line at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

Both reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for counting and reporting the NHS dental workforce is currently under review. The review, led by analysts at the NHS Information Centre and the statistical directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, working in liaison with the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, aims to ensure that following the first year of the new dental contractual arrangements, the figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce.

The consultation stage of this review ended on 11 July 2008. The intention is to publish workforce data in the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2007-08' report, due to be published by the NHS Information Centre on 21 August 2008.

Until then the workforce data provided in the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07' report will remain the latest available.

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) by selected area in England in 1997, 2002 and 2007

Number (headcount)

		1997	*2002*	*2007*
England		28,046	29,202	33,364
Berkshire[1]		427	487	524
5QG	Berkshire East Teaching PCT	[1]—	208	222
5DM	Slough PCT	[1]—	64	[1]—
5G2	Bracknell Forest PCT	[1]—	53	[1]—
5G3	Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead PCT	[1]—	91	[1]—
5QF	Berkshire West PCT		279	302
5DK	Newbury and Community PCT	[1]—	59	[1]—
5DL	Reading PCT	[1]—	132	[1]—
5DN	Wokingham PCT	[1]—	88	[1]—

[1] Not available

Notes:

1. Berkshire consists of Berkshire East Teaching PCT and Berkshire West PCT in 2007 and the following PCTs in 2002: Slough PCT, Bracknell Forest PCT, Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead PCT, Newbury and Community PCT, Reading PCT and Wokingham PCT. Prior to this, in 1997, there was Berkshire HA and no lower level breakdown available.
2. GP Data is available by SHA and PCT only, there are no GPs recorded in Acute Trusts or Ambulance Trusts on the GP Census Collection. This, as well as part-mergers of trust boundaries in recent years, can make comparability difficult between GP Data, non-medical staff data and medical and dental workforce data over a time-series at local trust level.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS)[1, 2]: All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, and medical and dental staff[3, 4] within specified organisations. As at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

	1997	*2002*	*2007*
England	360,697	418,705	468,527
Medical and dental staff	60,230	72,168	91,790
Medical staff	56,663	68,514	87,850
Dental staff	3,567	3,654	3,940
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	300,467	346,537	376,737

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS)[1, 2]: All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, and medical and dental staff[3, 4] within specified organisations: As at 30 September each year

	Number (headcount)		
	1997	*2002*	*2007*
Of which:			
Midwives	22,385	23,249	25,093
Total of specified organisations	3,156	3,748	4,013
Medical and dental staff	563	633	857
Medical staff	534	591	814
Dental staff	29	42	43
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,593	3,115	3,156
Of which:			
Midwives	146	264	269
5QG Berkshire East Teaching PCT	565	521	526
Medical and dental staff	53	47	39
Medical Staff	41	20	18
Dental Staff	12	27	21
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	512	474	487
of which			
Midwives	0	0	0
RD7 Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	1,382	1,500	1,989
Medical and dental staff	228	274	380
Medical staff	222	270	372
Dental staff	6	4	8
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,154	1,226	1,609
Of which:			
Midwives	130	130	153
RTK Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	1,209	1,727	1,498
Medical and dental staff	282	312	438
Medical staff	271	301	424
Dental staff	11	11	14
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	927	1,415	1,060
Of which:			
Midwives	16	134	116

[1] In 2002 East Berkshire Community NHS Trust was split to form Bracknell Forest PCT and Windsor, Ascot and Maiden PCT. Figures for 1997 are for this predecessor organisation. In 2006 Bracknell Forest PCT, Windsor, Ascot and Maiden PCT and Slough PCT merged to form East Berkshire PCT. Figures for 2002 are for these predecessor organisations.

[2] In 1998 Ashford Hospital NHS Trust and St. Peters NHS Trust merged to form Ashford & St. Peters NHS Trust. Figures for 1997 are for these predecessor organisations.

[3] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[4] HCHS Medical and Dental staff includes the following grades: consultant, associate specialist, dental hospital practitioners, dental clinical assistants, staff grade, registrar group, senior house officer, foundation year 2, house officer, foundation year 1 and other staff.

Note:

Over the last five years there's been a reduction in the use of bank nursing staff.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical workforce census.

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental workforce census

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on contingency plans if private sector service suppliers to the NHS enter financial difficulties. [219331]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is introducing new standard contracts for national health service funded care to be used by Primary Care Trusts (PCT) for the services they commission from all types of provider, whether private or public. The contracts require private sector providers to have in place service continuity plans to ensure the continued availability of those services identified by PCTs as essential, in the event of any disruption of the provider's ability to provide them.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Guildford of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 763W, on NHS: private sector, what his definition of a complete package of care is; [221438]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Guildford of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 763W, on NHS: private sector, what definition of an episode of care is used for the purposes of collecting information in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [221632]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no formal definition of 'a complete package of care'.

Generally, the definition of an 'episode of care' is a judgment made locally by clinicians and the local national health service. In terms of collecting information for the Hospital Episode Statistics, the main unit of data collection is referred to as the 'finished consultant episode'. The finished consultant episode is defined as a period of admitted patient care under a consultant or allied health care professional within an NHS trust.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to establish the National Quality Board, as referred to on page 54 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; how many members the board will have; whether members of the board will be remunerated; and if he will make a statement. [221116]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Quality Board will provide strategic oversight and leadership on quality, and will advise on priorities for clinical standards. The board will play a key role in ensuring that our efforts to improve quality are successful. We will be considering the membership and governance of the board over the summer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce a new measure of patient satisfaction with urgent care services, referred to on page 27 of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care; whether this measure will be developed in consultation with *(a)* service users and *(b)* others; and if he will make a statement. [221134]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will introduce an indicator to measure patient reported access to out of hours care by 2009-10. Information will be collected through the new National General Practice Patient Survey.

The indicator will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

NHS: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to have replaced the Medical Professional Education and Training budget with a tariff-based system, as referred to on page 74 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; whether the change to a tariff-based system will entail a change to a ring-fenced workforce training budget; whether the new budget will be held *(a)* centrally and *(b)* locally; and if he will make a statement. [221052]

Ann Keen: Work is in progress to develop a robust and equitable allocation methodology for future administration and use of the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget, including developing a tariff based system where funding follows the trainee.

Decisions on future arrangements for the funding of national health service education and training activity will be made in the light of this work.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce the Leadership for Quality Certificate, as referred to on page 66 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; which organisation he expects will design the requirements of the Leadership for Quality Certificate; what the cost to the public purse of developing the Leadership for Quality Certificate will be; and how much it will cost for NHS staff to train for a *(a)* level 1, *(b)* level 2 and *(c)* level 3 of the Leadership for Quality Certificate. [221061]

Ann Keen: We are in the early stages of developing this work. Further information will be available in due course.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS bursaries were available in each of the last 11 years; for which courses NHS bursaries were provided; what the total cost was in each year; what the average bursary was; and what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median and *(c)* range of bursaries was (i) in financial terms and (ii) as a percentage of estimated tuition and living costs. [221386]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of students for whom a NHS bursary award was assessed, the number of NHS funded students, the amount of NHS bursary paid, the average amount of NHS bursary paid and the median bursary paid for income assessed bursaries and non income assessed bursaries in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

NHS funded students on pre registration health professional courses

Academic year	*Number of students for whom a NHS bursary award assessed*[1]	*Number of NHS funded students*[2]	*Amount of bursary paid*[3] *(£)*	*Average bursary paid (£)*	*Median bursary paid (£)*
Income assessed awards[4]					
1997-98[5]	7,957	7,888	14,532,040	1,842	1,989
1998-99[5]	11,265	10,600	20,258,727	1,911	1,961
1999-2000	14,300	13,587	28,789,017	2,119	2,100
2000-01	17,314	16,629	38,728,409	2,329	2,225
2001-02	21,439	20,398	51,211,917	2,511	2,408
2002-03	27,176	26,594	67,945,615	2,555	2,426
2003-04	31,044	30,293	79,974,536	2,640	2,555
2004-05	34,083	33,339	94,014,031	2,820	2,641
2005-06	37,197	36,272	113,840,537	3,139	2,845
2006-07	39,657	38,600	126,273,938	3,271	2,935
Non-income assessed awards[6]					
1997-98[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	16,267	15,926	65 678,860	4,124	4,741
2000-01	30,896	30,333	143,056,665	4,716	4,860
2001-02	45,478	44,715	240,556,255	5,380	5,448
2002-03	53,103	52,364	279,084,394	5,330	5,487
2003-04	54,999	54,175	293,778,507	5,423	5,617
2004-05	55,669	55,239	318,773,305	5,771	5,750
2005-06	56,001	55,322	334,132,328	6,040	5,892
2006-07	54,748	53,974	334,731,614	6,202	6,038

[1] The number of students for whom a NHS Bursary award assessed is shown rather than number of applications because:
Non income assessed award holders do not need to make an application for any other academic year other than the first academic year for their basic bursary entitlement, if the data showed the number of applications received, the number would be approximately one-third of the number of awards assessed which would inflate the figures when comparing with total amount of NHS bursary paid.
If an application is received and returned for more information, NHS Student Bursaries do not hold the data on the number received and returned.
If an application is received, and rejected on residency eligibility grounds, NHS Student Bursaries receive the application, but do not assess their entitlement as they are rejected before that assessment is made.
If an application is received, but NHS Student Bursaries need more information to determine if they are eligible on residency grounds, they have received that application, but do not assess their entitlement information until the student provides the additional information.
[2] Includes students in receipt of a Nil Bursary Award but whose tuition fee contributions are met by the NHS.
[3] Includes Basic Award and Allowances and all one-off payments
[4] Applicable to students on all health professional courses other than a diploma in higher education (DipHE) Nursing, Midwifery and Operating Department Practitioner.
[5] For these years Bursaries were administered by the Higher Education Institutions
[6] Applicable to students on DipHE Nursing, Midwifery and Operating Department Practitioner courses.
Notes:
1998-99—the first academic year the NHS Bursary Scheme was extended to cover courses leading to professional registration as a dietician, chiropodist, prosthetist and orthotist, speech and language therapist.
1998-99—the first academic year BSA Student Bursaries became responsible for the payment of Practice Placement Expenses.
1999-2000—the first year the NHS Student Bursaries unit became responsible for the administration of bursaries to new DipHE Nursing and Midwifery students. (Please see footnote 5 to the table explaining that HEI's were responsible for the processing of bursaries for earlier years).
2002-03—the first year the NHS Bursary Scheme was extended to cover courses leading to professional registration as a doctor, dentist, audiologist or operating department practitioner.
2005-06—the first academic year BSA Student Bursaries holds data on the amount of tuition fee contributions paid in respect of medical and dental students to Higher Education Institutions.
Source:
National Health Service Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

Information prior to 1998-99 is not available.

The range of basic bursary rates for new degree level students (based on courses of 30 weeks) and for new diploma level students, in 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

£

	Basic bursary rate 2006-07	
If students are studying:	*Degree (income assessed)*	*Diploma (non income assessed)*
In London and living in student accommodation or their own home	0-2,908	7,030
Elsewhere in the UK and living in student accommodation in their own home	0-2,367	5,983
Anywhere in the UK (including London) and living with their parents	0-1,936	5,983

Source:
Financial Help for New Healthcare Students 2006-07

The courses for which NHS bursaries are provided is shown in the following table.

Course type	*Bursary category*
Nursing—DipHE Level (all branches)	Non-income Assessed
Nursing—Accelerated and Post-Graduate Diploma	Non-income Assessed
Operating Department Practitioner	Non-income Assessed
Audiology	Income Assessed
Chiropody/Podiatry	Income Assessed
Dental Hygiene (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Dental Therapy (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Midwifery—BSc Level	Income Assessed
Nursing—BN/BA/BSc Level	Income Assessed
Occupational Therapy (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Orthoptics	Income Assessed
Physiotherapy (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Prosthetics and Orthotics	Income Assessed
Radiography and Radiotherapy (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Speech and Language Therapy (including postgraduate diploma level)	Income Assessed
Medicine—undergraduate (in fifth and subsequent years) and graduate entry (in years two to four)	Income Assessed
Dentistry—undergraduate (in fifth and subsequent years)	Income Assessed

Source:
National Health Service Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

The purpose of the NHS Bursary award is to support students with their day-to-day living costs. Those students who are eligible for NHS bursaries do not normally need to fund their own tuition fees as these are paid by the NHS through the Multi Professional Education and Training budget.

Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the baseline year is for the threefold increase in nurse and midwife preceptorships, as referred to on page 72 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432; how much was spent on nurse and midwife preceptorships in that year; in what year he expects to achieve a threefold increase in spending on preceptorships; whether he expects a threefold increase in spending on preceptorships to result in a threefold increase in the number of preceptorships; and if he will make a statement. [221056]

Mr. Bradshaw: £10 million has been allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2008-09 to support the development of work based learning and post registration support for nurses, midwives and some other professional staff. This includes preceptorship support for newly qualified staff.

This funding will be increased to £20 million in 2009-10 and to £30 million in 2010-11.

It is too early to identify actual spend on preceptorship support by the local national health service in the 2008-09 financial year, or the actual number of preceptorships offered.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS organisations on obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 to provide appropriate nutritional care. [212195]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In March 2007 the Department of Health published "Human Rights in Healthcare—A Framework for Local Action" which raised awareness of human rights in general including the Human Rights Act 1998 and also addressed how national health service trusts could use a human rights based approach to improve service design and delivery, including the right to food.

Individual nutritional care is addressed at a local level, with each NHS trust setting its own policies of nutritional care in hospitals and out reach care. I launched the Nutrition Action Plan in October 2007, setting out a range of resources, guidance and best practice on how to improve nutrition delivered in health and social care settings. A Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board has been established to steer implementation of the document, which is chaired by Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern.

Obesity

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of obesity. [220030]

Dawn Primarolo: In the six months since the £372 million Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England was published there has been substantial progress. The forthcoming progress newsletter Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: six months on, has been placed in the Library.

The newsletter highlights the steps forward for the next six months across all five themes of the Strategy: children, healthy growth and weight; promoting healthier food choices; building physical activity into our lives; creating incentives for better health; and personalised advice and support for all.

Palliative Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he has set for the assessment of the *(a)* implementation, *(b)* achievement against objectives and *(c)* effect on end of life care of his Department's end of life care strategy. [221426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of deaths which occur in the home is one of the national indicators which have been agreed with the Department for Communities and Local Government. Local areas are required to report progress against these indicators. Supporting care provision in the community, and enabling more people to die at home, is a central component of the End of Life Care Strategy.

The Government are committed to delivering increased investment in end of life care services.

National quality standards are also being developed against which primary care trusts and providers can assess themselves and be assessed by regulators.

The Department will also undertake piloting work to develop a national survey of bereaved relatives, which will provide important information on the quality of care provision.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementation of the end of life care strategy; and how it will be funded from the NHS and from *(a)* the voluntary and *(b)* the independent sectors. [221427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The impact assessment for the End of Life Care Strategy sets out the estimated costs associated with the implementation of the strategy.

The Government have made £286 million of funding available in the two years to 2011 to cover the costs of implementation. The majority of this funding will be made available to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, who are responsible for commissioning services and education and training from local providers, including the independent and voluntary sector. The additional resources also include a capital fund of £40 million, to be made available in 2010-11, for the voluntary hospice sector.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding mechanisms his Department has examined for the facilitation of the flow of funds from the commissioners to the providers of end of life care services. [221428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Several local health economies are currently investigating Payment by Results (PbR)-type funding approaches for specialist palliative care and community services, as PbR "development sites". However, we currently have no timetable for including end of life care in PbR.

The End of Life Care Strategy sets out the importance of strong commissioning of services by both primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities (LAs). This will be informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that all PCTs and LAs are required to produce from April 2008.

The strategy also reminds PCTs and LAs of the need to comply with the Compact on Relations between Government and the voluntary and community sector in England, which should provide a fair playing field for all service.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that health and social care staff receive training in end of life care to enable them to deliver the objectives of the end of life care strategy. [221431]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: To underpin and support training for health and social care staff, the Department has commissioned Skills for Health and Skills for Care to develop end of life care competence frameworks. e-Learning for Healthcare are also being commissioned to develop end of life care e-learning modules that will provide free access to registered users across both health and social care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of training health and social care staff in end of life care to enable them to deliver the objectives of the end of life care strategy. [221432]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Impact Assessment for the End of Life Care Strategy sets out the estimated costs, and the rationale behind them, associated with training the health and social care work force to support the delivery of the strategy.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 204W, on patient choice schemes, which hospitals were affected by the system error; which specialisms the affected bookings were for; and how many cases were adversely affected. [221275]

Mr. Bradshaw: The systems error is known to have affected 272 bookings, between 11 April 2008 and 24 April 2008, out of some 180,000 bookings made during that period. To our knowledge, no patients had their treatment delayed as a result.

A list of the service providers which were affected by the system error, along with names of the services to which patients had been referred, has been placed in the Library.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts commission the patient choice service; and if he will make a statement. [221729]

Mr. Bradshaw: Free Choice was introduced on 1 April. The introduction of Free Choice has removed the requirement for primary care trusts to carry out local commissioning of elective care hospital-based services. Patients can choose to be referred to any clinically appropriate provider that meets national health service eligibility criteria. This will include NHS foundation trusts, NHS acute trusts and a large number of independent sector providers and their hospitals.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS foundation trusts put their services on the national menu under the patient choice scheme; which primary care trusts commission this scheme; and how his Department plans to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme. [221730]

Mr. Bradshaw: All new foundation trusts and existing foundation trusts whose contracts expired by 31 March adopted the standard national health service contract for acute services. The standard contract requires all signatories set out relevant services in Choose and Book through a Directory of Service. Foundation trusts whose contracts extended beyond this date were able to choose to adopt the standard contract or to retain their existing contracts until the required period of notice to change had expired. These foundation trusts are not legally obliged to set out their services on Choose and Book and to accept patients under free choice though, under payment by results, this would mean a possible loss of potential income. At the current time, all foundation trusts have published a Directory of Service on Choose and Book.

The introduction of Free Choice has removed the requirement for primary care trusts to carry out local commissioning of elective care hospital-based services. The Department monitors free choice services available through the Choose and Book system and also monitors the offer of choice through the bimonthly National Patient choice survey.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the patient choice scheme to infertility services. [221731]

Dawn Primarolo: Since January 2006 most patients have had choice of where they are seen when they are first referred by their general practitioner for an out-patient appointment. This includes couples who are being referred to a specialist, either for tests to determine the cause of infertility or where the cause is known.

Patients: Safety

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents of each type in each strategic health authority area have been reported to the National Reporting and Learning System since it was established. [221026]

Ann Keen: The following tables show patient safety incidents of each type in each strategic health authority (SHA) area that have been reported to the National Reporting and Learning System since it was established in 2003.

Incidents reported to the NRLS (1 Nov 2003 - 30Jun 2008) by SHA, broken down by incident type

Incident Category	*N/A*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	—	12,023	29,916	24,272	16,506	11,408
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	—	4,995	19,250	12,532	8,731	5,648
Consent, communication, confidentiality	—	3,577	17,954	9,310	8,087	6,048
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	—	11,237	15,085	17,202	11,393	6,784
Documentation (including records, identification)	—	5,056	18,159	15,270	10,023	12,562
Infection Control Incident	—	2,364	5,289	2,943	3,566	3,080

Incidents reported to the NRLS (1 Nov 2003 - 30Jun 2008) by SHA, broken down by incident type

Incident Category	*NIA*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring / review	—	3,291	7,993	6,044	5,100	4,179
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	—	3,496	21,887	18,267	10,080	7,570
Medical device/equipment	—[1]	2,910	12,600	8,348	6,178	5,860
Medication	—	9,804	29,306	26,172	16,325	13,683
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	—	1,477	2,536	1,259	1,783	1,924
Patient accident	—	55,132	135,863	119,306	64,714	65,329
Self-harming behaviour	—	7,242	13,245	9,952	9,795	6,350
Treatment, procedure	—	9,930	33,162	23,783	14,191	15,954
Not stated	—	18	75	45	33	32
Other	—	5,594	10,376	7,329	4,360	5,739
Total	1	138,146	372,696	302,034	190,865	172,150

Incident Category	*East of England*	*London*	*South East Coast*	*South Central*	*South West*	*Total*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	17,746	30,465	11,682	13,190	15,631	182,839
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	9,200	27,631	5,435	5,405	13,087	111,914
Consent, communication, confidentiality	7,013	15,671	6,760	5,845	11,344	91,611
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	10,507	18,066	7,268	3,811	5,872	107,225
Documentation (including records, identification)	12,378	24,233	7,227	5,518	12,161	122,587
Infection Control Incident	3,169	6,070	1,857	2,458	3,533	34,329
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring / review	8,652	9,623	3,666	3,138	8,148	59,834
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	18,746	25,355	12,034	11,349	23,187	151,971
Medical device/equipment	6,554	16,755	4,971	4,948	8,481	77,606
Medication	23,240	37,161	12,574	13,884	20,883	203,032
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	2,244	2,259	493	983	845	15,803
Patient accident	92,257	105,427	59,534	57,727	97,146	852,435
Self-harming behaviour	6,366	11,844	3,589	3,378	4,551	76,312
Treatment, procedure	24,329	38,758	16,295	16,451	25,432	218,285
Not stated	42	123	37	22	57	484
Other	9,447	12,903	3,578	2,713	5,277	67,316
Total	251,890	382,344	157,000	150,822	255,635	2,373,583

[1] Incident could not be assigned to a SHA.

Incidents reported to the NRLS (1 November 2003 to 30 June 2008) by SHA

Reporting SHA	*Number of incidents reported*	*Percentage*
North West	372,696	16
London	382,344	16
Yorkshire and the Humber	302,034	13
East of England	251,890	11
South West	255,635	11
East Midlands	190,865	8
West Midlands	172,150	7
South East Coast	157,000	7
North East	138,146	6
South Central	150,822	6
Could not be assigned to a SHA	1	0

Incidents reported to the NRLS (1 November 2003 to 30 June 2008) by SHA

Reporting SHA	*Number of incidents reported*	*Percentage*
Total	2,373,583	100

Notes:
1. These incidents exclude duplicated incidents and incidents where the submitting organisation/individual did not consent to provide their details. Incidents where the data provided did not meet our minimum requirements were excluded from these results. Incidents from Welsh organisations, community pharmacies and NHS Direct were also not included.
2. As reporting to the NRLS is done on a voluntary basis, the figures provided should not be used as an indicator of national trends.
3. NRLS Reports Disclaimer Statement: NPSA Staff
The incidents summarised in this report have been drawn from the NPSA National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). The NRLS supports the goal of the NPSA to make patient care safer. The NRLS is a confidential reporting system. The incidents are reported through a variety of routes, by individual NHS staff, including through local trust risk management systems and web based e-forms (including an open access e-form). The individual reports are not investigated or verified by the NPSA. Since these incidents are self-reported they are not necessarily representative of the NHS across England and Wales and therefore need interpreting with care.
4. Permission must be obtained from the NPSA before the information contained within the report it is published or passed on to a third party outside the NPSA. For help with interpretation please contact the statistics team on statisticsteam@npsa.nhs.uk.

Pharmacy: Rural Areas

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that people in rural areas who use GP practices for prescription dispensation will remain able to do so. [219882]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are committed providing the right services at the right time in the right place to meet patients' needs.

The White Paper "Pharmacy in England; Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future" (copies have already been placed in the Library) looks at aligning the future provision of pharmaceutical services and sets out proposals to look at the market entry criteria for doctors and pharmacists, but no decision has yet been taken on the criteria to be used in future for patients to receive pharmaceutical services from their general practitioner.

A consultation paper will be launched next month that will look at the options for the future and will provide everyone with an opportunity to contribute, healthcare professional and patient alike. I refer my hon. Friend to the written statement I made on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS.

Following that consultation, we will consider fully the impact of any proposals on patients, the national health service and contractors.

Plastic Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his response to the report of the Expert Group on the Regulation of Cosmetic Surgery, what steps he has taken in response to each agreed recommendation. [221553]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Statistics

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information each primary care trust is required to provide to his Department each *(a)* month and *(b)* year. [218652]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to provide the following data to the Department as approved, ongoing PCTs collections:

Biennially

Earnings survey; and

National capabilities survey.

Annually

Attribution data set;

Adult and older adult mental health finance mapping;

Adult Screening Programme: breast cancer (primary care trust (PCT) return);

Adult Screening Programme: breast screening (Screening Unit return);

Adult Screening Programme: cervical screening;

Adults and older adult mental health service mapping;

Annual health and community health services non-medical workforce census;

Annual medical and dental workforce census;

Annual national health service vacancy collection;

Annual statement of fire safety;

Audited PCT accounts summarisation schedules;

Average cleared balances;

Beds;

Childhood Immunisation Programme;

Collection of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine uptake in the 65 and

over population;

Consultants clinical excellence awards (consultant verification exercise);

Diagnostic departments: radiology, nuclear medicine and medical physics;

Emergency continuity business preparedness;

Estate return information collection;

Family health services complaints;

Workforce statistics: annual return of practitioners and premises;

Health and community services complaints;

Informal patients and patients detained under the Mental Health Act;

National survey of patient experience;

NHS information governance assessment;

NHS intellectual property data;

NHS pharmaceutical services;

Partnership intentions between health services and local authorities;

PCT financial returns;

Prison health performance indicators;

Programme budgeting: NHS trust apportionment reports;

Public health workforce collection;

Reference costs collection;

Seasonal flu vaccine uptake;

Summary of contraceptive services; and

Workforce collection: workforce turnover, bank staff, sickness/absence, recruitment.

Biannually

End Waiting, Change Lives communication evaluation (opinion survey);

General ophthalmic services: sight tests, vouchers and repairs;

Junior doctor's hours;

NHS Campus Closure Programme;

NHS staff engagement and attitudes towards the NHS; and

Primary care audience tracking research.

Quarterly

Childhood immunisation data;

Integrated drug treatment system for prisons clinical activity;

Monitoring revisions to new GP contract;

National child measurement programme;

NHS stop smoking services;

Pharmaceutical, dental and ophthalmic services;

Prevalence of breastfeeding at six-eight weeks;

Primary care access survey;

Prison health care performance monitoring: star ratings;

Quarterly monitoring of accident and emergency; and

Quarterly activity return.

Monthly

18 weeks referral to treatment (RTT) times;

Financial monitoring and accounts;

Collection of influenza vaccine update data: immunisation of poultry workers;

Collection of practice level GP referral data;

Human papillomavirus vaccine immunisation programme: vaccine monitoring

minimum dataset;

Information on dental contracts;

Monitoring extended GP practice opening hours;

Monthly activity flow;

Monthly smoking cessation return;

Monthly waiting times return;

Monthly waiting times return;

National direct access to audiology services; and

National Programme for IT: monthly deployment report.

Weekly

18 weeks RTT primary target list;

Chlamydia core dataset for national programme monitoring; and

Sitreps data (weekly and daily).

Ad-hoc

Fire incidents and unwanted fire signal data;

Health authority refunds;

Non-medical device defects and failures reporting system; and

Safety alert broadcast system.

Commissioning dataset information provided by PCTs to the secondary uses service (SUS)

Admitted patient care;

Outpatients;

Future outpatients;

Accident and emergency (including minor injury units and walk in centres);

Elective admissions lists; and

Mental health minimum datasets.

Notes:

1. Ad-hoc collections are reported as and when incidents occur.

2. Not all information areas provided for SUS will apply to all PCTs.

3. For 2008-09 PCTs have submitted their financial plans, and will be required to submit information on their financial position and forecast at the end of each quarter, with the fourth quarter being the submission of unaudited accounts. This is part of the Department's in-year financial monitoring of all NHS organisations that also includes NHS trusts and strategic health authorities. At the end of each financial year, PCTs have a statutory requirement to submit their audited final accounts.

Psychiatry

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources the Government provided to support *(a)* cognitive behavioural and *(b)* other talking therapies in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [220707]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are investing funding, rising to £173 million by 2011, for the provision of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence evidence-based psychological therapies. This includes investment in cognitive behavioural therapy as well as other interventions.

Queen's Hospital Romford: Accident and Emergency Departments

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the performance of the Queen's Hospital, Romford was in processing accident and emergency admissions within four hours in each month since January 2007. [205371]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Information on the percentage of patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments who were seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival is collected at national health service trust level and published quarterly. This can be compared against the operational standard for A&E waits, which is set at 98 per cent. of patients seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours. The following table shows the available information for Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, which manages services at Queen's hospital, Romford.

I understand that the trust has recently achieved and is looking to sustain the required 98 per cent. standard.

Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge at Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, including activity at partner primary care trusts

	Quarter	*Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A&E*
2006-07	Q4	96.7
2007-08	Q1	95.6
2007-08	Q2	96.4
2007-08	Q3	90.8
2007-08	Q4	84.7

Notes:

1. The Department collects A&E data at trust rather than hospital level. The table shows the data for the relevant trust. The Queen's hospital, Romford is provided by Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust.

2. From Q1 2007-08, the data includes services provided by the independent sector.

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Radiography: Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which universities have offered NHS-funded radiography degree courses in each of the last five years; how many places each had; how many places were filled; what the ratio of places to applications was at each university; how many students at each institution failed to complete the course; what reduced rate student loan was available and how many students took it; how many students studied radiography to degree level without taking the NHS funded place; and what the terms and conditions of the NHS-funded place are. [221649]

Ann Keen: A list of universities that have offered NHS-funded radiography degree courses in each of the last five years and the number of students placed at each institution and numbers who failed to complete the course are shown in the table. Information on the number of places each university had available: the ratio of places to applications and the number of students who studied radiography to degree level without taking the NHS funded place is not held centrally.

The amount of reduced rate loan available in each of the last five years is shown in the table. Information on the number of students, who received it, is not available.

The eighth edition of the NHS Bursary Scheme outlines the terms and conditions of support arrangements for students in academic years starting on or after 1 September 2007 and before 1 September 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Radiography Student Numbers and Attrition Survey 2007

	Diagnostic radiography									
	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
	Students placed	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*
East of England SHA										
Anglia Ruskin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	5	8	5	5	0
University of Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	89	23	79	7	82	1
University of Suffolk	n/a	n/a	15	7	18	7	19	6	15	1
Suffolk College	n/a	n/a	54	9	52	20	51	9	52	3
East Midlands SHA										
Derby University	41	9	42	8	41	4	70	8	15	0
London SHA										
Kingston and St. Georges	52	15	52	14	59	10	61	0	59	4
Southbank University	48	20	56	24	56	2	57	7	55	9
City University	52	22	61	17	50	5	66	12	57	2
North East SHA										
Teeside University	31	5	39	7	39	7	40	7	39	0
North West SHA										
St. Martins College	56	9	60	13	67	9	67	16	65	6
Salford University	46	7	53	8	54	14	51	12	51	4
Liverpool University	32	8	39	5	42	12	46	7	44	7
South Central SHA										
University of Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	44	11	49	18	45	1	44	2
University of Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	37	0	58	9	59	9	55	1
South East Coast SHA										
University of Canterbury	47	6	54	15	39	12	53	22	61	4

Radiography Student Numbers and Attrition Survey 2007

Diagnostic radiography

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Students placed	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*
South West										
University of West of England	15	6	24	6	26	2	25	4	n/a	n/a
West Midlands										
University of Central England	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102	20	94	12	121	6
Yorkshire and Humberside										
Sheffield Hallam	37	13	35	8	40	6	34	3	33	4
Leeds University	42	6	52	4	52	7	81	15	46	3
Bradford University	33	7	36	6	39	10	40	2	46	4

Therapeutic radiography

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Students placed	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*	*Students placed*	*Students failing to complete*
East of England SHA										
University of Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	17	17	21	9	16	5	18	1
London SHA										
Kingston and St. Georges	14	4	20	9	16	6	24	4	19	5
Southbank University	8	5	13	2	12	6	13	3	17	4
City University	28	12	25	14	26	9	31	13	24	0
North West SHA										
Liverpool University	27	6	46	16	36	10	36	5	44	3
South Central SHA										
University of Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	16	7	14	8	13	3	13	1
University of Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	11	6	16	8	15	4	12	0
South West										
University of West of England	49	13	64	18	62	9	57	9	n/a	n/a
West Midlands										
University of Central England	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	9	25	5	23	3
Yorkshire and Humberside										
Sheffield Hallam	66	23	60	21	54	18	64	3	51	5

Notes: 1. 2002, 2003 and 2004 are completed cohorts and percentage attrition rates are final. 2. 2005 cohort has had two years of attrition with cohort completing in 2008. 3. 2006 cohort has had one year of attrition with cohort completing in 2009.

Reduced rate loans	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
Full-year rates					
Residence during period of study					
Away from parents' home, in London	2,420	2,540	2,540	3,030	3,100
Away from parents' home, elsewhere	1,960	2,055	2,055	2,160	2,210
At parents' home, anywhere in UK	1,500	1,575	1,575	1,620	1,660
Final-year rates					
Residence during period of study					
Away from parents' home, in London	1,765	1,855	1,855	2,320	2,375
Away from parents' home, elsewhere	1,430	1,500	1,500	1,680	1,720
At parents' home, anywhere in UK	1,100	1,155	1,155	1,230	1,260

Source: Student Loans Company.

Radiography: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the numbers of radiographers *(a)* working in and *(b)* required by the NHS. [221648]

Ann Keen: The latest published workforce census showed there were 15,066 qualified therapeutic and diagnostic radiographers working in the national health service in England, an increase of 3,295 (28 per cent.) since September 1997.

Local NHS organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the work force they need.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fractions were delivered by radiotherapy centres in each year since 1997-98; how many fractions of radiotherapy he estimates are required to be delivered by the NHS in order to meet the 31-day treatment standard, as referred to in paragraph 4.24 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what the expected increase in the number of fractions is against which progress towards the aim of meeting the 31-day treatment standard in radiotherapy services by December 2010 will be measured; and if he will make a statement. [220954]

Ann Keen: The number of fractions delivered by radiotherapy centre since 1998 has been placed in the Library.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group recommended that the national health service delivers 40,000 fractions per million of population by 2010, rising to 54,000 by 2016. It is estimated that if the NHS meets these recommendations for increasing capacity they will be able to meet the 31 day treatment standard.

The National Cancer Action Team is producing guidance to support the NHS to identify gaps in fractionation and future service requirements.

Number of radiotherapy fractions delivered using megavoltage radiotherapy equipment 1998-99—2006-07

NHS trust/radiotherapy centre	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHST	..	13,709	16,403	12,421	17,494	18,889	18,832	19,106	17,500
Barts and The London NHST	24,571	24,578	—	26,416	23,048	25,013	24,633	22,156	21,458
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHST	22,456	22,903	23,806	22,669	14,623	9,056	2,304	—	32,468
Cambridge University Hospitals NHSFT	18,473	30,203	33,147	33,766	41,252	46,117	44,459	49,496	49,588
Christie Hospital NHSFT	63,336	65,465	61,127	70,658	73,208	67,628	72,493	69,627	72,484
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHSFT	75,920	76,325	74,727	72,333	76,142	79,680	81,572	76,751	78,419
Derby Hospitals NHSFT	..	..	20,254	19,016	15,283	23,051	22,753	..	..
East and North Hertfordshire NHST	35,989	37,998	37,604	33,316	33,142	36,450	44,319	46,758	46,778
East Kent Hospitals NHST	..	..	..	17,388	..	16,491	17,498	18,243	15,175
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHST	9,092	9,087	15,233	21,501	20,378	19,761	20,133	22,084	21,423
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHSFT	18,980	18,797	32,634	36,341	35,278	34,141	34,724	40,325	39,349
Guy's and St Thomas' NHSFT	29,680	24,526	—	20,020	41,207	42,338	38,099	40,363	43,254
Hammersmith Hospitals NHST	28,707	37,872	—	—	35,192	32,105	29,371	32,258	—

Number of radiotherapy fractions delivered using megavoltage radiotherapy equipment 1998-99 – 2006-07

NHS trust/radiotherapy centre	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHST	—	—	—	19,897	—	—	24,477	27,140	27,227
Ipswich Hospital NHST	11,808	13,325	14,033	14,327	16,102	16,282	15,477	13,504	13,634
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHSFT	20,725	23,816	28,172	29,753	28,095	29,464	31,076	38,749	40,880
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHST, The	53,747	57,347	58,345	53,457	40,578	50,436	—	57,486	60,419
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHST	23,582	26,494	25,789	26,095	26,782	27,273	30,145	33,157	34,869
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHSFT, The	51,358	47,756	47,292	48,003	51,901	50,725	52,072	53,542	53,870
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHST	18,949	18,704	20,718	17,285	10,163	20,814	21,110	22,873	23,627
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHST	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,327	8,434	9,092
North Middlesex University Hospital NHST	25,083	24,595	18,301	19,000	21,973	22,940	20,726	19,877	17,671
Northampton General Hospital NHST	—	—	—	—	—	20,124	22,317	22,367	22,831
Nottingham University Hospitals NHST	30,549	32,072	33,729	31,724	36,207	35,422	38,600	38,590	39,482
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHST	30,136	31,644	31,341	29,105	—	30,058	33,609	35,860	36,424
Plymouth Hospitals NHST	22,061	25,027	23,626	22,160	—	17,022	18,022	19,132	17,177
Poole Hospital NHST	24,242	26,843	28,918	29,252	30,589	29,937	27,778	30,618	30,137
Portsmouth Hospitals NHST	11,436	8,281	—	—	—	—	21,206	25,268	26,226
Royal Berkshire NHSFT	15,409	15,332	16,976	15,379	—	—	—	—	20,149
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHST	8,778	8,547	8,727	7,279	14,523	19,100	19,144	17,264	18,456
Royal Devon and Exeter NHSFT	18,529	19,387	19,547	18,857	17,468	18,955	18,419	18,118	19,082
Royal Free Hampstead NHST	12,788	11,949	—	12,066	11,325	12,358	11,832	11,714	10,164
Royal Marsden NHSFT, The	31,515	30,898	31,259	31,834	38,837	54,184	64,636	66,282	68,294
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHST	32,951	34,242	40,684	35,572	39,020	7,520	38,371	38,549	42,550
Royal United Hospital Bath NHST	10,917	11,438	12,018	12,624	14,808	17,184	15,584	18,577	16,513
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHST, The	17,575	19,010	—	—	20,117	20,823	20,620	22,844	23,926
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHSFT	35,624	36,873	39,458	44,612	38,034	47,491	47,684	44,955	50,838
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHST, The	10,199	10,887	10,552	11,239	11,185	12,593	12,933	13,785	15,401
South Devon Healthcare NHSFT	8,249	9,289	8,917	8,652	9,112	11,626	15,773	10,055	10,033
South Tees Hospitals NHST	—	—	—	—	28,026	28,620	26,589	28,500	28,171
Southampton University Hospitals NHST	32,767	32,996	32,345	—	—	—	40,294	42,394	39,046
Southend University Hospital NHSFT	14,257	15,147	16,256	17,678	18,477	17,982	17,112	16,664	19,115
United Bristol Healthcare NHST	39,014	41,788	42,591	40,687	42,746	43,480	41,774	43,861	41,736
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHST	22,041	21,045	22,789	19,885	22,798	21,858	24,244	26,348	26,742
University College London NHSFT	—	—	—	24,779	20,906	20,189	19,610	21,296	23,316
University Hospital Birmingham NHSFT	39,377	36,432	—	—	—	—	47,089	51,023	49,101
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHST	8,261	8,243	8,781	9,325	20,459	22,698	19,942	24,628	23,567
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHST	26,428	28,066	29,066	28,105	—	28,633	32,898	32,257	34,104
University Hospitals of Leicester NHST	19,817	22,162	24,624	25,950	27,146	27,875	28,276	31,012	28,690

Note:
Data taken from the radiotherapy equipment survey 2002, 2005, 2007 produced by National Cancer Analysis Team.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a long-term workforce strategy for radiotherapy services, as referred to in paragraph 4.31 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he expects the strategy to be published. [220955]

Ann Keen: As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, it is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to work with cancer networks, NHS trusts and postgraduate deaneries to develop a local long term radiotherapy work force strategy including an urgent review of work force supply, demand and skills mix to identify the investment needed in both staff numbers and types of training commissions. To help SHAs the national Cancer Action Team will shortly be providing guidance on developing a local response to the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support he is giving to strategic health authorities to enable them to *(a)* commission radiotherapy services and *(b)* build radiotherapy capacity. [220992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In line with the recommendations of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group's (NRAG) Report entitled 'Radiotherapy: Developing a World Class Service for England', the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) has recommended that local primary care trusts with their cancer networks may want to review their local radiotherapy service to ensure that recommended levels of fractionisation and linear accelerator productivity are achieved and that they have sufficient capacity to meet the extended 31-day waiting standard for all radiotherapy in 2010.

The NRAG Implementation Group has been set up to provide support to local clinical teams and commissioners as they review and develop their radiotherapy services. In addition, the National Cancer Action Team is also producing guidance by the end of the summer 2008 to support commissioners.

Rodents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned on the effect on public health of rodent infestations in residential areas. [220641]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

Scanners

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new CT scanners have been brought into operation by NHS trusts in the last 12 months; [220574]

(2) how many new magnetic resonance imaging scanners have been brought into operation by NHS trusts in England in the last 12 months. [220575]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collect this data. However information supplied by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) relating to the English NHS as at 1 July 2008 indicated that in 2007, 28 new and replacement computerised tomography (CT) scanners and computerised tomography simulators (CT-Sims) were installed. In 2008 two CT scanners and CT-Sims have been installed to date. The HPA does not collect data on operational use.

Information supplied by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) relating to the English NHS as at 1 July 2008 indicated that in 2007 one new replacement magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner was installed. In 2008 there have been no installed MRI scanners to date. The HPA does not collect data on operational use.

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for moving to an activity-based system for funding screening services. [220944]

Ann Keen: In order to develop a tariff for funding cancer screening services, discussions are taking place between National Health Service Cancer Screening Programmes, the National Cancer Action Team and departmental officials. Further details will be available in due course.

Skin Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in current prices to support campaigns to raise awareness of skin cancer in each year since 1997-98; what funding his Department plans to provide in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [220931]

Ann Keen: In 1997, the Health Education Authority (HEA) ran the Sun Know How campaign on behalf of the Department. Information on funding to the HEA for the specific campaign is not readily available at short notice. SunSmart is the national skin cancer prevention campaign, run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments. The Department of Health in England contributed funding of around £100,000 towards the launch of the SunSmart campaign in March 2003. The campaign has received further funding in the last four financial years.

The second column in the following table presents the amount of money provided for the SunSmart campaign in that year. The third column expresses that figure in constant 2004-05 prices, i.e. in real terms[1].

[1] Notes on the real-terms calculation:

Beyond 2004-05, the real terms value is less than the cash terms value. This is because inflation has eroded part of the cash value; prices have increased, so a given cash amount buys less than it did in 2004-05.

2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 funding amounts have been more than the 2004-05 funding amount in both cash terms and real terms.

The GDP Deflator, available at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/gdp_deflators/data_gdp_fig.cfm,

has been used to calculate the real terms values.

£

	Funding amount	
	In cash terms	*In 2004-05 prices*
2004-05	72,000	72,000
2005-06	145,000	141,944
2006-07	150,000	142,953
2007-08	104,000	96,309

The amounts are given in cash and in real terms in current prices.

The funding for 2008-09 is £110,000, which is being paid on a quarterly basis. We keep funding for skin cancer awareness campaigns under review in the light of their merits and the overarching funding position of the Department.

Social Services: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to encourage closer working between social services and primary care providers in Cumbria. [219887]

Ann Keen: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care, published on 3 July 2008 and already placed in the Library, sets out plans to promote services that are more joined-up and responsive to patient needs.

An integrated approach to health and wellbeing will require a step change in the relationship between local national health service organisations, local government, other relevant statutory services, employers, third sector and independent sector providers. The Department will provide support to those organisations that wish to go further in integrating health and social care services and will establish a Minister-chaired group to work with stakeholders and identify how government can best provide this support, including reviewing policy, financial and cultural barriers to integration.

The North West Strategic Health Authority reports that the Cumbria Primary Care Trust already engages with a wide range of partners to improve services and achieve better health outcomes for its local population, including its key partner the Cumbria county council.

Social Services: Training

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1236W, on social services: training, if he will place in the Library a copy of the expression of interest in becoming a national skills academy for social care submitted to the Learning and Skills Council. [221310]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A copy of the expression of interest in becoming a National Skills Academy for Social Care has been placed in the Library. The expression of interest has been prepared by social care employers, facilitated and supported by the Department.

Social Services: Vetting

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of individuals working in the care sector who have not been subject to a full Criminal Records Bureau check in each of the last 10 years. [221666]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such estimate has been made.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) started work in March 2002. CRB checks are generally discretionary, but in some instances are mandatory. CRB checks for staff working in regulated social care were phased in, starting in April 2002, and have been required for all staff since 31 October 2004. Since 26 July 2004, all staff working in regulated social care are required to be checked against the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list. Anyone who is on the list is automatically barred from working in regulated adult social care.

People can start work in regulated social care before receiving their CRB check where this is necessary to ensure that the care provider has sufficient staff to meet the needs of service users. However, these staff must have applied for a CRB check, they must not be on the POVA list and they must have successfully fulfilled all the other pre-employment requirements. All new staff must undergo training and be adequately supervised.

In February 2005, Ministers decided that CRB checks should be mandatory throughout the NHS for all eligible new staff with access to patients in the normal course of duties. Full guidance on pre-appointment checks for national health service staff was issued by NHS Employers in May 2005. The NHS Employers guidance is mandatory by virtue of the Standards for Better Health which includes a standard for staff recruitment checks.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission are responsible for monitoring compliance. They will take appropriate enforcement action if they find a person who has not been appropriately checked.

Surgery

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out in NHS hospitals in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. [220565]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of operations carried out in national health service hospitals is recorded as part of hospital episode statistics (HES) data, these data are collection annually.

	Number of operations carried out in NHS hospitals
2004-05	6,848,793
2005-06	7,216,643
2006-07	7,889,682

Source: HES

Figures supplied by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Take-away Food: Safety

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Food Standards Agency has to improve standards of hygiene in fast food outlets. [220883]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has a range of initiatives aimed at improving hygiene standards in retail and catering outlets. This includes the 'Safer Food, Better Business' programme to promote uptake of food safety management systems. Part of this programme has been a special grant scheme which, to date, has distributed over £9 million to over three-quarters of local authorities in England to provide direct support to over 50,000 small businesses.

The FSA is also currently consulting on proposals for a United Kingdom-wide 'scores on the doors' scheme to provide information to consumers about hygiene standards of individual food businesses so that they make informed choices about where they purchase food.

Details of these and other FSA initiatives are available on the FSA's website at

www.food.gov.uk.

Tomography: Waiting Lists

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many CT scans were carried out by NHS trusts in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* the last 12 months. [220570]

Dawn Primarolo: Numbers of computerised tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans undertaken by NHS trusts in England are set out in the following table.

Figures for 2007-08 are due to be published in September 2008.

		Number
	CT	*MRI*
2004-05	2,141,652	944,935
2005-06	2,481,571	1,118,487
2006-07	2,728,119	1,257,972

Source: Department of Health Central Return KH12.

Transplant Surgery

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the introduction of techniques for organ preservation which increase the time that can elapse between organ retrieval and transplant. [220402]

Ann Keen: Following representation about the organ care system, a new technology for preserving donor hearts for transplantation, the company TransMedics have been made aware that they could apply for funding to the Health Technology Assessment Clinical Trials programme to conduct an evaluation of the technology. Any application would be considered on its merits in competition with other applications.

Trauma: Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of pre-hospital care for people who *(a)* are severely injured and *(b)* have suffered trauma; [221316]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the level of provision of pre-hospital care for trauma patients, with particular reference to those patients aged under 16 years; [221317]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of secondary transfer for patients who have suffered severe trauma during the last five years; [221318]

(4) what assessment he has made of the number of patients requiring trauma care who were aged under 16 years in the each of the last five years. [221319]

(5) what assessment he has made of the number of trauma patients in accident and emergency departments not seen by a consultant in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [221322]

(6) what his estimate is of the number of hospitals in England that do not have a formal trauma team but which admit severely injured patients. [221324]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such assessment has been made centrally. These are matters for the national health service to determine. Over the last year, as part of the Next Stage Review, each strategic health authority has set out its vision for improving health and healthcare based on the recommendations of clinically-led pathway groups including acute care. These visions identify the need for high quality trauma services and a common theme was the need for specialised centres for major trauma.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures he has put in place to improve the treatment and survival rates of patients who have suffered head trauma; [221320]

(2) what steps have been taken by his Department to ensure the provision of adequate trauma teams in NHS health care settings where severely injured patients may be received. [221323]

Mr. Bradshaw: These are matters for the national health service to determine. Over the last year, as part of the Next Stage Review, each strategic health authority has set out its vision for improving health and health care based on the recommendations of clinically-led pathway groups including acute care. These visions identify the need for high quality trauma services and a common theme was the need for specialised centres for major trauma. It is now for primary care trusts to commission appropriate services, in consultation with their local populations, on the basis of the recommendations of the pathway groups.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what evaluation he has made of the 2007 report of the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death, Trauma: Who cares; [221325]

(2) what progress has been made by his Department in taking forward the recommendations of the 2007 report of the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death. [221326]

Mr. Bradshaw: We welcomed the report of the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death, "Trauma: who cares", on its publication in 2007. The clinical pathway groups who developed proposals for the best models of acute care as part of the "Next Stage Review: High quality care for all" (2008) will have considered the Enquiry's recommendations in their deliberations.

Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the NHS implements the recommendations for screening and vaccination programmes *(a)* the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and *(b)* the National Screening Committee, as referred to on page 34 of his Department's document High Quality Care for All, Cm. 7432; for what reasons he does not plan to include people's access to screening and immunisation

services as a legal right in the NHS Constitution; for what reasons he does not plan the NHS to establish screening programmes as recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [219368]

Dawn Primarolo: The draft NHS Constitution contains a pledge that the national health service will strive always to implement screening and vaccination programmes as recommended by the appropriate national advisory bodies, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the UK National Screening Committee (NSC). The draft NHS Constitution and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The details, including how to feed in views, may be found at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations.

The Department will continue to use a variety of tools to ensure that the NHS implements recommendations from the JCVI and the UK NSC.

When the Department introduces a new immunisation programme following a JCVI recommendation it is normally announced to the NHS through a letter from the Chief Medical Officer. Where appropriate, the Department provides guidance and additional funding to the NHS to implement the programme. In some cases, the requirement to offer a vaccine is imposed by or under legislation. 'Vital Signs', a key component of the NHS Operational Framework, prioritises immunisation. Strategic health authorities performance manage primary care trusts against their local plans. Vaccine uptake is monitored across the country to assist in this process.

When the Department introduces a new screening programme, following a UK NSC recommendation, the steps taken to ensure the NHS implements the recommendations vary depending on the individual screening programme. In the past, the Department has supported implementation by establishing UK NSC led national programme teams. The UK NSC will provide advice on implementation.

Clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are developmental standards for the NHS and the Government expect them to be fully implemented over time.

Xansa

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments have been made by his Department to Xansa plc in each of the last five years. [215128]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following payments were made to Steria (formerly Xansa plc) in each of the last five years:

	£
2003-04	49,928.68
2004-05	81,057.39
2005-06	3,124,448.11
2006-07	620,878.54
2007-08	1,285,768.92

Young People: Social Services

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the peer review of the work undertaken by TRIBAL/Secta to develop the Young Adults' Personal Social Services formula. [220682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* No. The release of this information would breach the duty of confidence the Department has to the peer reviewer and to the authors of the relative needs formulae study for younger adults.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 1 September and Tuesday 9 September 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221706]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly undertake IT projects.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220734]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office participates in a contract, let by the Scottish Executive, which allows for the purchase of photocopy paper from recycled sources. All areas with purchasing authority have been advised to procure recycled paper for the purpose of photocopying.

The Office obtains printed publications from a variety of sources. Figures are not held centrally of the percentage of recycled paper used in printed publications. However, the Office routinely requires that printers source paper that has a minimum of 75 per cent. recycled content.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221187]

David Cairns: Direct payments to press officers in the last three financial years were.

	£
2005-06	2,738
2006-07	647
2007-08	1,006

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220425]

David Cairns: In 2007-08, the Scotland Office paid 99.53 per cent. of its invoices within 30 days.

The Office has few directly negotiated contracts and endeavours to utilise existing contracts of other government departments whenever possible; the prices negotiated under these contracts take into account the obligation to make prompt payment.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221598]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not charge fees for the use of its premises for events held by external organisations. All events are held with the permission of the Secretary of State for Scotland. The external organisations meet all the catering and entertainment costs.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and what the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221344]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has undertaken two targeted and time-limited public consultations; one entitled "Scottish Parliament Elections May 2007: Ballot Paper Design", the other, "Sorting the Ballot". The Office also participated in a joint consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the Wales Office on "Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK Elections". The Office has undertaken no listening exercises or public forums in the last two years.

Hypothermia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his most recent estimate is of the number of deaths from hypothermia and related conditions which will occur in Scotland between October 2008 and April 2009. [223365]

David Cairns: The registration of deaths in Scotland is a matter for the General Register Office for Scotland, part of the devolved administration.

WALES

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221747]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219259]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department's records are held by financial year. Typically, since 2006-07, Wales Office will hold a St. David's day reception in London and summer and winter receptions in both London and Cardiff, for parliamentarians, Assembly Members and others prominent in Welsh affairs. No Cardiff receptions were held in 2003-04 and there was no summer reception in Cardiff in 2005. In each of the last five years, my Department has spent as follows:

	£
2003-04	4,565
2004-05	6,238
2005-06	8,528
2006-07	16,467
2007-08	12,052

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221168]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales Office press officers are appointed to work in both London and Cardiff offices, and elsewhere with Ministers, as required. They will be reimbursed for travelling and subsistence expenses incurred in their duties. The sums paid in each of the last three years were as follows:

	£
2005-06	1,468
2006-07	1,931.44
2007-08	3,481.51

Additionally, depending where they are based on appointment, their terms and conditions may include civil service detached duty allowances to reflect costs incurred in living away from home.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220421]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not ask suppliers for discount, but aims to pay all invoices on time.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221597]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last five years, the Wales Office has provided some very limited use of its premises to a number of organisations to host receptions. Records of this are not held centrally but include charitable and governmental bodies, such as the former Welsh Development Agency.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case; [221343]

(2) what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221361]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221624]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Kurt Howard

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a response to the jury's narrative verdict in the inquest of Mr. Kurt Howard. [220907]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Justice issues in Wales are not devolved and are matters for the Secretary of State for Justice. In the case of Mr. Kurt Howard's tragic death, reflecting on the narrative verdict, I am advised that since 2002 there have been significant developments in clinical guidance, training and audit in respect of the management of violence and aggression across the NHS in Wales. This includes developing strategies that focus on preventing situations that result in patients being subjected to physical interventions.

I understand that following the narrative verdict the ABM University NHS Trust will now be reviewing its original 2002 Action Plan to see if any additional work can be done to improve the service still further.

Olympic Games 2012

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the last 12 months on securing benefits to Wales from the 2012 Olympic Games. [220552]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State and I have had several discussions over the course of the last year with ministerial colleagues to highlight the world class facilities that Wales has to offer the 2012 Olympics.

Wales has already developed an international reputation as a nation capable of hosting, and winning, successful major sporting events. The Australian Paralympic Committee's has expressed its intention of coming to Wales and Wales has secured Olympic football.

The Olympic Delivery Authority and London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games expect to directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts. The Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have actively encouraged small and medium-sized enterprises to register and compete for these contracts through the CompeteFor programme.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Commons Members' Estimate Committee

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Leader of the House if she will place in the Library a copy of the full text setting out the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the House of Commons Members' Estimate. [223289]

Helen Goodman: The House of Commons: Members Resource Accounts 2007-08 (HC 975) contain a short statement of the Accounting Officer's responsibilities. This makes clear that the Accounting Officer is responsible for the House of Commons financial reporting arrangements and for safeguarding the assets, while Members are responsible for regularity and propriety of the claims submitted.

More detail on the duties of public sector Accounting Officers is set out in chapter 3 of HM Treasury's guidance document "Managing Public Money", which is available in the Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Admiralty House, whether the provision of the official ministerial residences in Admiralty House to Lord Malloch-Brown includes the supply of *(a)* linen and laundry services, *(b)* porters, *(c)* internal plants, *(d)* catering services, *(e)* telephones, *(f)* cable or satellite television and *(g)* internet access at (i) public expense or (ii) the resident's expense. [219041]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

No internal plants or linen and laundry service are provided to the flat. The charge paid by occupying Departments to the Cabinet Office includes the provision of in-hours porter services. Catering services can be provided by the Cabinet Office's facilities management provider on a re-charge basis. Neither the Cabinet Office nor the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is providing telephone lines, internet access or cable or satellite television.

PRIME MINISTER

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 981-2W, on employment, what change there has been in the number of *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* foreign nationals in employment in the UK since 1997. [223150]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 981-2W.

Written Statements

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he took to ensure that his release of written ministerial statements on 22 July 2008 did not constitute a breach of section 9.3 of the Ministerial Code; and if he will make a statement on the application of the code to written ministerial statements issued on that date. [223258]

The Prime Minister: The information was published when it was ready.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK nationals have been taken into custody following military operations as part of Op Herrick in Afghanistan. [223226]

Des Browne: As I stated in the answer I gave on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 66W to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie), the Ministry of Defence is undertaking a review of its detention records. I will write to the hon. Member when the review has completed.

Air Force: Training

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-commissioned officers in the RAF have achieved the National Examining Board for Supervision and Management Award at diploma level since 1998 [217589]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Mr. Lidington:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 15 July 2008, (Official Report, column 299W) about the number of non-commissioned officers in the RAF who have achieved the National Examining Board for Supervision and Management Award at diploma level since 1988.

Since 2003, 5,273 RAF Non-Commissioned Officers have attained professional qualifications, equivalent to a diploma, in Leadership and Management, accredited to the National Examining Board prior to 2005 and the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) thereafter. Information prior to 2003 is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Notes:

RAF Halton offers ILM qualification, levels 2-5, broadly equivalent to BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma and Higher National Diplomas respectively.

RAF Halton transferred its accreditation scheme from the National Examining Board to the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) in November 2005.

The accreditation to ILM is broken down into 3 levels of qualification:

a. AMLC Level 5 Award in Management

b. IMLC Level 3 Award in First Line Management

c. JMLC Level 2 Certificate in Team Leading

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces recruited in the last five years from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland are on front-line duty in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [223200]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on recruitment to the armed forces by specific region is not held centrally. We could provide the figures for the number of personnel on front-line duty in Iraq or Afghanistan broken down by their UK Unitary Authority only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have been recruited into the armed forces from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [223203]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the UK residential location of personnel recruited to the armed forces is not held centrally. We could provide the figures for the number of personnel recruited from any specific Unitary Authority only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of members of the armed forces recruited in the last five years from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland did not complete basic training. [223204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the UK residential location of personnel recruited to the armed forces is not held centrally. We could provide the figures for the number of personnel who were recruited from any specific unitary authority who did not complete basic training only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated total cost of the defence training review programme is. [223225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total cost for DTR Package 1 is currently estimated at around £12 billion, although this figure will continue to be subject to negotiations with Metrix and the ongoing review of assumptions related to the Project.

Package 2 of DTR has just commenced an Assessment Phase. During the course of this two year period, a variety of options will be investigated. This will then lead to the determination of the full cost of Package 2.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how frequently military uniforms are worn in his Department's main buildings; what guidance his Department issues on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [207281]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All service personnel are encouraged to wear uniform on duty and uniform is regularly worn in the Department's main building in line with this.

We do not instruct individuals to travel to and from work in uniform. That is a matter for personal choice and considered local threat assessment.

Armed Forces: Working Conditions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government has taken to improve the base conditions for personnel serving overseas. [216540]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 9 July 2008]:* We are continually looking at ways in which we can improve conditions for UK service personnel deployed overseas.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1130-31W, which gives details of some of the welfare measures currently provided on operations. In the permanent joint operating bases (Cyprus, Gibraltar, British Falkland Islands and British Indian Ocean Territory) we seek, where practicable, for our personnel to have access to the same welfare provision as those who serve within the UK. Recent improvements include an increase in the Get You Home (Overseas) and Concessionary Travel allowances.

In terms of improvements to the bases themselves, we have undertaken substantial work over the last year to strengthen our defences and infrastructure. In Iraq, this ranges from building new facilities for our soldiers embedded with the Iraqi Army in Basra City to constructing individual overhead protection into each person's sleeping bay at Basra Air Station. In Afghanistan, this ranges from building new accommodation at Kandahar to improving conditions across our forward operating bases in Helmand Province.

Substantial investment has been made to improve the condition of both the single living and service family accommodation in Cyprus and Gibraltar, together with the construction of 12 new houses at Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands. Investment is also programmed for the ageing utilities infrastructure in both Cyprus and the Falkland Islands.

Army: Foreigners

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the recruitment of citizens of overseas countries to the Army; and whether that policy includes a maximum proportion of the Army consisting of recruits from overseas countries. [223290]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army welcomes recruits from Foreign and Commonwealth countries. Foreign in this case means British Overseas, British Overseas Territory

and Republic of Ireland citizens. The Army values the contribution such recruits make to the diversity and effectiveness of the service. The policy does not currently include a maximum proportion of recruits from these countries. We are, however, examining the implications of the rising levels of Foreign and Commonwealth citizens within the armed forces overall, not just the Army.

Army: West Indies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from the West Indies were recruited to the army in *(a)* each of the first eight months of 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2005. [223299]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows how many people were recruited from Commonwealth countries within the Caribbean sea over the specified period.

	Bahamas	*Barbados*	*Dominica*	*Grenada*	*Jamaica*	*St. Lucia*	*St. Vincent*	*Trinidad*	*Total*
Total 2005	0	3	0	3	52	5	8	4	75
Total 2006	1	2	8	11	37	20	8	12	99
Total 2007	1	1	7	11	28	20	6	9	83
January	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
February	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	4
March	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	5
April	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
May	—	—	1	2	6	5	—	—	14
June	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
July	—	—	—	1	2	3	14	—	20
August	—	—	—	6	3	—	27	1	37
Total 2008	1	0	3	13	15	10	43	2	87

BAE Systems

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much BAE received from his Department in each year since 1998. [218401]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD payments made to BAE Systems plc as a holding company, for the latest five years where complete data are available, are detailed in the following table. All MOD contract payments data refer to extant contracts in the financial year in question. All expenditure is VAT exclusive and expressed at current prices, rounded to the nearest £10 million.

MOD payments to BAE Systems plc (at holding company level)

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	2,360
2004-05	2,450
2005-06	2,440
2006-07	2,730
2007-08[1]	3,320

[1] Please note figures for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change. Final analysis will appear in "UK Defence Statistics 2008" due for publication on 24 September 2008.

The analysis is based on payments made by the MOD Financial Management Shared Service Centre and its predecessor which processes some 95 per cent. by value of all MOD payments to industry. It excludes, for example, payments made by the MOD Trading Funds and low-value local purchase transactions, for which records are not held centrally.

Data on a comparable basis relating to the years before 2003-04 are not available because we did not then collate spend with all divisions of the BAE Systems corporate structure and we could not retrospectively do so other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214724]

Derek Twigg: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mass Media

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much media *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy for Ministers and officials in his Department cost in each year since 1997. [216258]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221245]

Derek Twigg: The amount of overtime worked by civil service staff in the period August 2007 to July 2008 is as follows:

	2007					2008						
000 hours	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Band B1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	13.4
Band B2	3.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.1	1.9	2.8	2.8	3.6	2.8	3.3	3.0	33.3
Band C1	10.5	8.7	8.2	8.4	9.3	6.8	8.0	9.0	11.1	9.7	10.9	10.0	110.5
Band C2	14.6	12.1	12.0	13.3	13.5	10.9	14.4	13.8	16.3	16.6	16.6	14.6	168.5
Band D	23.9	19.5	22.1	20.2	21.2	17.4	21.5	22.1	26.5	21.7	29.5	24.8	270.4
Band E1	17.8	17.7	17.7	17.2	16.8	18.9	16.4	16.2	22.9	16.7	21.9	18.7	218.8
Band E2	19.9	24.9	20.1	17.2	16.7	44.7	18.8	16.4	36.3	21.0	32.3	23.4	291.6
Skill zone 1	11.1	11.5	10.9	10.3	12.0	11.9	10.2	9.8	16.3	11.9	15.2	14.7	145.8
Skill zone 2	43.9	36.6	42.4	41.3	41.9	29.9	38.6	36.5	43.5	36.2	43.7	40.8	475.3
Skill zone 3	38.1	33.2	35.9	35.8	39.9	33.7	35.6	36.1	41.5	33.9	45.1	38.8	447.6
Skill zone 4	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.1	26.2
Other grades	68.9	69.1	70.9	64.0	69.8	54.6	57.5	56.2	74.1	68.3	66.1	83.4	802.9

These figures exclude trading fund agencies.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221296]

Derek Twigg: The cost of overtime worked by civil service staff in the period August 2007 to July 2008 is as follows:

	2007				
£00.000	August	September	October	November	December
Band B1	0.47	0.34	0.34	0.38	0.43
Band B2	1.01	0.80	0.70	0.79	1.06
Band C1	2.70	2.31	2.19	2.24	2.51
Band C2	3.24	2.73	2.73	3.03	3.10
Band D	4.53	3.80	4.21	3.93	4.15
Band E1	2.86	2.95	2.92	2.79	2.80
Band E2	3.53	4.28	3.62	3.18	3.26
Skill zone 1	1.39	1.47	1.39	1.31	1.52
Skill zone 2	6.16	5.22	6.17	6.02	6.10
Skill zone 3	5.74	5.07	5.58	5.58	6.25
Skill zone 4	0.46	0.44	0.45	0.38	0.42
Other grades	16.99	17.62	16.99	15.01	16.56

	2008							
£00.000	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Band B1	0.39	0.48	0.40	0.53	0.53	0.56	0.65	5.50
Band B2	0.66	0.95	0.96	1.23	0.97	1.10	1.03	11.24
Band C1	1.84	2.18	2.41	3.08	2.65	2.97	2.72	29.81
Band C2	2.52	3.30	3.21	3.79	3.79	3.87	3.31	38.62
Band D	3.47	4.26	4.32	5.21	4.17	5.68	4.64	52.37
Band E1	3.19	2.71	2.67	3.78	2.77	3.61	3.01	36.07
Band E2	7.01	3.45	3.02	6.03	3.71	5.26	4.01	50.35
Skill zone 1	1.53	1.29	1.24	2.09	1.52	1.96	1.84	18.55
Skill zone 2	4.40	5.59	5.28	6.29	5.21	6.29	5.79	68.52
Skill zone 3	5.37	5.61	5.69	6.49	5.26	7.23	5.98	69.87
Skill zone 4	0.44	0.40	0.40	0.46	0.37	0.50	0.43	5.16
Other grades	16.42	14.25	13.32	20.21	17.60	18.31	19.97	203.26

These figures exclude trading fund agencies. (Figures include certain weekend premium payments relating to shift patterns as well as overtime, as these cannot readily be distinguished.)

Departmental Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what bonuses were paid to senior civil servants in his Department in 2007-08; [218510]

(2) what proportion of bonus payments to senior civil servants in 2007-08 was paid to officials in his Department; and if he will make a statement; [218511]

(3) how many senior civil servants in his Department are eligible for bonus payments in 2007-08; and how much is Department paid in bonus payments in that year. [218512]

Derek Twigg: We are not yet in a position to provide the information requested as this year's Senior Civil Service Pay Committee process for 2007-08 is not yet complete. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Andrew Murrison:

I undertook to write to you in my answer to your question of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 168W about bonuses paid to Senior Civil Servants.

It might be helpful if I begin by explaining the basis on which any MOD Civil Servant may be awarded a bonus. It is a key element of the Government's pay policy that a proportion of the pay of Civil Servants is performance related. MOD meets this requirement by awarding one off, non-consolidated and non-pensionable bonuses which very clearly reward performance in any given year rather than by increasing base pay which has a consolidated on-going effect even if performance later tails off. In

turning specifically to bonuses for Senior Civil Servants, the policy framework for awarding them to members of the Senior Civil Service is set by the Cabinet Office. MOD is responsible for implementing its own pay and bonus arrangements within this framework through an agreed pay strategy. Any bonus award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers and they are awarded to those individuals judged to have made the highest in-year contribution to MOD business objectives. There is no restriction on the nature of the contribution; the only requirement is that it benefits the Department or Defence more widely. Recommendations for bonuses—which are considered by moderation committees—must be linked to demonstrable evidence of delivery. Up to 70 per cent. of staff may receive a bonus and only 10 per cent. of those assessed as making the greatest contribution may receive a high category bonus.

Specifically, for reporting year 2007-08, the following amounts were available for Pay Bands 1, 2 and 3 and are shown under the permissible percentage of staff able to receive that level of award:

£

SCS pay band	*Related bonus awards*				
	High 10%	*Upper Medium 15%*	*Middle Medium 25%*	*Lower Medium 15%*	*Half Lower Medium 5%*
1	12,000	9,000	7,000	5,600	2,800
2	16,500	12,500	9,500	8,000	4,000
3	22,500	17,000	13,000	10,000	—

For 2007-08 there were 266 members of the SCS in Pay Bands 1-3 who were considered for a non-consolidated bonus. Money for these awards is taken from the allowable 8.6 per cent. of the MOD'S SCS pay pot, as recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body in their Thirtieth Report published on 17 June 2008.

Of those considered for an award, 187 individuals (i.e. 70 per cent.) were assessed by our pay committee process as meeting or exceeding the eligibility criteria and were paid something from the range of awards shown in the table. No-one was awarded the High award at Pay Band 3. Payments totalled £1.5 million which is within our allowable ceiling, and were confined to the permissible percentage spread detailed in the table.

Pay and reward for Pay Band 4/Permanent Secretaries is considered by the Permanent Secretaries' Remuneration Committee and is subject to the same rules and regulations governed by the Senior Salaries Review Body and the Cabinet Office as the rest of the SCS. The range of awards paid to them for performance in 2007-08—expressed as a percentage of individual base pay—was 1.2 per cent.—12.8 per cent. and which was within the allowable ceiling. The MOD has two permanent SCS Pay Band 4s both of whom received a bonus.

The Department also employs a number of members of the SCS on Fixed Term Appointments. These individuals are recruited to fill specific roles where the Department does not already have the skills in-house. They are employed on individual contracts which allow them a base salary and the opportunity to earn performance related bonuses specifically linked to business objectives. They are expected to deliver substantial benefits to the Department both in terms of outputs, delivering change programmes and skills transfer. As with the rest of the SCS the bonuses paid to those on Fixed Term Appointments are non-consolidated and non-pensionable. To date, for 2007-08, not all Fixed Term appointees have been assessed for performance awards. I will write further with details of these awards when the assessment exercise is complete.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary of *(a)* a private soldier and *(b)* the Permanent Under-Secretary of his Department (i) was in each year since 1997 and (ii) will be in 2009-10. [218513]

Derek Twigg: Pay rates for the Permanent Under-Secretary and a private soldier are provided as follows:

£

From 1 April	*Private soldier pay range*		*MOD Permanent Under-Secretary salary in £5,000 bands as published in annual SSRB report appendix*	
	Minimum	*Maximum*	*From*	*To*
2007	15,677	24,328	165,000	169,999
2006	14,323	23,535	160,000	164,999
2005	13,866	22,849	155,000	[1]159,999
2004	13,461	22,185	160,000	164,999
2003	13,045	21,638	155,000	159,999
2002	12,578	20,911	145,000	149,999
2001	12,071	20,166	135,000	149,999
2000	11,640	18,374	125,000	129,999
1999	11,111	17,553	120,000	124,999
1998	10,720	16,947	115,000	119,999
1997	10,282	16,272	100,000	104,999

[1] This band was reported in the Senior Salaries Review Body's report as MOD PUS' salary but it should be noted that it reflects the salary of the then new PUS appointed in November 2005. The retiring MOD PUS' salary was in band £165,000—£169,999.

Pay rates for UK service personnel are recommended by the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB). We do not yet know pay rates for 2009-10 for either the Permanent Under-Secretary or a private soldier.

Lasers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure the development of ground-based laser defence systems as part of the UK's counter-mortar and counter-rocket capabilities. [223224]

Des Browne: I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence continues to assess the potential of a range of technologies, including laser, to provide counter-indirect fire capability.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the out-of-service date of the Tucano T1 basic training aircraft has been deferred from April 2010 to March 2014. [220531]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The out of service date (OSD) for Tucano has been changed to 2014 in order to match the timelines for the replacement programme which is part of the UK Military Flying Training System (UK MFTS). The aircraft is fully capable of providing capability up to and beyond the revised OSD.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

Financial Year	Recruit training
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I answered a number of Parliamentary Questions you asked about training at RAF Halton on 14 July 2008 (Official Report, column 176W), 15 July 2008 (Official Report, column 312-3W) and 16 July 2008 (Official Report, column 450-1W). At that time information was not available prior to 2003-04 due to technical problems with a computer database. These technical problems have now been resolved and I am able to provide data for some of the missing years.

For ease I have listed below each question and answer with the additional information in italics.

Question Number 217590: how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton for each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. I regret that data prior to Financial Year 2000-01 are not available.

Financial Year	Armed Forces Personnel
2000-01	*4,218*
2001-02	*4,461*
2002-03	*4,053*
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

Question Number 217584: how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for (a) supply roles, (b) catering and (c) administration roles in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton since 1998.

	Trade		
Financial Year	Catering	Administration	Supply
1998-99	*41*	*164*	*144*
1999-2000	*57*	*122*	*243*
2000-01	*71*	*56*	*166*
2001-02	*128*	*125*	*170*
2002-03	*193*	*147*	*217*
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Question Number 217583: how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton since 1998.

Financial Year	Recruit Training
1998-99	*3,342*
1999-2000	*3,160*
2000-01	*2,884*
2001-02	*3,065*
2002-03	*3,597*
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Question Number 217585: how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for (a) caterers and (b) administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton since 1998 in the categories requested.

	Officer Specialisation	
Financial Year	Catering	Administration
1998-99	*4*	*91*
1999-2000	*1*	*75*
2000-01	*9*	*38*
2001-02	*1*	*49*
2002-03	*0*	*45*
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Question Number 217588: how many non-commissioned officers have taken the (a) junior management and leadership course, (b) intermediate management and leadership course and (c) advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the categories requested, since 1998.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior—on promotion to corporal)		
	1998-99	*1,179*
	1999-2000	*1,111*
	2000-01	*1,362*
	2001-02	*1,496*
	2002-03	*1,474*
	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)		
	1998-99	*971*
	1999-2000	*802*
	2000-01	*888*
	2001-02	*898*
	2002-03	*515*

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)		
	1998-99[1]	—
	1999-2000	*121*
	2000-01	*239*
	2001-02	*237*
	2002-03	*251*
	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

[1] Course did not exist.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for *(a)* supply roles, *(b)* catering and *(c)* administration roles in each year since 1998. [217584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

	Trade		
	Catering	Administration	Supply
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I answered a number of Parliamentary Questions you asked about training at RAF Halton on 14 July 2008 (Official Report, column 176W), 15 July 2008 (Official Report, column 312-3W) and 16 July 2008 (Official Report, column 450-1W). At that time information was not available prior to 2003-04 due to technical problems with a computer database. These technical problems have now been resolved and I am able to provide data for some of the missing years.

For ease I have listed below each question and answer with the additional information in italics.

Question Number 217590: how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton for each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. I regret that data prior to Financial Year 2000-01 are not available.

Financial Year	Armed Forces Personnel
2000-01	*4,218*
2001-02	*4,461*
2002-03	*4,053*
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

Question Number 217584: how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for (a) supply roles, (b) catering and (c) administration roles in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton since 1998.

	Trade		
Financial Year	Catering	Administration	Supply
1998-99	*41*	*164*	*144*
1999-2000	*57*	*122*	*243*
2000-01	*71*	*56*	*166*
2001-02	*128*	*125*	*170*
2002-03	*193*	*147*	*217*
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Question Number 217583: how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton since 1998.

Financial Year	Recruit Training
1998-99	*3,342*
1999-2000	*3,160*
2000-01	*2,884*
2001-02	*3,065*
2002-03	*3,597*
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Question Number 217585: how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for (a) caterers and (b) administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton since 1998 in the categories requested.

	Officer Specialisation	
Financial Year	Catering	Administration
1998-99	*4*	*91*
1999-2000	*1*	*75*
2000-01	*9*	*38*
2001-02	*1*	*49*
2002-03	*0*	*45*
2003-04	8	75

	Officer Specialisation	
Financial Year	Catering	Administration
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Question Number 217588: how many non-commissioned officers have taken the (a) junior management and leadership course, (b) intermediate management and leadership course and (c) advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the categories requested, since 1998.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior—on promotion to corporal)		
	1998-99	*1,179*
	1999-2000	*1,111*
	2000-01	*1,362*
	2001-02	*1,496*
	2002-03	*1,474*
	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)		
	1998-99	*971*
	1999-2000	*802*
	2000-01	*888*
	2001-02	*898*
	2002-03	*515*
	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)		
	1998-99[1]	—
	1999-2000	*121*
	2000-01	*239*
	2001-02	*237*
	2002-03	*251*
	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

[1] Course did not exist.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for *(a)* caterers and *(b)* administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton in the categories requested. Information is available only from financial year 2003-04.

	Officer specialisation	
Financial year	Catering	Administration
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I answered a number of Parliamentary Questions you asked about training at RAF Halton on 14 July 2008 (Official Report, column 176W), 15 July 2008 (Official Report, column 312-3W) and 16 July 2008 (Official Report, column 450-1W). At that time information was not available prior to 2003-04 due to technical problems with a computer database. These technical problems have now been resolved and I am able to provide data for some of the missing years.

For ease I have listed below each question and answer with the additional information in italics.

Question Number 217590: how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton for each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. I regret that data prior to Financial Year 2000-01 are not available.

Financial Year	Armed Forces Personnel
2000-01	*4,218*
2001-02	*4,461*
2002-03	*4,053*
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

Question Number 217584: how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for (a) supply roles, (b) catering and (c) administration roles in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton since 1998.

	Trade		
Financial Year	Catering	Administration	Supply
1998-99	*41*	*164*	*144*
1999-2000	*57*	*122*	*243*
2000-01	*71*	*56*	*166*
2001-02	*128*	*125*	*170*
2002-03	*193*	*147*	*217*
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134

Financial Year	Trade: Catering	Administration	Supply
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Question Number 217583: how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton since 1998.

Financial Year	Recruit Training
1998-99	*3,342*
1999-2000	*3,160*
2000-01	*2,884*
2001-02	*3,065*
2002-03	*3,597*
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Question Number 217585: how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for (a) caterers and (b) administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton since 1998 in the categories requested.

Financial Year	Officer Specialisation: Catering	Administration
1998-99	*4*	*91*
1999-2000	*1*	*75*
2000-01	*9*	*38*
2001-02	*1*	*49*
2002-03	*0*	*45*
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Question Number 217588: how many non-commissioned officers have taken the (a) junior management and leadership course, (b) intermediate management and leadership course and (c) advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the categories requested, since 1998.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior—on promotion to corporal)		
	1998-99	*1,179*
	1999-2000	*1,111*
	2000-01	*1,362*
	2001-02	*1,496*
	2002-03	*1,474*
	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)		
	1998-99	*971*
	1999-2000	*802*
	2000-01	*888*
	2001-02	*898*
	2002-03	*515*
	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)		
	1998-99[1]	
	1999-2000	*121*
	2000-01	*239*
	2001-02	*237*
	2002-03	*251*
	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

[1] Course did not exist.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-commissioned officers have taken the *(a)* junior management and leadership course, *(b)* intermediate management and leadership course and *(c)* advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the areas requested, from financial year 2003-04 to present.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior - on promotion to corporal)	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I answered a number of Parliamentary Questions you asked about training at RAF Halton on 14 July 2008 (Official Report, column 176W), 15 July 2008 (Official Report, column 312-3W) and 16 July 2008 (Official Report, column 450-1W). At that time information was not available prior to 2003-04 due to technical problems with a computer database. These technical problems have now been resolved and I am able to provide data for some of the missing years.

For ease I have listed below each question and answer with the additional information in bold.

Question Number 217590: how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton for each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. I regret that data prior to Financial Year 2000-01 are not available.

Financial year	Armed forces personnel
2000-01	4,218
2001-02	4,461
2002-03	4,053
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-06	3,616

Question Number 217584: how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for (a) supply roles, (b) catering and (c) administration roles in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton since 1998.

	Trade		
Financial year	Catering	Administration	Supply
1998-99	41	164	144
1999-2000	57	122	243
2000-01	71	56	166
2001-02	128	125	170
2002-03	193	147	217
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Question Number 217583: how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton since 1998.

Financial year	Recruit training
1998-99	3,342
1999-2000	3,160
2000-01	2,884
2001-02	3,065
2002-03	3,597
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Question Number 217585: how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for (a) caterers and (b) administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton since 1998 in the categories requested.

	Officer specialisation	
Financial year	Catering	Administration
1998-99	4	91
1999-2000	1	75
2000-01	9	38
2001-02	1	49
2002-03	0	45
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Question Number 217588: how many non-commissioned officers have taken the (a) junior management and leadership course, (b) intermediate management and leadership course and (c) advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the categories requested, since 1998.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior—on promotion to corporal)		
	1998-99	1,179
	1999-2000	1,111
	2000-01	1,362
	2001-02	1,496
	2002-03	1,474
	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)		
	1998-99	971
	1999-2000	802

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
	2000-01	888
	2001-02	898
	2002-03	515
	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)		
	1998-99[1]	—
	1999-2000	121
	2000-01	239
	2001-02	237
	2002-03	251
	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

[1] Course did not exist.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217590]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table gives the number of the courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. Information is only available from financial year 2003-04.

Financial year	Armed forces personnel
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

The figures exclude the 'road shows' training delivered by STS staff away from RAF Halton, as no nominal rolls are taken at these events.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I answered a number of Parliamentary Questions you asked about training at RAF Halton on 14 July 2008 (Official Report, column 176W), 15 July 2008 (Official Report, column 312-3W) and 16 July 2008 (Official Report, column 450-1W). At that time information was not available prior to 2003-04 due to technical problems with a computer database. These technical problems have now been resolved and I am able to provide data for some of the missing years.

For ease I have listed below each question and answer with the additional information in bold.

Question Number 217590 how many armed forces personnel have received training from the Specialist Training School at RAF Halton for each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of courses delivered by the Specialist Training School (STS) at RAF Halton. I regret that data prior to Financial Year 2000-01 are not available.

Financial year	Armed forces personnel
2000-01	4,218
2001-02	4,461
2002-03	4,053
2003-04	3,687
2004-05	4,328
2005-06	4,841
2006-07	4,170
2007-08	3,616

Question Number 217584: how many armed forces personnel have received basic trade training at RAF Halton for (a) supply roles, (b) catering and (c) administration roles in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received basic trade training for supply, catering and administration roles at RAF Halton since 1998.

	Trade		
Financial year	Catering	Administration	Supply
1998-99	41	164	144
1999-2000	57	122	243
2000-01	71	56	166
2001-02	128	125	170
2002-03	193	147	217
2003-04	201	120	159
2004-05	188	65	134
2005-06	51	—	50
2006-07	61	—	40
2007-08	44	—	45

Question Number 217583: how many armed forces personnel have received recruit training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received recruit training at RAF Halton since 1998.

Financial year	Recruit training
1998-99	3,342
1999-2000	3,160
2000-01	2,884
2001-02	3,065
2002-03	3,597
2003-04	3,271
2004-05	1,556
2005-06	957
2006-07	1,075
2007-08	2,149

Note:
Training numbers for financial year 2007-08 includes figures for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Question Number 217585: how many armed forces officers have received initial specialist officer training for (a) caterers and (b) administrators at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The table below gives the number of armed forces personnel who have received initial specialist officer training at RAF Halton since 1998 in the categories requested.

	Officer specialisation	
Financial year	Catering	Administration
1998-99	4	91
1999-2000	1	73
2000-01	9	38
2001-02	1	49

	Officer specialisation	
Financial year	Catering	Administration
2002-03	0	45
2003-04	8	75
2004-05	3	46
2005-06	6	19
2006-07	0	19
2007-08	0	22

Question Number 217588: how many non-commissioned officers have taken the (a) junior management and leadership course, (b) intermediate management and leadership course and (c) advanced management and leadership course at RAF Halton in each year since 1998.

The following table gives the number of non-commissioned officers who have taken courses at RAF Halton in the categories requested, since 1998.

Course	Financial year	Number of officers
Junior management and leadership course (Junior—on promotion to corporal)		
	1998-99	1,179
	1999-2000	1,111
	2000-01	1,362
	2001-02	1,496
	2002-03	1,474
	2003-04	1,565
	2004-05	2,035
	2005-06	1,201
	2006-07	1,210
	2006-07	1,210
	2007-08	1,182
Intermediate management and leadership course (Intermediate—on promotion to sergeant)		
	1998-99	971
	1999-2000	802
	2000-01	888
	2001-02	898
	2002-03	515
	2003-04	974
	2004-05	1,521
	2005-06	903
	2006-07	812
	2007-08	875
Advanced management and leadership course (Advanced—on promotion to flight sergeant)		
	1998-99[1]	
	1999-2000	121
	2000-01	239
	2001-02	237
	2002-03	251
	2003-04	273
	2004-05	475
	2005-06	279
	2006-07	256
	2007-08	253

[1] Course did not exist.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel have received training at RAF Halton in each year since 1998. [217594]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Mr. Lidington:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 15 July 2008, (Official Report, column 314W) about training at RAF Halton.

This information relating to the number of Service Personnel who received any training at RAF Halton in each year since 2000 is set out below.

Information prior to Financial Year 2000-01 is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

	Royal Navy	Army	RAF	Tri-service
2000-01	139	847	10,918	—
2001-02	100	657	10,818	—
2002-03	94	744	10,848	—
2003-04	101	749	10,893	—
2004-05	292	1,437	10,970	—
2005-06	232	1,173	7,990	—
2006-07	184	813	5,934	1,994
2007-08	151	863	6,813	2,604

Notes:
The downturn in RAF numbers receiving training from 2004-05 onwards was due to drawdown measures taken by the RAF to reach its reduced target strength of 41,000 and was part of the Government's spending review.
For some training courses it has not been possible to differentiate between the actual numbers attending for each service; in this case the total number appears as tri-service.

In addition to the data supplied above, Defence Dental Services (DDS) training at RAF Halton is shown separately in the table below. Data for DDS prior to 2003 are not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

	Royal Navy	Army	RAF
2003-04	21	77	21
2004-05	32	98	65
2005-06	24	79	28
2006-07	32	76	27
2007-08	30	95	28

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Taliban

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of members of the Taliban who were *(a)* killed and *(b)* captured in each of the last 24 months. [220403]

Des Browne: Regarding the number of Taliban killed in Afghanistan, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 832W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

As regards detention, I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 66W, to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie).

The Ministry of Defence is undertaking a review of its detention records and I will write to the hon. Member when the review has been completed.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Utilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on *(a)* heating, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* water bills for (i) No. 10 Downing Street and (ii) Chequers in each of the last five years. [221193]

Phil Hope: The information requested for No. 10 Downing street is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Chequers was established under the Chequers Estate Acts 1917 and 1958 and is administered by independent trustees.

Charities: Closures

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many charities closed down in each year since 1997. [223270]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 8 September 2008:

As Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, it falls to me to answer your question (223270) regarding how many charities have closed down, in each year, since 1997.

I attach below a table which sets out the number of charities added and removed from the register, in each year, since 1997. Charities are usually removed from the register because they have either ceased to operate or merged with other charities.

The table below does not, necessarily, represent all charities which have closed down but only those who, by law, were required to register with the Commission. The threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 until April of this year when that threshold was raised to £5,000.

	Registrations	*Removals*
1997	9,310	6,671
1998	6,373	4,400
1999	5,840	4,358
2000	5,669	9,987
2001	5,926	5,757
2002	5,490	4,621
2003	6,521	4,787
2004	6,609	5,630
2005	5,451	5,084
2006	4,949	4,096
2007	4,973	4,920

Charities: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the funding received by all charities from the Government in each year since 1997. [223271]

Phil Hope: Both central and local government spend significant sums of money on charities and other third sector organisations every year. The following amounts were received by the sector.

	Amounts received by sector (£ million)
1997-98	5,550
1998-99	6,080
1999-2000	6,620
2000-01	8,096
2001-02	8,504
2002-03	8,835
2003-04	9,165
2004-05	9,541
2005-06	11,050

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221170]

Phil Hope: Information on how much the Cabinet Office has spent on reimbursable expenses by press officers in each of the last three financial years is not separately recorded on the Department's accounting system and is therefore not available.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Prime Minister's Office have taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221475]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate. Mail services are predominantly provided by the Cabinet Office's facilities management providers who decide the most economical method of sending mail externally, unless instructed by the customer to use a specific service such as recorded or special delivery.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221577]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transport

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Ministerial *(a)* cars and *(b)* bicycles there are; and at what cost they were provided in each of the last three years in each category, broken down by department. [198175]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr. MacNeil) on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 576-78W and to the information published by the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-18WS.

Population

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) most recent projections of population densities in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in (i) 2031, (ii) 2056 and (iii) the most distant date for which figures are available are; what population density in each such area is in 2008; and what recent comparison the ONS has made of population density in the UK and other EU member states. [223149]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the most recent projections of population densities in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland are for (i) 2031, (ii) 2056 and (iii) the most distant date for which figures are available; what population density in each such area is in 2008; and what recent comparison the ONS has made of population density in the UK and other member states (223149).

Population densities for the UK and constituent countries for 2008 are provided in table A. The population densities for the other years requested have not been updated since my previous responses to PQs 169303 (3 December 2007), 177466 (18 February 2008), 205787 (19 May 2008) and 207695 (2 June 2008).

Table A: Projected population density of the UK and constituent countries, 2008

	Persons/sq km 2008
United Kingdom	253
England	395
Wales	144
Scotland	66
Northern Ireland	131

Source:
2006-based national projections, ONS

There has been no recent update of the population densities of the EU member states. Therefore the most recent such figures are as calculated by the UN and provided in my reply to the PQ dated 3 December 2007 mentioned above (169303).

As previously advised in my replies to the earlier PQs from you, the underlying assumptions for the projections are demographic trend based and should not be seen as predictions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost is of programmes operated under the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pool in 2008-09; what the programmes are and which countries they operate in; and how many of his Department's staff are working on the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pool. [220381]

Mr. Thomas: The Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pools merged in April 2008. The combined Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) has a budget of £112 million for 2008-09. There are eight programmes aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of violent conflict around the world. Six regional programmes cover 49 countries in Africa (£62.5 million), South Asia (£8.4 million), the Americas (£1.75 million), the Balkans (£7.85 million), the Middle East and North Africa (£4.9 million) and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (£4.5 million). There are also two thematic programmes on security and small arms control (£9.5 million) and building the capacity of the international system to respond to conflict (£7.1 million).

The CPP is controlled jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Each Department contributes staff, although most individuals spend only a small fraction of their time on pool business. The total number of UK-based and locally engaged staff who spend any proportion of their time working on CPP is 455, of which only 23 work full time as conflict advisers, programme managers and the secretariat. Staff numbers by Department are 96 for DFID, 178 for FCO, and 181 for MOD.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool in 2007-08; and what programmes that funding will support. [220417]

Gillian Merron: In 2007-08 £64.5 million was allocated to the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP). The ACPP overall approach to conflict prevention in Africa is focused on three broad objectives:

To support the building of African conflict management capacity.

To assist with conflict prevention, management and post-conflict reconstruction in a number of priority sub-regions and country conflicts.

To support pan-African initiatives for security sector reform, small arms control and to address the economic and financial causes of conflict.

The following table shows a breakdown of sector of activities supported in 2007-08 and how much of the budget was spent on each:

Sector of activity	*Percentage of Spend*
Reform of the Security Sector, including reform of the army, police and justice sector	37
Peace Support Operations Training for African troop contributing countries participating in peacekeeping operations	22
Peace Building—including support to grassroots peace initiatives, conflict prevention, and support to civil society	22
Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration of ex-combatants	12
Control and disposal of Small Arms and Light Weapons	3
Support to Peace Negotiations	2
Peace media: radio, television and print, outreach, awareness raising	1
Development of the African Union's Africa Peace Support Architecture	1
Conflict Analysis	<1

Ninety four projects were implemented by ACPP in 2007-08. Detailed information will be available in the forthcoming annual report which will be published in August 2008. Highlights from ACPP work in 2007/8 include:

Supporting Kofi Annan to lead African mediation efforts to end the post-election violence in Kenya following the disputed presidential elections of December 2007.

Training some 12,000 African peacekeepers since 2004-05.

Enabling the demobilisation of almost 300,000 combatants in the past five years in seven Central African countries[1] through support to the World Bank led Multi-country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme.

Assisting the peace processes in Northern Uganda, Eastern DRC and Burundi which have helped lead to significant reduction in conflict in the region.

Fighting against sexual violence by working with the Rwandan armed forces to provide channels for reporting and acting on incidents.

Ensuring that rural voters had access to independent information on electoral choices in the March 2008 parliamentary and presidential elections in Zimbabwe.

Supporting the South African National Defence Force to open a peace mission training centre, providing a facility for both civilian and military personnel deploying on peace support missions.

Providing professional advice to the Sudan People's Liberation Army to enable transformation from a guerrilla army into a professional, disciplined armed force operating under democratic civil control.

Successfully mounting a highly visible 'Red Band' campaign against electoral violence around elections in Nigeria in April 2007.

Helping to ensure a safe and peaceful electoral process in Sierra Leone in 2007 by supporting the armed forces in remaining apolitical throughout the election process.

[1] Angola, Burundi, CAR, DRC, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda

Burma: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response his Department has made to the humanitarian situation in Chin state, western Burma; what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* number of villages facing food shortages and *(b)* the number and proportion of the population of Chin state in need of food aid; and if he will make a statement. [220914]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing £4 million over four years to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Initiative, which is meeting needs across Burma, including in Chin State. Other projects underway in the State to address food security and rural livelihoods include a World Food Programme (WFP) food-for-work programme, which has been expanded in response to the rat infestation, and EC-funded NGO agriculture projects to work with communities to improve food security.

DFID has also kept in close touch with UNDP and WFP, as well as with non- governmental organisations including the Chin Human Rights Organisation and the Women's League of Chinland, about food shortages in Chin State brought about by this year's rat infestation. In July, a staff member from DFID's office in New Delhi visited Mizoram State, met Chin groups and other non-governmental organisations and collected information on needs in Chin State. WFP, UNDP and international and national NGOs working in the State are now urgently developing a response plan to provide affected communities with emergency rice supplies and agricultural inputs. DFID is ready to support such a plan when the details are finalised.

The remoteness of many of the affected areas makes it difficult to make an accurate estimate of the number of villages and people suffering food shortages because of the rat infestation. The Chin Human Rights Organisation has estimated that as many as 200 villages and 100,000 people (20 per cent. of the State's population) have been seriously affected by the crisis. On the basis of field assessments (including on foot to areas along the Indian border) in Paletwa, Matubi and Tanhtlang townships, UNDP has identified 80 villages housing around 27,500 people (6 per cent. of the total population of the State) that have been severely or partially affected by the rodent infestation. There is a risk that rodent infestation will spread further.

Children: Employment

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the United Nations in relation to child labour and children working in *(a)* heavy industry, *(b)* aluminium factories, *(c)* mining and *(d)* textile and clothing manufacturing. [213596]

Mr. Malik: The Secretary of State has not had direct discussions with the United Nations on the subject of child labour. The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on, and provides support to, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) within the UN system to help countries implement core labour standards that include the elimination of child labour. DFID is also working with the ILO and civil society organisations to promote efforts to remove children from all hazardous labour. DFID has a £20 million partnership framework for 2006-2009 with the ILO.

DFID has no direct involvement with issues of child labour in heavy industries *(a)* or aluminium factories *(b)*. With regard to mining *(c)*, DFID supports and currently chairs the Communities and Small scale Mining (CASM) initiative. This is a network that includes mining communities and artisanal miners themselves as well as international experts. The network is based in the World Bank HQ in Washington DC and is active in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and South and Central America. As one of the four central themes of its work, Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) includes a focus on children working in dangerous and hazardous conditions in small-scale mining. CASM fully recognizes the extent and nature of child labour and is committed to its elimination from the mining industry.

In textile and clothing manufacturing (d), DFID is supporting the Multi Fibre Arrangement Forum which brings together private sector (multi-national corporations and domestic industries) trade unions and national governments to support developing countries to adapt and benefit from changes in global trading regimes, developing productivity and responsible competitiveness, sustaining and promoting decent work, which includes not using child labour.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* type and *(b)* level of support is being given to the Democratic Republic of Congo by his Department to support the *(a)* humanitarian action plan, *(b)* the 2007 International Committee of the Red Cross national appeal and *(c)* non-governmental organisation programmes in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [220758]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is one of the largest humanitarian donors to the Democratic Republic of Congo with over £37.5 million provided in support of the 2007 Humanitarian Action Plan (approximately 10 per cent. of the £361 million ($686 million) Plan). DFID provided £30 million of this funding through the Humanitarian Pooled Fund, managed by the United Nations (UN), which funds priority humanitarian interventions by UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In 2007, approximately 50 per cent. of the Pooled Fund was channelled directly or indirectly through NGOs. Our remaining funding under the Humanitarian Action Plan (£7.5 million) was provided as direct grants of £2 million to the 2007 International Committee of the Red Cross appeal and £5.5 million to NGOs.

In 2007, DFID provided £13.7 million of support through grants to NGO programmes working in non-humanitarian sectors in DRC. In total DFID provided £19.2 million of direct grants to NGOs in 2007.

Summary:

	Type	*Level of funding (2007) (£ million)*
Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP)	Contribution to UN Pooled Fund	30
	Direct grants to NGOs	5.5
	Direct grant to ICRC	2
DFID funding to NGOs working in non-humanitarian sectors	Direct grants for governance, education, health, HIV/AIDS and peace building	13.7

[1] of which 50 per cent. went directly or indirectly to NGOs

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214692]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: None.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213268]

Mr. Malik: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221243]

Gillian Merron: The number of hours of overtime worked by the Department for International Development (DFID) staff in each pay grade in each of the last 12 months for which information is available is detailed in the following table.

	2007					
Grade	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
A1	31.66	69.66	57.34	20.98	154.38	40.25
A2	115.16	176	299.59	281.28	415.97	373.71
A2 (L)	528.91	153.5	112.83	261.58	219.85	245.59
B1 (d)	96.5	2.5	0	110.75	14.5	0
B1	380.76	134.75	257.11	279.68	238.4	244.42
B2	323.84	138.75	428.61	481.53	573.4	173.27
C1	116.84	146.21	409.52	311.25	161.91	126.91
C2	46	0	17	52	45.5	8
Total	1,639.67	821.55	1,582	1,799.05	1,809.41	1,188.15

Grade	2008 January	February	March	April	May	June
A1	13.5	53.17	39.83	27.05	25.5	28.71
A2	124.42	95.75	284.34	108	316.17	122.42
A2 (L)	303.83	261.59	367.47	359.33	139.21	45.08
B1 (d)	125	51.92	49.9	28.71	51.42	4.5
B1	154.41	241.93	636.49	420.17	318.97	325.59
B2	442.44	425.39	677.27	291.48	458.55	428.89
C1	186.09	215.43	533.94	180.24	367.03	81.17
C2	43.5	34.58	142.5	36	144.75	55.75
Total	1,393.19	1,379.76	2,731.74	1,450.98	1,821.6	1,087.61

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220723]

Gillian Merron: All paper used for photocopying in the last two years has 100 per cent. recycled content.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold the data regarding paper for printed publications centrally, and due to disproportionate cost we cannot supply this information. However, DFID routinely requires that the designers and printers under contract to produce DFID publications source paper that has a minimum of 75 per cent. recycled content.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220431]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not request discounts from suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. We do however use other forms of payment mechanism to encourage effective delivery, such as milestone payments for clearly defined deliverables.

In line with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Act and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) recommendations, DFID's standard terms and conditions reflect the requirement to pay suppliers within 30 calendar days. This is on the basis that work has been carried out to our satisfaction within the terms of the contract. We are also bound by HM Treasury (HMT) accounting rules in relation to advance payments. This option requires HMT approval and would only apply in exceptional circumstances where value for money could be demonstrated.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221354]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to obtain.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221362]

Gillian Merron: Since 27 June 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) has launched 19 formal public consultations on its public website in order to inform the Department's policy development.

The consultations launched were:

UK's Development Plan for Bangladesh

DFID Yemen Country Plan

Working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): New UK and Denmark Performance and Results Framework 2008-11

Working in partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): New Institutional Strategy (IS) – UK and Denmark, 2008-09 to 2010-11

Working in partnership with the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). New Institutional Strategy, 2008-11

Uganda's medium term strategic direction

DFID Nigeria Country Assistance Plan

Working in partnership with World Health Organisation (WHO) – New Institutional Strategy (2008-13)

DFID Afghanistan Country Plan

DFID Zambia Country Assistance Plan

New Global Access to Medicines Research Network (ATM RN)

DFID Somalia country Plan

DFID Kenya Country Plan

Working with the European Union: Europe for Development

DFID Rwanda Country Plan

DFID Indonesia Country Assistance Plan (2008-11)

Environmental Stability: UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

DFID Mozambique Country Assistance Plan

Partnership Programme Arrangements – The Way Ahead

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214125]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to observe the national default retirement age of 65.

Since the implementation of the Employment Equality (age) Regulations in October 2006, six requests to work beyond the default retirement age have been approved. Line managers are advised by the human resources department of staff approaching 65 years of age in time to implement the right to request procedure. To date no requests have been denied.

The number of staff working beyond the retirement age in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Number of staff working beyond retirement age
2003	5
2004	4
2005	3
2006	4
2007	5

Records are not held centrally of staff appointed in country in our overseas offices who work beyond the age of 65 as they are subject to local rather than UK law on retirement age.

The impact of the age regulations continue to be monitored, particularly the right to request working beyond the age of 65, in preparation for the review planned for 2011.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on training courses for staff in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [210568]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to provide the amount spent on training courses by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the last 12 months, and previous five years.

Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the amount spent on training courses is not held centrally.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are of the programme being jointly funded by his Department and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council on sustainable agriculture research for international development; how much his Department will contribute to this programme in 2008-09; and what percentage of that expenditure will be on administration. [220520]

Mr. Thomas: The objective of the Programme on Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development (SARID) is to produce and apply new scientific knowledge and understanding to increase agricultural productivity and food security, thus improving the lives of poor people in Africa and Asia. SARID was developed through a strategic partnership between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). DFID is currently contributing £5 million and BBSRC £2.5 million over five years under SARID to fund 12 research grants in crop science. These grants were announced in January 2008 and the predicted total spend for 2008-09 is £1,706,390. The administration of the Programme is handled by BBSRC but funded from the DFID contribution. Administrative costs are currently estimated to be £108,898 for the whole five year Programme, which is 1.45 per cent., of the total budget or 2.18 per cent., of the DFID contribution.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what budget his Department has allocated for each of the two programmes being designed in co-operation with Canada's International Development Research Centre to help with climate change in poor countries in Asia and Latin America. [220495]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is funding a design phase for the Climate Change Adaptation programme in Asia and Latin America. The planned level of contribution to the implementation phase of this programme is up to £50 million.

Developing Countries: Economic Growth

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of economic growth in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(d)* Mozambique in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [213337]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

Mozambique

It is estimated that Mozambique will experience 7 per cent. real gross domestic product (GDP) growth per annum (2008-10).

Afghanistan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections estimate that real GDP growth will be 9 per cent. in 2009-10 and 8 per cent. in 2010-11. This reflects a gradual decline in investment as a percentage of GDP.

Iraq

The IMF forecasts real GDP growth in Iraq of 7.5 per cent. in 2009, 10.4 per cent. in 2010, and 9.6 per cent. in 2011. Most of this growth will come from increased oil exports and continued high oil prices. Non-oil growth is expected to have a modest increase, with economic activity picking-up as a result of the reduction in violence.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In September 2007, the IMF estimated that the percentage increase of gross domestic product for the Democratic Republic of Congo would be 8.3 per cent. in 2009, 8.3 per cent. in 2010 and 8.4 per cent. for 2011.

Developing Countries: Food

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of progress in international efforts to insulate *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Ghana, *(c)* the Gambia and *(d)* Eritrea from global food and energy price rises; and if he will make a statement. [220775]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government remain deeply concerned about the impact of higher food and energy prices on developing countries including Afghanistan, Ghana, the Gambia and Eritrea. The UK has been working at international level to ensure that effective and coordinated mechanisms are in place to support countries suffering from the impact of the global food and energy price rises.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is helping with balance-of-payments support. The United Nations (UN) High Level Taskforce on the Global Food Crisis has agreed a Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA). The World Food Programme (WFP) extraordinary emergency appeal is fully funded. At the G8 meeting a $10 billion package for improved food security and agriculture output was agreed.

In Afghanistan the international community is working with the Government to combat the negative welfare impacts of these price increases. The first humanitarian appeal of £38 million was fully met. Support to food production through voucher schemes, rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure, and the setting up of a safety nets programme are in process. A DFID Afghanistan humanitarian assessment is under way and will report by the end of August.

In Ghana, the World Food Programme (WFP) is leading a Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment which will measure the level of food and livelihoods security, and assess changes in nutrition.

At the request of the Gambian Government, an inter-agency team have conducted an assessment mission and are preparing a framework for international support to reduce the adverse effects of soaring food prices.

Eritrea has received just under £500,000 to finance agricultural provisions under the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The Government of Eritrea do not permit relief agencies to distribute food aid. DFID experts will visit Eritrea this month to look at the humanitarian situation.

Fish Supplies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217886]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

Georgia: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to Georgia in each of the last three years; what assistance has been provided to Georgia to alleviate the humanitarian situation following its recent conflict with Russia; and if he will make a statement. [223265]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government Georgia bilateral programme expenditure over the last three years was: £2.4 million in 2005-06; £3.8 million in 2006-07; and £2.4 million in 2007-08. The programme allocation for 2008-09 is £3 million. Programme activities are focused on health, regional development, good governance and supporting the Government's European Union integration plans. Georgia also receives Department for International Development (DFID) support via the tri-departmental (FCO, MOD and DFID) Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) for Russia and the former states of the Soviet Union. The total CPP allocation for 2008-09 is £4.4 million.

In response to the recent conflict, DFID has committed £2 million to humanitarian agencies providing assistance to affected civilians in Georgia and the Russian Federation (RF). Of this, £1 million was allocated to the International Committee of the Red Cross for their operations in Georgia and North Ossetia in the RF. £550,000 has been allocated to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our support to UNHCR aims to ensure protection needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia are met. Further allocations have been made to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA—£250,000) and to the Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organisation (HALO—£200,000). Our support to OCHA will help to improve co-ordination of activities among the humanitarian community. Our assistance to HALO will help facilitate the safe return of IDPs through the removal of unexploded ordnance from towns and rural communities affected by conflict.

Global Science and Innovation Forum

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department is taking part in through the Global Science and Innovation Forum (GSIF); what research his Department has undertaken for GSIF initiatives; and what percentage of his Department's budget for 2008-09 is allocated to GSIF projects. [220524]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Science and Innovation Forum (GSIF), chaired by the UK Government chief scientific adviser, is a vehicle for cross-government exchanges of information and ideas to improve coordination of the UK effort in international science and innovation. As such it does not run any programmes or projects. The Department for International Development is represented at GSIF by our chief scientific adviser.

Iran: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what funding his Department has made available to *(a)* the UN and *(b)* the EU to assist Iran in dealing with Afghani refugees; [223333]

(2) what assistance his Department has given to Iran to deal with refugees from Afghanistan. [223332]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide bilateral development assistance to Iran. Support to Afghan refugees in Iran is channelled through multilateral organisations, namely the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Commission (EC). This approach allows for greater co-ordination of donor funding. The regional mandate of these organisations means they are best placed to prioritise, monitor and evaluate donor support not just to refugees in Iran, but also those in Pakistan and India.

UNHCR is currently prioritising five 'protracted refugee situations' around the globe, including Afghan refugees in Iran. In 2007, DFID gave £38 million in core funding to UNHCR of which approximately £3 million will go towards the protection and support of Afghan refugees in the region. The 2008-09 contribution is yet to be finalised.

Contributions to the EC development budget are disbursed at a national rather than departmental level. EC assistance to Afghan refugees for 2008 totals £20 million, of which the UK contributes 12.5 per cent. (£2.5 million). This helps provide health, education and shelter to refugees across the region, including in Iran.

Kenya: Malaria

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the factors contributing to a reduction in malarial mortality and morbidity in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [220777]

Gillian Merron: Tackling malaria is a priority for both the Government of Kenya and its development partners. There is evidence that the scaling-up of new and more effective malaria control interventions in Kenya is having a positive impact on health. Factors contributing to reduction in mortality and morbidity include:

Implementation of the more effective Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) as first-line treatment for malaria;

Better epidemic preparedness and response in epidemic prone areas e.g. a total of 860,000 households were protected through indoor residual spraying in 2007;

Increased awareness and personal protection by the most vulnerable groups through use of bednets. A total of 13.5 million insecticide-treated bednets were distributed between 2002-06, targeted at pregnant women and children under five years old; and

More health workers recruited to provide basic health care, including an additional 450 health workers for management of malaria.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218055]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows.

	Days lost to industrial action
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	290
2005	0
2006	0
2007	630

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what international lesson-learning networks on health and education in fragile states have been established with his Department's support; and how much funding he is providing for such networks in 2008-09. [220379]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has played a pivotal role in setting up the Health and Fragile States Network which is hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM); and the Education and Fragility Network which is part of the Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies and is hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

In 2008-09, DFID has provided £60,000 directly to the Health and Fragile States Network and £100,000 to the Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies for a broad set of activities, a proportion of which will fund the Education and Fragility Network.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are for the outcome of the September Millennium Development Goals meeting in New York. [220448]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is focusing on three overall objectives, on which we are working closely with partners, for the UN High Level Event in September in order to help accelerate action on the Millennium Development Goals. These are:

To build a common vision about what needs to be done—scaling up successes and identifying and addressing gaps in current work;

To harness efforts and mobilise not just governments but business, faith groups, NGOs, cities and professional groups and foundations to deliver the MDGs;

To identify milestones to both measure international progress towards the MDGs and inspire greater action to achieve them.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are of the programme being jointly funded by his Department, the UK Natural Environment Research Council and the UK Economic and Social Research Council on ecosystem services and poverty alleviation (ESPA); how much his Department will contribute to this programme in 2008-09; what percentage of this

expenditure will be administration costs; and which developing countries have used the results of the ESPA research. [220519]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID), the UK Natural Environment Research Council and the UK Economic and Social Research Council are funding the scoping and design of the Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation programme (ESPA). The objectives of the programme are to develop and change local, national and regional policies in developing countries affecting ecosystem management in line with recommendations from research.

DFID plans to contribute £500,000 this financial year towards this programme. Administrative costs will be determined by detailed design; it is estimated they will be 2-3 per cent. of the programme spend. The overall programme should be put to Ministers for their approval toward the end of 2008-09. Developing countries will be able to make use of the ESPA research once the programme is in operation.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Climate Change

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding provided to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to help combat climate change was in the form of *(a)* loans and *(b)* aid in each of the last three years. [212397]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government is stepping up its assistance to tackle climate change, helping countries adapt and build resilience to its impacts. In 2007-8 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided, for example, £4.5 million to support research and capacity development in Africa for climate change adaptation and approximately £0.75 million to develop other programmes that directly help Africa to tackle climate change. Comprehensive information is not readily available for earlier years. Many other DFID investments will have an impact on Africa's ability to adapt to climate change—for example in improving food production and security and strengthening river basin management.

None of the money that DFID provided as bilateral assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa over the last three years was in the form of loans. This included assistance to help combat climate change.

DFID also provides assistance through multi-lateral institutions and global funds to tackle climate change in developing countries, including in Africa. This includes United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change funds, and the Global Environmental Facility. In addition, the new UK £800 million International Environmental Transformation Fund will help developing countries, including those in Africa, to respond to climate change. Part of the assistance provided by these institutions and funds will be in the form of loans.

UK Collaborative on Development Sciences

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department is taking part in through the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UK-CDS); and what percentage of his Department's budget is allocated to UK-CDS programmes in 2008-09. [220523]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not take part in programmes with the UK Collaborative on Development Science (UK-CDS). DFID has contributed £297,000, 27.5 per cent. of the UK-CDS total budget, towards the cost of its secretariat and activities over the three years from November 2007.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what topics are on the agenda for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals summit on 25 September; who will represent the Government at the summit; what goals the Government has set for this summit; by what criteria the outcomes of the summit will be judged by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [223264]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN Secretary General will issue a paper shortly for the UN High Level Event on the millennium development goals (MDGs). The overall aim of the meeting is to help galvanise international activity to get the MDGs back on track. The event will include round tables on Poverty and Hunger; Education and Health; and Environmental Sustainability along with a wide range of partnership events on key issues related to the MDGs.

The Prime Minister plans to lead UK representation at the UN High Level Event, supported by myself and the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas).

The UK Government would like to see an action-oriented plan emerging from the High Level Event, with specific deliverables, particularly on education, malaria, health systems and food security. As part of this the UK Government would also like to see the pledging of new financial commitments, including from new donors.

We will judge the outcomes of the UN High Level Event based on the UN Secretary General's letter of 17 July in which he stated the main objectives as reviewing progress and taking stock of the existing gaps at mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015; help identify concrete actions needed to scale up effort; and help ensure the MDGs and international targets remain on track and momentum is maintained beyond 2008.

United Nations: Mediation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to the Mediation Support Unit in the UN in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [220376]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed £620,000 over two years to the UN Mediation Support Unit from the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP), of which £155,000 has been disbursed in the last 12 months. The CPP is funded and managed jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Voluntary Work

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what volunteer programmes his Department operates to recruit 18 to 25-year-olds to go overseas; how much was spent on such programmes in 2007-08; how many volunteers were recruited in that year; which countries they served in; and what activities each programme involved. [220416]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) volunteering programme specifically aimed at young adults aged 18 to 25, "Platform2" was launched in February 2008. The costs incurred to the end of the financial year were £205,152.

The first group of volunteers departed in May 2008. Over the course of the next three years the programme aims to send 2,500 young volunteers overseas. The first countries to receive volunteers are Ghana, South Africa, India and Peru but the scheme will broaden out to include more countries over its duration. Volunteers will be involved in community projects to improve the livelihoods of people in the host communities.

The budget allocated to the programme is £10 million over three years. The scheme will also support efforts by the young volunteers to raise awareness of global poverty issues upon their return to the UK.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the administrative costs of the Protracted Relief Programme in Zimbabwe have been; how many private sector contracts have been awarded under the programme; and at what cost. [220380]

Gillian Merron: Phase 1 (2004-08) of the Zimbabwe Protracted Relief Programme (PRP) was administered by a managing consultant at a cost of £1.7 million (£1,731,548.10). This represented 4.8 per cent. of the total project expenditure of £36 million over a programme duration of just under four years. The administration costs are broken down into professional fees (£1,485,905.69) and reimbursable expenses (£245,642.56).

In addition to the cost of the managing consultant, two annual reviews were carried out by independent consultants at a total cost of £51,565.03. The annual reviews and the managing consultant contracts were the only private sector contracts awarded under the programme. All other funds were channelled to non-governmental implementing partners for programme activities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Lancaster

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met Lancashire County Council to discuss academies in Lancaster. [223334]

Jim Knight: My answer has not changed—please refer to PQ 220578 of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1602W. I have not met personally with Lancashire county council to discuss their academy plans.

Children in Care: Clinical Trials

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 559W, on clinical trials, what the certain conditions are which must be met for minors to be allowed to be entered into a trial prior to consent having been obtained from a person with parental responsibility or a legal representative. [223346]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

On 1 May 2008 the Government, following a public consultation, amended The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 ('the Clinical Trials Regulations') to provide an exception to the general requirement that informed consent must be obtained from a minor's (a person under 16 years) parents or legal representative prior to his/her participation in a trial. Informed consent would still be a requirement of participation in the trial; but its absence would not preclude initial entry into a trial.

The specific conditions that apply in relation to a minor's participation in a clinical trial are set out in Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Clinical Trials Regulations. Conditions 1 to 5 of the Clinical Trials Regulations outline requirements for obtaining informed consent prior to initial entry into a trial. Conditions 6-12 provide safeguards to ensure that the wishes of the minor are considered and there is an appropriate basis for the trial and its financial compensation. The amendments to the Clinical Trials Regulations, made in May 2008, provide an exception to the general requirement that conditions 1 to 5 are met before entry into a trial.

This exception is subject to the following: *(a)* treatment is being, or is about to be, provided for a subject who is a minor as a matter of urgency and, having regard to the nature of the clinical trial and of the particular circumstances of the case, *(b)* it is necessary to take action for the purposes of the clinical trial as a matter of urgency; but *(c)* it is not reasonably practicable to meet conditions (1) to (5) of the Clinical Trials Regulations and *(d)* the conditions specified in *(a)* to *(c)* above are carried out in accordance with a procedure approved by an ethics committee with paediatric expertise or in the case of an ethics committee opinion appeal, by an appeal panel. The exception only applies until it is reasonably practicable to obtain informed consent from a person with parental responsibility or legal representative, at which time conditions (1) to (5) must be met.

The exception is consistent with the position adopted by the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) guideline on Good Clinical Practice.

Children in Care: Health

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure the national indicator set for local government reflects the health and well-being of looked-after children. [223354]

Beverley Hughes: "Care Matters: Time for Change" proposed a new indicator as part of the local government National Indicator Set focused on the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children to ensure

that their mental health is reflected in local authority performance management arrangements. From April 2008 all local authorities in England have been required to provide information on the emotional and behavioural health of the children they look after. These data will be collected by local authorities using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and a summary figure for each child (the total difficulties score) will be submitted to the Department through the SSDA903 return. The first data return for the 2008-09 financial year will be collected from 1 April 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221101]

Kevin Brennan: When entering into leases for, or purchasing, buildings, the DCSF takes account of the environmental impact of its actions as far as possible.

For new buildings, the minimum requirement is that they must be constructed to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "excellent" standard (2006). In addition, developers are encouraged to design their buildings to allow energy efficiency by:

- Minimising internal areas requiring mechanical ventilation
- Minimising direct solar gain, in order to avoid air conditioning.
- Maximising daylight factors
- Maximising the control and flexibility of the installations
- Achieving an air tightness test in accordance with CIBSE test methods
- Complying with the current requirements of the Building Regulations Part L2A 2006; and
- Promoting renewable energy and natural resources such as daylight and passive solar energy.

For existing buildings, the criteria for the selection of a property for rent or purchase will include the potential to achieve the award of BREEAM very good rating on a cost effective basis.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct since the Department was established. [217413]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was created in the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Since then, two members of staff have been dismissed and 12 have been disciplined for their conduct.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211123]

Kevin Brennan: The DCSF has been in existence since 28 June 2007, and since that time has commissioned two independent inquiries. Both of these are currently underway and it is not possible to fully cost these until they complete.

(1) The Lamb Inquiry: Special educational needs and parental confidence

The Lamb Inquiry was established as part of the Government's response to the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee Report "Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Funding". The Lamb Inquiry, under the chairmanship of Brian Lamb, the Chair of the Special Educational Consortium, will investigate a range of ways in which parental confidence in the SEN assessment process might be improved. The inquiry started its work in March 2008 and Brian Lamb will report in September 2009.

(2) The Sutherland Inquiry—Inquiry into 2008 national curriculum test delivery

The Sutherland Inquiry has been established because of problems that have arisen in the delivery of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 national curriculum tests in 2008, leading to a delay in the release of results to schools. The inquiry will be led by Stewart Sutherland (Lord Sutherland of Houndwood), who will investigate what went wrong, the reasons for the problems experienced and what should be done to avoid a recurrence in future years. The inquiry was announced in July 2008 and Lord Sutherland will report to me and Ofqual in the Autumn of 2008.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221604]

Ed Balls: My Department's accounting records do not record information to this level of detail. To provide a response would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214665]

Kevin Brennan: The Department aims to ensure that its diversity policies enable equal opportunities for inward secondment by following the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code which is available at:

http://www.civilservicecommissioners.org/web-resources/resources/71184faab07.pdf

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [216140]

Kevin Brennan: The average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* the Department is 27 days due to stress and 35 days due to mental and behavioural disorders. The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, so the figures apply from 1 July to 31 March 2008 only (the latest information available). Different recording systems were used in the predecessor Departments, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) over the past 10 years, so it is not possible to provide direct comparisons.

These figures do not include *(b)* non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has a range of measures in place to support managers and employees on health and well-being issues.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216142]

Kevin Brennan: The average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* the Department is 6.4 days. The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, so the figures apply from 1 July to 31 March 2008 only (the latest information available). Different recording systems were used in the predecessor Departments, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) over the past 10 years, so it is not possible to provide direct comparisons.

These figures do not include *(b)* non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has a range of measures in place to support managers and employees on health and well-being issues.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216146]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes on 28 June 2007, so the figures apply from 1 July to 31 March 2008 (the latest information available). In the Department *(a)* 72 staff were absent due to stress, representing 2.7 per cent., of all staff. 66 were absent due to other mental disorders, representing 2.4 per cent., of all staff at 31 March 2008.

These figures do not include non-departmental public bodies *(c)* as the information for them is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no agencies.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has a range of measures in place to support managers and employees on health and well-being issues.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of Liberata in administration of the education maintenance allowance. [223194]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council have operational responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and have contracted with Liberata to carry out the helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA.

There have been some unacceptable delays in notifying learners that they are eligible for EMA this year. My officials are receiving daily updates from the LSC and I am monitoring the situation very closely. My priority is to ensure that young people receive their EMA as soon as possible.

The LSC have assured me that they are working very closely with Liberata to ensure that the backlog is cleared quickly. All eligible learners who apply within 28 days of the start of their course will get all the payments for which they are eligible, even if the processing of their application form is delayed.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many education maintenance allowance payments have not been made on time in 2008; and what the average length of delay in those payments has been. [223195]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who have operational responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and hold the information about applications, payments and expenditure made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: South Gloucestershire

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for education maintenance allowances have been made by South Gloucestershire pupils for the 2008-09 academic year; how many such allowances *(a)* have been paid and *(b)* are outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [223393]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who have operational responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and hold the information about applications, payments and expenditure made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the money paid to the ETS to administer the marking of the national standard assessment tests has been repaid; and if he will make a statement. [223457]

Jim Knight: The total paid to ETS to administer the marking of the national standard assessment tests was £34,971,060.65, of which £19,500,000.00 has been returned. This represents 55.8 per cent. of the total money paid to ETS.

In addition, the total value of amounts invoiced by ETS but unpaid and cancelled as part of the agreement is £3,400,000. The estimate of remaining contracted cycle 1 costs uninvoiced and cancelled as part of the agreement is approximately £1,200,000. This gives a total of cancelled outstanding and anticipated invoices of £4,600,000.

Exam Results

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1207-12W, on science, what percentage of students who gained *(a)* a GCSE, *(b)* an A-level and *(c)* an AS-level in (i) biology or human biology, (ii) chemistry and (iii) physics at each grade were educated in (A) the mainstream maintained sector and (B) the independent sector in each year since 1997; [223191]

(2) what percentage of students who gained *(a)* a GCSE, *(b)* an A-level and *(c)* an AS-level in (i) French, (ii) German and (iii) Spanish at each grade were educated in (A) the mainstream maintained sector and (B) the independent sector in each year since 1997. [223192]

Jim Knight: Figures for the past three years are given as follows. To produce the figures for earlier years would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

Percentages of GCSE science entries and achievements made by pupils in the mainstream maintained sector

Percentage

	2005			2006			2007		
	Entries	*A-C*	*A-G*	*Entries*	*A-C*	*A-G*	*Entries*	*A-C*	*A-G*
Physics	68.1	66.5	68.1	70.3	68.7	70.3	72.1	70.6	72.0
Chemistry	68.0	66.1	68.0	70.2	68.6	70.2	71.9	70.3	71.9
Biological sciences	67.8	66.2	67.8	69.8	68.3	69.9	71.2	69.6	71.1
French	88.0	80.9	87.9	85.9	79.4	85.8	84.8	78.8	84.7
German	92.3	88.9	92.2	89.8	87.6	90.8	90.0	86.7	90.0
Spanish	81.6	73.0	81.4	80.4	72.8	80.3	79.8	72.6	79.7

Percentages of GCSE science entries and achievements made by pupils in the independent sector

Percentage

	2005			2006			2007		
	Entries	*A-C*	*A-G*	*Entries*	*A-C*	*A-G*	*Entries*	*A-C*	*A-G*
Physics	31.9	33.5	31.9	29.7	31.3	29.7	27.9	29.4	27.9
Chemistry	32.0	33.9	32.0	29.8	31.4	29.8	28.1	29.7	28.1
Biological sciences	32.1	33.8	32.2	29.9	31.7	30.1	28.5	30.4	28.6
French	12.0	19.1	12.1	14.1	20.6	14.2	13.2	21.2	13.3
German	7.7	11.1	7.8	9.1	12.4	9.2	10.0	13.3	10.0
Spanish	18.4	27.0	18.6	19.5	27.2	19.7	20.1	27.3	20.3

Notes:
1. Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.
2. Mainstream maintained sector includes academies and CTCs.

Percentage of GCE A level science and modern foreign language entries and achievements made by pupils in maintained mainstream and independent sectors

Percentage

	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*Other*	*A-E*	*Total*	*A*	*B*	*C*
Mainstream maintained											
2007											
Physics	63.6	76.1	82.6	87.4	90.6	91.9	76.5	77.1	36.3	23.7	17.2
Chemistry	63.6	78.2	83.8	88.9	90.8	91.6	76.9	77.3	36.3	21.5	15.8
Biological sciences	68.0	79.5	85.9	90.0	92.6	93.1	81.1	81.5	31.9	20.3	13.8
French	57.9	71.1	80.7	86.4	91.6	90.3	70.7	70.9	42.0	28.7	19.2
German	60.4	77.3	88.6	91.8	96.2	87.9	75.8	75.9	39.6	22.7	11.4
Spanish	49.9	66.5	76.7	87.3	92.3	90.0	63.0	65.2	49.9	33.4	23.1
2006											
Physics	62.3	74.3	81.7	85.5	88.4	90.5	75.4	76.0	37.6	25.6	18.2

Percentage of GCE A level science and modern foreign language entries and achievements made by pupils in maintained mainstream and independent sectors

Percentage

	A	B	C	D	E	Other	A-E	Total	A	B	C
Chemistry	62.8	75.8	83.0	87.9	90.5	93.1	76.0	76.5	37.1	23.9	16.8
Biological sciences	65.2	78.5	86.1	90.0	92.4	94.9	80.5	81.1	34.6	21.3	13.8
French	56.1	70.8	78.9	85.4	91.8	89.8	70.1	70.3	43.8	29.2	21.1
German	56.4	73.1	86.3	91.1	94.5	96.2	72.6	72.9	43.6	26.9	13.6
Spanish	48.3	63.8	74.8	83.9	92.8	92.6	63.5	63.8	51.6	35.7	25.2
2005											
Physics	62.7	74.6	82.4	86.9	91.3	92.0	76.5	77.2	37.2	25.4	17.5
Chemistry	61.2	75.3	81.9	87.0	90.1	92.1	75.3	75.8	38.8	24.6	17.9
Biological sciences	64.6	77.9	85.1	90.1	93.2	95.6	80.4	81.2	35.3	22.0	14.8
French	53.8	68.2	77.0	81.6	87.4	92.5	68.0	68.3	46.2	31.7	22.9
German	56.0	75.8	83.9	88.8	91.2	90.7	72.9	73.3	44.0	24.2	16.1
Spanish	47.6	58.5	71.6	82.3	90.5	83.0	61.0	61.2	52.4	41.4	28.2

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August)
2. Mainstream maintained sector includes academies, CTCs, sixth form colleges and school sixth forms.

Percentage of GCE AS level science and modern foreign language entries and achievements made by pupils in maintained mainstream and independent sector

Percentage

	A	B	C	D	E	Other	A-E	Total	A	B	C
Mainstream maintained											
2007											
Physics	72.1	80.9	85.8	89.1	91.4	94.3	83.1	85.0	27.8	19.1	14.0
Chemistry	73.8	82.3	87.7	90.3	91.7	95.4	84.7	86.5	26.1	17.4	12.0
Biological sciences	78.0	86.1	89.7	91.7	93.8	96.1	88.1	89.7	21.9	13.8	10.1
French	65.8	76.1	80.9	85.7	90.2	96.0	77.8	79.6	34.0	23.7	18.7
German	67.6	80.4	89.9	92.0	94.8	96.6	83.2	84.4	32.4	19.5	10.0
Spanish	60.4	66.9	75.7	81.2	88.0	96.0	72.8	74.9	39.1	33.1	24.2
2006											
Physics	71.1	80.4	86.2	89.1	90.3	94.5	82.5	84.6	28.9	19.5	13.7
Chemistry	71.5	82.0	87.6	90.2	92.4	96.4	84.2	86.2	28.4	17.9	12.3
Biological sciences	76.0	84.6	89.2	91.8	93.6	96.7	87.2	89.1	24.0	15.4	10.7
French	64.2	74.0	80.4	87.2	90.9	94.5	77.3	79.0	35.6	25.9	19.5
German	70.3	82.5	88.4	91.2	94.0	96.8	83.5	84.7	29.6	17.5	11.6
Spanish	58.0	67.1	74.2	81.8	89.2	94.7	72.3	74.3	41.8	32.9	25.8
2005											
Physics	68.7	78.9	84.3	87.8	90.4	94.7	81.3	83.7	31.2	21.0	15.6
Chemistry	70.5	80.1	86.5	89.4	92.3	95.8	83.2	85.3	29.3	19.8	13.4
Biological sciences	73.3	83.4	88.8	91.7	93.8	96.7	86.6	88.6	26.6	16.5	11.1
French	60.7	73.1	79.6	85.1	90.5	95.3	76.0	78.0	39.2	26.9	20.3
German	66.1	74.7	86.0	91.4	95.4	97.2	80.9	82.2	33.9	25.1	14.0
Spanish	55.6	65.2	70.3	81.9	88.0	94.3	70.6	72.9	43.8	34.6	29.4

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31st August).
2. Mainstream maintained sector includes academies, CTCs, sixth form colleges and school sixth forms.
3. Numbers of AS levels recorded will depend on the extent to which pupils cash-in their AS levels. This may vary considerably from school to school.

Foster Care: Grandparents

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of allowing grandparents looking after their grandchildren to become foster parents without the child being first placed in care. [223209]

Kevin Brennan: It is the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need and to promote the upbringing of such children by their families as required by the Children Act 1989. It is for local authorities to assess the needs of such children in the context of parental capacity and wider family and environmental factors and to decide whether they meet the criteria for the provision of accommodation under section 20 or whether care proceedings should be taken under section 31 of the Children Act 1989. A child who is voluntarily accommodated or subject to a care order is looked after. Once this decision has been made the local authority

must decide on the most suitable way to fulfil its responsibilities by providing accommodation for the child which may include as the first consideration, placing the child with a relative who has been approved as a foster carer. The Care Matters White Paper set out our commitment to develop a new framework to support family and friends care which includes greater flexibility to provide financial and other support to relatives caring for children who are not looked after.

Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding his Department in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [214506]

(2) on how many occasions staff employed by his Department have defrauded his Department in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214505]

(3) how many staff of his Department were responsible for each instance of fraud or attempted fraud in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [214504]

(4) what estimate he has made of the losses to his Department from fraud committed by staff of his Department in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214507]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. Cases of fraud against the Department are collected for the HM Treasury's annual fraud return. In this respect, there have been no cases submitted. There have also been no internal staff fraud cases reported.

My Department will not accept any level of fraud or corruption and any case will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with appropriately. The Department is committed to ensuring that the opportunities for fraud and corruption are reduced to the lowest possible level of risk.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215099]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for Children, Schools and Families central Communications Directorate has 85.9 staff classified as Government communicators. Across the Department other civil servants may have communication as a core part of their role as good communication is integral to help implement Government policy.

(b) The Department do not have any agencies.

(c) All civil servants who work in a communication role can access the Government Communications Network (GCN) and the resources that it provides.

Health Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to promote healthy living in schools and family homes. [220599]

Kevin Brennan: Promoting healthy living within families and in other children's settings such as schools is a priority for the Government.

The roll out of Sure Start children's centres, which provide access to services, including health services and advice on staying healthy in pregnancy and early childhood, for families with young children continues. There are now 2,900 children's centres with 3,500 planned for 2010, one for every community.

Our guidance for schools on their duty to promote pupil well-being, issued for consultation on 3 July, makes clear that schools have a key role to play in encouraging pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles and encourage healthy eating. In particular, the Government are promoting healthy lifestyles to children and young people through the national healthy schools programme. The programme uses a whole school/whole child approach to health. Schools achieving healthy schools status have to satisfy criteria under four core themes: Physical Activity; Healthy Eating; Personal, Social, Health and Economics education; and Emotional Health and Well-Being. Currently, 65 per cent. of schools have achieved healthy schools status and in total nine out of 10 schools are participating in this voluntary programme.

As the initial step in achieving our new ambition of being the first major nation to reverse the rising tide of obesity, in January 2008, the Government published "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England". Through this comprehensive strategy we aim to enable everyone to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Everyone has a part to play and the strategy sets out a vision of what this means for schools, the food industry, employers, health services, local authorities and central Government to play their part in helping children, young people and their families to make healthy choices in food and physical activity. The initial focus is on children, and by 2020 the Government aim to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels.

Fulfilling an important commitment in "Healthy Weight Healthy Lives", in March 2008 we published the updated Child Health Promotion Programme. This sets out the schedule of services to be offered to all families with young children and includes a range of health promotion topics to be raised with families such as safety in the home, nutrition, physical activity and smoking.

Another strong contribution to "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" is being made by the National PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. Already, 86 per cent. of school pupils are engaged in two hours of high quality PE and sport per week. Following the Prime Minister's announcement in July 2007, we have an increased focus on engaging all children and young people in PE and sport with an ambition of providing up to five hours of PE and sport a week for all five to 16-year-olds, and three hours for young people aged 16-19. This ambition includes a drive to secure full participation in at least two hours of PE or sport as part of the working school day, combined with effective signposting to further physical activity opportunities outside of school.

From 31 July we are moving from piloting parent support advisers in 20 local authorities to national expansion. These advisers have been working with parents

to improve children's behaviour and school attendance, offering advice with parenting, and providing support for families at the first sign a child or young person may be experiencing behavioural or emotional issues. In many cases they may be the first point of contact between parents and schools and where health issues are raised they are well placed to refer parents to the relevant specialist agencies.

In addition we are:

expanding the Family Nurse Partnership programme, in which health visitors provide intensive home visiting for vulnerable first time young parents, working with them from early pregnancy until the child is two years old. The programme is being expanded from 10 to 30 sites across the country; and

putting in place a proper dining culture in schools so that eating a healthy lunch is seen as normal by young people—particularly the 230,000 children eligible for, but not claiming, free school meals. Over three million children are now eating school dinners daily—an increase of around 30,000 extra pupils over last year.

In the autumn we will set out our strategy to further improve health outcomes for children and young people over the next 10 years.

Languages: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 15-year-olds took *(a)* a GCSE and *(b)* an A-level in (i) French, (ii) German, (iii) Spanish, (iv) Italian, (v) Mandarin Chinese and (vi) another modern foreign language in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [223456]

Jim Knight: The available figures for GCSE are given in the table. The information for the remaining years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold information on the A level achievements of 15-year-olds.

GCSE attempts in Modern Foreign Languages

	1997	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
French	52.2	48.9	45.0	38.2	32.1	28.7
German	21.7	19.4	18.1	15.5	13.0	11.5
Spanish	5.9	8.2	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.1
Italian	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Mandarin	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Other MFL	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5

Note:
Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools.
"Other MFL" includes 'Arabic', 'Bengali', 'Dutch', 'Gujarati', 'Japanese', 'Panjabi', 'Persian', 'Polish', 'Portuguese', 'Russian', 'Turkish' and 'Urdu'.

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* Basingstoke fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils achieved level 4 or above in mathematics and English in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [223400]

Jim Knight: The information is shown as follows:

Number of schools where fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils achieved Level 4

	2006		2007	
	English	Maths	English	Maths
England	1,785	2,555	1,484	2,026
Hampshire	25	47	17	28
Basingstoke	3	4	1	3

2008 results are not available until after the publication of the Primary School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The public service agreement (PSA) target is to reduce by 40 per cent. by 2008 the number of schools where less than 65 per cent. of pupils achieve level 4 in English and in maths (using the 2003 published figures as the baseline for measurement).

We have made exceptional progress to reduce low performance and are ahead of trajectory. In English the number of schools has reduced by nearly half (48 per cent.) with 1,484 schools below the target in English down from 2,849 in 2003. In mathematics the number of schools has reduced by 43 per cent. down from 3,570 to 2,026.

Oxford University: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of those students who were offered places at either Oxford or Cambridge University in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 were in receipt of free school meals. [215740]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Analysts in the Department are currently working on producing progression figures for FSM and non-FSM pupils, and we are planning to publish these by autumn. Information on the FSM background of higher education entrants in 2006 and 2007 is not currently available.

Parents: Alcoholism

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of alcohol dependency of one or both parents on family income; and what steps his Department is taking to protect the welfare of children in such circumstances. [219921]

Kevin Brennan: Department for Work and Pensions research on Public Attitudes to Child Poverty indicates an association between poverty and substance misuse that affects a very small minority of children. 4 per cent. of lone parents have alcohol dependency and 2 per cent. drug dependency and the respective figures for couples with children are 3 per cent. and 1 per cent. This is compared to the 22 per cent. of children living in poverty due to other factors.

The Government do not annually record the number of young people affected by parental alcohol misuse. However, the Interim Analytical report produced for the 2004, "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England" by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit estimates that between 780,000 and 1.3 million children are affected by parental alcohol problems. The Government recognise that parental alcohol misuse is a serious problem in the family and has negative effects on a child's life chances.

This is why my Department is investing in targeted services for those families at risk that will help to reduce the risk of dependency on alcohol and break the cycle of problems being transferred between generations.

The drug strategy, "Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities", published in February 2008, identified families as a key priority and highlighted the need for support to prevent future problems for children. This proposed a programme of intensive support services to reach the most chaotic families through programmes, such as the Family Interventions Project and Family Pathfinders, to develop local systems and services that improve outcomes for families at risk. We are committing to further evaluating a number of programmes to better gauge their impact on reducing alcohol problems.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities required to submit plans to his Department as part of the National Challenge did so before 1 August. [223193]

Jim Knight: In June we asked local authorities to review their existing plans for school improvement and consider the extra support that they and local partners would provide to lift schools above the floor by 2011. We asked local authorities to send us their plans, and their judgment on the support needed, by the end of July 2008.

All local authorities with schools below the floor target submitted their plans before 1 August, with the exception of local authorities in the Greater Manchester and Black Country City Challenge areas. These local authorities were asked to work on existing City Challenge time scales for agreeing support for schools.

Officials from the Department and the National Strategies are meeting with Directors of Children's Services throughout September to discuss these plans in more detail.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to ensure that changes to special educational needs and disability tribunals do not add to costs for parents. [220893]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, new rules of procedure have been drawn up for the Health, Education and Social Care chamber. SENDIST's judiciary and members have been fully involved in their creation. Members of SENDIST and the Tribunals Service are working to put in place a system which remains consistent with the tribunal's aims.

None of the changes will result in an increase in costs for parents. There will be no changes to the hearing or how it is conducted. Appeals will continue to be held by the same panel of judges and members and in the same accessible and informal manner as they are now.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have enrolled on diploma courses for *(a)* Construction and the Built Environment, *(b)* Engineering, *(c)* Society, *(d)* Health and Development, *(e)* Creative and Media and *(f)* Information Technology; and if he will make a statement. [223455]

Jim Knight: Learner numbers for all qualifications are still subject to change during the first weeks of the autumn term, as young people make their final decisions about the courses they want to pursue. We are gathering data from local authorities on Diploma learner numbers during this term, in order to make adjustments to the funding areas receive for Diplomas. We will publish this information before the end of the year.

Training and Development Agency for Schools: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the percentage change has been in the cost of administration at the Training and Development Agency for Schools since 2003-04. [223404]

Jim Knight: The Training and Development Agency's (TDA) administration grant in aid increased by 92 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2007-08 as shown.

Total administration expenditure trend

	£ million	Percentage
2003-04	13.0	36
2004-05	14.3	10
2005-06	21.3	49
2006-07	24.2	14
2007-08	25.0	[1]3

[1] year-on-year increase

The increase is as a result of the Education Act 2005 which created the TDA from the former Teacher Training Agency, increasing the Agency's remit to the whole school workforce in England. During the period TDA's programme expenditure increased from £501 million to £772 million, an increase of 54 per cent.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the £4.09 million of efficiency savings made by the Training and Development Agency for Schools between 2005-06 and 2007-08 was cashable. [223405]

Jim Knight: The total Training and Development Agency SR04 efficiency savings are cashable.

Training and Development Agency for Schools: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of each employee of the Training and Development Agency for Schools, including pension and social security costs, has been in each year since it was established. [223402]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the Training and Development Agency's (TDA) staff costs per employee; basic pay, national insurance and superannuation contributions for the period 1994-95, when the agency was established, to 2007-08 (31 March 2008).

Average cost per staff

	£000
1994-95	15
1995-96	28
1996-97	24
1997-98	25
1998-99	20
1999-2000	18
2000-01	18
2001-02	24
2002-03	28
2003-04	34
2004-05	33
2005-06	41
2006-07	46
2007-08	[1]46

[1] Net of staff cost related receipts.

The employee cost of £15,000 in 1994-95 is lower because it represents seven months of the financial year. The increase in costs seen in 2005-06 is due to the merger of two organisations where one had higher pay bands.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of the staffing costs of the Training and Development Agency for Schools were spent on temporary staff in 2007-08. [223403]

Jim Knight: As shown on page 53, note 6(b) of the 2007-08 accounts, the TDA staff numbers in 2007-08 totalled 334 (2006-07 = 308), of whom 45 were temporary employees (2006-07 = 22). The total permanent employed and temporary staff costs for the year were:

Temporary staff cost percentage

	2006-07	2007-08
Non temporary staff (£ million)	12.8	13.1
Temporary staff (£ million)	1.2	2.3
Temporary staff (percentage)	9	15

The increase in the number of temporary staff in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07 is due to a large number of new programmes that started in year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Administration of Justice: Translation Services

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to implement the national agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the Criminal Justice System, as revised in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [219875]

Mr. McNulty: The review of PACE has highlighted the need to consider revising PACE Code C on interpreters. We are currently working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Interpreters Working Group on determining how best to ensure that access to interpreting and translating services can be achieved at the police station. We hope to publish proposals by the end of 2008.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many working hours were lost in her Department due to sick leave in each year since 1997; and what information she holds on the number of working hours lost in the police service in that period. [199487]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is unable to provide sickness data in hours of its staff due to the way sickness is recorded on the personnel information management system. To provide data especially for the shift-working staff will require identifying shift patterns and manually counting sickness hours which would be disproportionate cost.

Essex Constabulary

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what national police responsibilities are tasked to Essex Constabulary for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [217740]

Mr. McNulty: In common with all other police forces in England and Wales, Essex Constabulary has a duty to consider the Home Secretary's strategic policing priorities and to have developed policing plans with its police authority which include plans for delivering protective services.

Essex Police Authority: Data Protection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that information kept by Essex Police Authority is *(a)* accurate and up-to-date and *(b)* kept securely; what recent discussions she has had with Essex Police Authority on this; and if she will make a statement. [218499]

Mr. McNulty: Such issues are a matter for the Police Authority in Essex.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each grade employed by her Department have *(a)* partial and *(b)* full access to data held by Essex Police Authority; what guidance her Department issues to persons seeking access to this data; and if she will make a statement. [218501]

Mr. McNulty: Staff in the Home Office Policing Statistics Group responsible for statistical data analysis have partial access to data held by the Essex police force rather than the Essex Police Authority as part of their responsibilities. Every police force in England and Wales is required to routinely submit statistical returns on a

variety of subject areas for which the Home Office Policing Statistics Group has, among other things, responsibility for quality assurance, producing statistical analysis and statistical outputs including police recorded crime. The Policing Statistics Group responsible for this statistical analysis is staffed as follows:

	Number
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	2
Senior Executive Officer	2
Higher Executive Officer	2
Senior Research Officers/Senior Statistical Office	5
Research Officer	1
Executive Officer	2
Research Trainee	1

The data from Essex police are transferred electronically to the Home Office Policing Statistics Collection Section which is headed by a Senior Executive Officer. In addition there is one Higher Executive Officer, one Executive Officer and four Administrative Officers involved in the data transfer and the initial quality assurance process.

All of these staff report ultimately to the Home Office Chief Statistician.

With the exception of data on homicides, all of the returns received involve aggregated data and no details of individuals are known. All published data are in aggregated form. In addition, staff within the Policing Statistics Group work to statistical disclosure procedures in accordance with the National Statistics guidance.

All of the datasets managed are password controlled. Staff new to the Policing Statistics Group are given instruction on how data should be handled and all of the staff involved are subject to the provisions laid out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Official Secrets Act 1989.

Forensic Science

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England conduct preliminary forensic testing in-house. [201458]

Mr. McNulty: No police forces in England conduct preliminary forensic testing relating to DNA in-house.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency plans she has in place in the event of large-scale losses of data from the DNA database. [201580]

Meg Hillier: The operation of the national DNA database is overseen by the custodian, who manages it both through his own staff and through a contract awarded to the Forensic Science Service (FSS), for operation and management of the NDNAD and its IT systems. The FSS is required to demonstrate compliance with specified security requirements, and the NDNAD system is subject to independent security accreditation.

Under business continuity planning arrangements for the NDNAD, the data held on it are backed up and could be recovered in the event of loss of data from the database.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been where the guilt of the person was determined by reference to samples held on the national DNA database, broken down by category of offence. [201979]

Meg Hillier: Information on the number of convictions obtained by reference to DNA is not collected, as convictions are obtained by integrated criminal investigation not by forensic science alone. However, data have been collected since 1998 on detections in which a DNA match was available and/or played a part in solving the crime. It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to March 2008, there have been over 272,000 detections. A breakdown of this figure by year is given in table 1. A breakdown of detections in 2007-08 by crime type is given in table 2.

Table 1: Number of detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part, April 1998 to March 2008, England and Wales

	Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available	Additional detections arising from DNA match[1]	Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part
1998-99	6,151	n/a	6,151
1999-2000	8,612	n/a	8,612
2000-01	14,785	n/a	14,785
2001-02	15,894	6,509	22,403
2002-03	21,098	12,717	33,815
2003-04	20,489	15,899	36,388
2004-05	19,873	15,732	35,605
2005-06	20,349	19,960	40,309
2006-07	19,949	21,199	41,148
2007-08	17,614	15,420	33,034
Total	164,814	107,436	272,250

n/a = Not available.
[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.

Table 2: Detections, 2007-08, England and Wales

Crime type	Number
Homicide	83
Rape	184
Robbery	617
Other violent crime	849
Other sex offences	64
Drugs offences	321
Domestic burglary	3,443
Other burglary	3,888
Theft from vehicle	2,201
Theft of vehicle	1,379
Criminal damage	3,180
All other recorded crime	1,407
Total	17,614

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information on the national DNA database her Department has received from other countries in 2007-08. [219142]

Meg Hillier: There are three categories of information sought from the national DNA database (NDNAD) by other countries.

1. Searches carried out against the NDNAD of DNA profiles from outstanding serious crimes or for the identification of an unknown deceased person believed to be a United Kingdom national. Reports are issued directly to the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB), based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), as to the outcome of each profile search. There were 727 responses to profile search requests in 2007-08.

2. Requests for the DNA profile held for a subject on the NDNAD, where fingerprints have been provided to the country that the individual currently resides in. Again this is information provided to SOCA. There were 89 subject DNA profiles provided in 2007-08.

3. Database management information. This provides the number of subject and crime scene DNA profile records held on the NDNAD and the number of match reports generated. Countries who do not have a DNA database use this information to demonstrate the success of the United Kingdom Database, to support their case for legislation in their own country for a DNA database.

Requestors are directed to the most recent published NDNAD annual report, thus no figures are kept for the numbers of such requests.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department of maintaining the national DNA database was in 2007-08. [219144]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 14 August 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1566-67W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to question 198757, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on the role of statutory agencies in the Channel Project; [213421]

(2) when she plans to reply to question 198654, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on discussions with police forces on the setting up of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; [213422]

(3) when she plans to reply to question 198758, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on areas selected under the Channel Project; [213423]

(4) when she plans to reply to question 198759, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on consultations on the Channel Project; [213424]

(5) when she plans to reply to question 198655, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on her Department's role in the development of the Channel Project. [213425]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1375-76W.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to Question 198751, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on the criteria to be used to determine the effectiveness of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; [214018]

(2) when she plans to reply to Question 198753, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe, on 31 March 2008, on Channel Project expenditure on combating violent extremism; [214019]

(3) when she plans to reply to Question 198755, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on the cost of the Channel Project to combat violent extremism; [214020]

(4) when she plans to reply to Question 198754, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on local community groups that the Channel Project to combat violent extremism plans to fund; [214021]

(5) when she plans to reply to Question 198756, tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008, on the numbers of people employed by the Channel Project to combat violent extremism. [214022]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 June 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1375-76W.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 198752 tabled by the hon. Member for Wycombe on 31 March 2008 on discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the Channel project. [214766]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1376W.

Passports

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the publication of draft legislation on the procedures for the issue and revocation of passports. [220479]

Meg Hillier: The Government have decided in principle to introduce such legislation but no timetable has yet been set.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Reducing Bureaucracy Awards scheme will continue in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [200386]

Mr. McNulty: The awards scheme will not continue in 2008. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) now leads the Government's work in this area and is working very closely with forces, authorities and frontline officers and staff to take this work forward.

Jan Berry will shortly take up a new post focussed on providing an independent voice to Government and the service to further improve performance in this area.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 602W, on bureaucracy, what proposals were made by those who received awards; and which police forces have adopted each of those proposals. [200387]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is as follows:

2003-04

1st place: Lancashire Constabulary—proposal related to officers no longer responding to requests from the DVLA to seize driving licenses.

Joint 2nd place: Metropolitan Police Service—proposal suggested bar coding prisoners' property when booked into a station.

3rd place: Thames Valley Police—proposal suggested improvements to exchange of data between officers and officials at DWP.

2004-05

1st place: Gloucestershire Constabulary—proposal suggested digitally recording interviews with suspects.

2nd place: Lancashire Constabulary—proposal suggested taking fingerprints on the street to confirm identity.

3rd place: Greater Manchester Police—proposal suggested detention officers issuing penalty notices for disorder (PND) in custody, under the supervision of a police officer.

2005-06

1st place: Metropolitan Police Service—proposal suggested automatic self population of originator personal details on electronic forms.

2nd place: Lancashire Constabulary—Proposal suggested the production of a PND direct from the police custody computer as a print out.

Special award: Chief Constable Martin Baker (Dorset Constabulary)—for his work on the .sorted intranet based initiative.

The Home Office does not hold central records for the number of forces which have adopted these proposals.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the current National Bureaucracy Adviser on Police Reform is. [219116]

Mr. McNulty: The role of national bureaucracy adviser came to an end in the summer of 2007. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) now leads the Government's work in this area and is working very closely with forces, authorities and frontline officers and staff to take this work forward.

Jan Berry will shortly take up a new post focussed on providing an independent voice to Government and the service to further improve performance in this area.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to encourage people from an ethnic minority background to join the police force. [218143]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office proposal to develop an Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy is set out in Cm 7448 "From the Neighbourhood to National: Policing Our Communities Together" at chapter 4 (4.16-4.24).

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/Policing_Green.pdf

Initiatives aimed at encouraging people from minority ethnic backgrounds to join the police force vary from force to force, but include: targeted advertising; mentoring; familiarisation days; and specific training to support candidates who may need assistance with language skills. The Government have encouraged the development of dedicated outreach posts to help forces build sustainable relationships with communities and encourage applications from those groups who are under represented in the service.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interview panels for police officer recruits in police forces in England and Wales include a person from an ethnic minority as standard practice. [218144]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is responsible for the design and quality assurance of police officer recruitment across England and Wales. New police officers are selected against national recruitment standards using the Police SEARCH® Assessment Centre selection technique. The Assessment Centre is centrally designed and locally delivered by forces using nationally accredited assessors and interviewers. There are currently 236 (12.1 per cent.) minority ethnic assessors on the central database of accredited assessors.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policies are in place to encourage police officers in England and Wales from an ethnic minority background to apply for senior positions. [218145]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office proposal to develop an Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy is set out in Cm 7448 "From the Neighbourhood to National: Policing Our Communities Together" at chapter 4 (4.16—4.24). Our general approach to leadership and senior appointments is set out at chapter3.

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/Policing_Green.pdf

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of police constables in England and Wales are from an ethnic minority; [218154]

(2) how many and what percentage of police officers in England and Wales at a rank above police constable are from an ethnic minority; [218155]

(3) how many and what percentage of *(a)* special constables and *(b)* police community support officers in England and Wales are from an ethnic minority; [218156]

(4) how many and what percentage of chief constables in England and Wales are from an ethnic minority; [218157]

(5) how many and what percentage of police commanders in England and Wales are from an ethnic minority. [218158]

Mr. McNulty: The latest available information relates to 31 March 2008 and is given in the following table. Separate information for chief constables and police commanders is not collected centrally so figures for ACPO rank officers are provided instead.

Number of police officers and staff in post, England and Wales, 31 March 2008[1]

		Number in post		
	Measure[2]	*Total*	*Ethnic minority*	*Ethnic minority percentage of total*
Police Constables	fte	108,884	4,823	4.4
Officers above the rank of police constable[3]	fte	32,975	970	2.9
Special Constables	hc	14,547	1,351	9.3
Police Community Support Officers	fte	15,805	1,813	11.5
ACPO rank officers[4]	fte	202	7	3.5

[1] Figures relate to the 43 forces in England and Wales, and exclude British Transport Police and secondments to Central Service organisations.
[2] Measures are in terms of full time equivalents (fte), except for special constables where a head count (hc) measure is appropriate.
[3] Includes Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector, Superintendent, Chief Superintendent and ACPO ranks.
[4] Includes Assistant Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Constable; in the Metropolitan Police Service, Commander, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner; in the City of London Police, Commander, Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner.

HEALTH

Abortion

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many terminations of pregnancies of women in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* region have taken place in each of the last 10 years. [223429]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Abortions by age and strategic health authority/region[1] of residence, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007

	Under 18	*18-19*	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35+*	*Total*
Strategic Health Authority							
2007							
North East	1,025	1,031	2,314	1,509	861	861	7,601
North West	3,035	3,385	7,668	4,863	3,105	2,969	25,025
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,090	2,246	4,999	3,194	1,968	2,186	16,683
East Midlands	1,431	1,686	3,782	2,486	1,603	1,750	12,738
West Midlands	2,288	2,651	6,352	4,234	2,711	2,734	20,970
East of England	1,751	2,018	4,448	3,348	2,293	2,718	16,576
London	3,386	4,454	13,862	12,560	8,218	7,733	50,213
South Central	1,216	1,522	3,397	2,458	1,762	2,001	12,356
South East Coast	1,388	1,715	3,636	2,769	1,997	2,421	13,926
South West	1,636	1,749	3,864	2,576	1,699	2,122	13,646
Wales	1,043	1,209	2,641	1,707	1,040	1,125	8,765
Total	20,289	23,666	56,963	41,704	27,257	28,620	198,499
2006							
North East	905	950	2,144	1,322	880	845	7,046
North West	2,595	3,111	6,951	4,303	2,882	2,819	22,661
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,922	2,138	4,806	2,948	2,108	2,049	15,971
East Midlands	1,323	1,506	3,535	2,344	1,771	1,721	12,200
West Midlands	2,197	2,484	6,076	4,018	2,806	2,743	20,324
East of England	1,604	1,891	4,475	3,301	2,394	2,871	16,536
London	3,173	4,639	14,081	12,869	8,501	7,809	51,072
South Central	1,163	1,501	3,482	2,554	1,895	2,112	12,707
South East Coast	1,278	1,604	3,466	2,657	2,014	2,410	13,429
South West	1,455	1,683	3,800	2,454	1,875	2,094	13,361
Wales	1,004	1,160	2,524	1,626	1,027	1,089	8,430
Total	18,619	22,667	55,340	40,396	28,153	28,562	193,737
Government Office Region							
2005							
North East	882	952	2,124	1,274	887	820	6,939
North West	2,548	2,719	6,667	3,990	2,901	2,720	21,545
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,726	1,945	4,463	2,868	2,013	1,958	14,973
East Midlands	1,251	1,464	3,484	2,285	1,699	1,713	11,896
West Midlands	2,054	2,354	5,557	3,677	2,743	2,759	19,144

Abortions by age and strategic health authority/region[1] of residence, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007

	Under 18	*18-19*	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35+*	*Total*
East of England	1,526	1,738	4,215	3,039	2,380	2,547	15,445
London	3,232	4,521	13,971	12,544	8,559	7,698	50,525
South East	2,460	2,814	6,911	4,959	3,831	4,449	25,424
South West	1,450	1,536	3,591	2,278	1,809	2,097	12,761
Wales	894	1,033	2,359	1,416	1,014	1,048	7,764
Total	18,023	21,076	53,342	38,330	27,836	27,809	186,416
2004							
North East	986	983	2,154	1,320	887	813	7,143
North West	2,454	2,725	6,246	3,809	2,857	2,688	20,779
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,715	1,822	4,246	2,658	2,016	1,902	14,359
East Midlands	1,299	1,476	3,448	2,147	1,706	1,689	11,765
West Midlands	1,888	2,369	5,550	3,527	2,680	2,585	18,599
East	1,462	1,797	4,104	2,889	2,387	2,679	15,318
London	3,408	4,554	14,180	12,639	8,751	7,874	51,406
South East	2,351	2,820	6,887	5,070	3,912	4,416	25,456
South West	1,400	1,652	3,596	2,295	1,853	2,070	12,866
Wales	929	1,052	2,290	1,405	1,015	1,033	7,724
Total	17,892	21,250	52,701	37,759	28,064	27,749	185,415
2003							
North East	1,023	911	2,094	1,182	914	794	6,918
North West	2,410	2,534	5,838	3,488	2,853	2,733	19,856
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,702	1,833	4,078	2,510	2,055	1,936	14,114
East Midlands	1,269	1,373	3,176	2,133	1,651	1,630	11,232
West Midlands	1,999	2,149	5,157	3,297	2,762	2,420	17,784
East	1,516	1,742	4,178	2,852	2,484	2,707	15,479
London	3,587	4,445	14,492	12,323	9,178	7,828	51,853
South East	2,269	2,659	6,642	4,625	3,914	4,384	24,493
South West	1,389	1,494	3,274	2,221	1,866	1,994	12,238
Wales	958	952	2,272	1,387	1,072	974	7,615
Total	18,122	20,092	51,201	36,018	28,749	27,400	181,582
2002							
North East	880	831	1,901	1,160	892	779	6,443
North West	2,361	2,447	5,523	3,595	2,858	2,565	19,349
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,683	1,667	3,914	2,453	2,074	1,789	13,580
East Midlands	1,209	1,309	3,005	1,973	1,688	1,586	10,770
West Midlands	1,886	2,092	4,773	3,243	2,708	2,449	17,151
East	1,461	1,568	3,860	2,756	2,473	2,497	14,615
London	3,501	4,343	14,112	12,439	8,967	7,694	51,056
South East	2,220	2,607	6,143	4,670	3,876	4,158	23,674
South West	1,342	1,489	3,106	2,142	1,872	1,947	11,898
Wales	906	916	2,141	1,364	1,095	974	7,396
Total	17,449	19,269	48,478	35,795	28,503	26,438	175,932
Regional office							
2001							
Trent	354	2,854	3,746	2,420	2,007	1,852	13,233
North West	487	4,336	5,556	3,661	2,921	2,421	19,382
Northern and Yorkshire	437	3,529	4,620	2,979	2,277	2,103	15,945
West Midlands	413	3,566	4,658	3,304	2,775	2,348	17,064
Eastern	305	2,838	3,895	2,909	2,472	2,255	14,674
London	640	7,182	13,990	12,501	9,200	7,590	51,103
South East	518	4,848	6,642	5,150	4,102	4,249	25,509
South West	285	2,578	3,039	2,175	1,938	1,899	11,914

Abortions by age and strategic health authority/region[1] of residence, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007

	Under 18	*18-19*	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35+*	*Total*
Wales	219	1,700	2,145	1,407	1,090	979	7,540
Total	3,658	33,431	48,291	36,506	28,782	25,696	176,364
2000							
Trent	350	2,966	3,654	2,628	2,080	1,744	13,422
North West	465	4,563	5,474	4,038	2,946	2,407	19,893
Northern and Yorkshire	496	3,648	4,605	3,310	2,338	2,074	16,471
West Midlands	456	3,660	4,740	3,421	2,821	2,319	17,417
Eastern	300	2,775	3,696	3,056	2,432	2,231	14,490
London	641	6,748	13,593	12,508	9,058	7,260	49,808
South East	539	4,713	6,304	5,169	4,120	4,062	24,907
South West	303	2,425	3,015	2,235	1,850	1,787	11,615
Wales	198	1,720	2,066	1,487	1,090	958	7,519
Total	3,748	33,218	47,147	37,852	28,735	24,842	175,542
1999							
Trent	403	3,034	3,576	2,752	2,092	1,759	13,616
North West	474	4,225	5,332	4,117	3,114	2,478	19,740
Northern and Yorkshire	479	3,740	4,476	3,412	2,382	2,057	16,546
West Midlands	393	3,528	4,181	3,375	2,768	2,311	16,556
Eastern	306	2,844	3,496	3,031	2,482	2,336	14,495
London	522	6,438	12,752	12,624	9,146	6,879	48,361
South East	502	4,676	6,177	5,185	4,151	4,028	24,719
South West	310	2,578	3,028	2,452	1,896	1,809	12,073
Wales	214	1,744	2,044	1,544	1,108	941	7,595
Total	3,603	32,807	45,062	38,492	29,139	24,598	173,701
1998							
Trent	401	3,075	3,575	2,962	2,218	1,733	13,964
North West	476	4,221	5,415	4,368	3,055	2,462	19,997
Northern and Yorkshire	520	3,824	4,554	3,550	2,575	2,092	17,115
West Midlands	460	3,596	4,354	3,730	2,869	2,265	17,274
Anglia and Oxford	315	2,962	3,756	3,203	2,633	2,250	15,119
North Thames	444	5,587	10,474	10,117	7,454	5,499	39,575
South Thames	495	4,715	7,379	7,261	5,551	4,559	29,960
South and West	411	3,487	4,227	3,544	2,904	2,465	17,038
Wales	237	1,769	2,066	1,631	1,190	936	7,829
Total	3,759	33,236	45,800	40,366	30,449	24,261	177,871

[1] There were changes in boundaries in 2006, 2002 and 1999. Strategic health authorities (SHA) are shown for 2006 and 2007. Government office regions are shown for 2002 to 2005. These are the same as the new SHAs, with the exception of the south east region, which equates to the combined area covered by the new South Central and South East Coast SHAs. Prior to 2002 data are shown for regional offices.

Note:
Age not stated are included in age group 20-24.

Blackpool Primary Care Trust: Cancer

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress Blackpool Primary Care Trust has made towards achieving its cancer screening targets in each year since 1997. [223129]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is set out in the following tables:

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 by specified organisations, at 31 March 1998 to 2007

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[2]	*2003*[2]	*2004*[2]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[2]
North West Lancashire Health Authority										
Eligible population[1]	41,205	41,787	42,111	42,460	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number screened (less than 3 years since last adequate test)	27,116	28,647	29,787	29,712	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 by specified organisations, at 31 March 1998 to 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002[2]	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]
Percentage coverage (less than 3 years since last adequate test)	65.8	68.6	70.7	70.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackpool PCT										
Eligible population[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,088	11,138	11,024	10,846	10,800	10,790
Number screened (less than 3 years since last adequate test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,073	8,462	8,287	7,645	8,143	6,513
Percentage coverage (less than 3 years since last adequate test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	72.8	76.0	75.2	70.5	75.4	60.4

n/a = not available
[1] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.
[2] Data for 2003 to 2006 have been aggregated to match current primary care organisation boundaries and need to be treated as estimates. Data before 2003 are for health authority areas and are not directly comparable.
Notes:
1. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous 3 years.
2. Coverage of the screening programme is currently best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
3. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001.
4. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.
Source:
KC63 The Information Centre for health and social care.

Cervical screening programme: coverage of women aged 25-64, for specified organisations, 31 March 1998 to 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002[2]	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]
North West Lancashire Health Authority										
Eligible population[1]	111,823	111,967	111,560	111,362	111,451	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number screened (less than 5 years since last adequate test)	92,018	91,373	91,727	91,295	91,473	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test)	82.3	81.6	82.2	82.0	82.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackpool PCT										
Eligible population[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,318	35,345	35,338	35,358	35,516
Number screened (less than 5 years since last adequate test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28,053	27,708	27,087	26,615	26,620
Percentage coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	79.4	78.4	76.7	75.3	75.0

n/a = not available
[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
[2] Data for 2003 to 2006 have been aggregated to match current PCO boundaries and need to be treated as estimates. Data before 2003 are for health authority areas and are not directly comparable.
Notes:
1. National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).
2. Data prior to 2002 are estimates, original data were based on last test with a result, not last adequate test (as used currently) and have been adjusted to allow for this.
3. Data prior to 1999 has been revised from published data, to not exclude from the eligible population (denominator) women whose recall was ceased due to age or other non-clinical reasons.
Source:
KC53 Parts A2 and A3 The Information Centre for health and social care

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* population, *(b)* five year cancer survival rate and *(c)* NHS spending on cancer was in each cancer network in the most recent period for which figures are available. [223358]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the latest estimated populations for each cancer network as of

January 2008 and the national health service spending by population expenditure on cancer in 2006-07 for each cancer network.

Cancer network name	Estimated population	Expenditure by network population—2006-07 (£000)
Lancashire and South Cumbria	1,513,734	133,275
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	3,026,670	274,357
Merseyside and Cheshire	2,013,727	187,023
Yorkshire	2,636,000	238,854
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	1,053,083	86,902
North Trent	1,772,905	148,830
Pan Birmingham	1,902,118	167,296
Arden	989,922	88,843
Mid Trent	1,622,313	160,503
Derby/Burton	694,250	58,756
Leicestershire Northants and Rutland	1,612,309	128,794
Mount Vernon	1,237,808	88,326
West London	1,829,803	117,649
North London	1,513,763	116,330
North East London	1,535,083	124,828
South East London	1,527,993	115,738
South West London	1,555,376	119,113
Peninsula	1,632,990	125,903
Dorset	698,684	67,531
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	1,879,525	145,581
3 Counties	1,035,537	76,604
Thames Valley	2,328,161	164,428
Central South Coast	1,950,651	151,874
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	1,193,245	102,870
Sussex	1,154,727	89,722
Kent and Medway	1,624,863	124,839
Greater Midlands	1,882,323	151,263
North of England	2,995,948	270,834
Anglia	2,667,897	196,578
Essex	1,384,217	98,944

Source:
National Cancer Intelligence Network and the Department of Health

Collection and publication of one and five year survival rates is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics and can be obtained from their website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=861&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=374

A copy of these data have been placed in the Library.

It is not possible to provide the five-year cancer survival rates for each cancer network, as parts of this data may make it possible to identify individual patients.

Cervical Cancer: Yorkshire and the Humber

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the take-up rate for cervical smear tests was in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire, *(b)* Hull and *(c)* North Lincolnshire primary care trust areas in each of the last 10 years. [223293]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is set out in the following table.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
East Riding Health Authority										
Eligible Population[1]	139,988	138,854	139,990	139,870	139,847	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Number screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	117,911	117,644	118,834	118,741	119,131	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Coverage (Less than five years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	84.2	84.7	84.9	84.9	85.2	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
South Humber Health Authority										
Eligible Population[1]	76,591	76,293	76,581	76,511	76,540	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	64,337	64,030	64,268	63,551	63,763	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Coverage (Less than five years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	84.0	83.9	83.9	83.1	83.3	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Lincolnshire Health Authority										
Eligible Population[1]	143,024	152,682	155,776	157,800	159,786	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	128,640	128,403	129,784	130,529	132,397	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Coverage (Less than 5 years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	86.3	84.1	83.3	82.7	82.9	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT										
Eligible Population[1]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	73,635	74,364	74,972	75,583	77,786

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	64,097	64,361	64,478	64,335	64,349
Coverage (Less than five years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	87.0	86.5	86.0	85.1	82.7
Hull Teaching PCT										
Eligible Population[1]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	65,658	65,923	66,417	66,553	68,531
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	54,685	54,258	54,007	53,739	53,494
Coverage (Less than five years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	83.3	82.3	81.3	80.7	78.1
North East Lincolnshire PCT										
Eligible Population[1]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	38,286	39,350	39,135	39,090	39,581
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	31,112	31,759	31,895	31,612	31,591
Coverage (Less than five years since last 1 adequate test)(Percentage)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	81.3	80.7	81.5	80.9	79.8
North Lincolnshire PCT										
Eligible Population[1]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	38,182	39,024	39,129	39,501	40,313
Number Screened (Less than five years since last adequate test)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	31,889	32,313	32,450	32,400	32,332
Coverage (Less than five years since last adequate test)(Percentage)	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	83.5	82.8	82.9	82.0	80.2

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
[2] Not available.
Notes:
1. Data for 2003 to 2006 have been aggregated to match current primary care organisation boundaries and need to be treated as estimates. Data before 2003 are for Health Authority areas and are not directly comparable.
2. National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).
3. Data prior to 2002 are estimates, original data were based on last test with a result, not last adequate test (as used currently) and have been adjusted to allow for this.
4. Data prior to 1999 has been revised from published data, to not exclude from the eligible population (denominator) women whose recall was ceased due to age or other non-clinical reasons.
Source:
KC53 Parts A2 and A3 The Information Centre for health and social care.

Cholesterol

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce reported high exception rates to lowering cholesterol levels among patients in spearhead primary care trusts. [223131]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest research by the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre shows that although practices in deprived areas have slightly higher exception rates for patients than practices in affluent areas, deprivation related variation in reported quality of care for measured activities reduced during the first three years of the quality outcomes framework resulting in more equitable delivery of health care for these activities.

Nevertheless, the average rate of exception reporting is just under 6 per cent. There are considerable variations between indicators and between practices. We propose to discuss with the profession how we can minimise exception reporting (as recommended by the National Audit Office) in order to ensure that all patients who would benefit from treatment have access to it.

Clostridium

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* deaths from and *(b)* cases of (i) clostridium difficile and (ii) MRSA there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [223356]

Mr. Bradshaw: Death certificate data published by Office for National Statistics (ONS) covers all certificates where *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) or *clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) is cited as a contributory factor to or an underlying cause of death. Death certificates do not record the place where an infection was acquired.

Many patients who become infected with a healthcare associated infection (HCAI) have other serious and

potentially fatal underlying medical conditions. Doctors do not record all diseases or conditions present at death, only those that contribute directly to it. It is a matter of individual professional judgment whether the doctor lists an HCAI as a contributory cause and this will depend, generally, on whether the doctor thinks that the patient would have survived significantly longer if they had not developed an infection.

There has been a number of initiatives to raise the profile of HCAIs and improve their acknowledgement as diagnoses in their own right. In July 2005 and October 2007 the chief medical officer reminded doctors of the importance of giving full and accurate information on the death certificate, particularly in recording HCAIs.

Table 1 provides regional data on the number of death certificates on which *C. difficile* was mentioned for 1999 and 2001 to 2007.

Table 2 provides regional data on the number of death certificates on which MRSA was mentioned from 1997 to 2007.

NHS acute trusts are required to report all *C. difficile* toxin positive faecal specimens and all MRSA positive blood cultures processed by their laboratories, whether clinically significant or not and whether acquired in that trust or elsewhere.

Tables 3 to 5 provide data on mandatory surveillance data for *C. difficile* and MRSA.

Mandatory surveillance of *C. difficile* infection for patients aged 65 years and over began in January 2004. Table 3 provides regional data on the number of recorded *C. difficile* cases for patients aged 65 years and over by calendar year 2004 to 2007.

Mandatory surveillance of *C. difficile* infection was extended to include data for all patients aged two years of age and over in April 2007. Table 4 provides regional data on the number of recorded *C. difficile* cases for patients aged 2-64 from April 2007 to March 2008.

Mandatory surveillance of MRSA bacteraemia (or bloodstream infections) began in April 2001. Table 5 provides regional data on the number of recorded MRSA bacteraemia cases by financial year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. There is no mandatory surveillance of non-bacteraemia MRSA infections, these present a significantly lower risk in terms of patient safety.

All tables have been placed in the Library.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people participating in the bowel cancer screening programme *(a)* in Bolton and *(b)* nationally. [223379]

Mr. Bradshaw: As at 31 July 2008, uptake in the area covered by Bolton primary care trust is 50.02 per cent., with 16,252 invitation letters sent out and 8,130 testing kits returned since 12 February 2007, when the roll out of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme commenced in Bolton.

Nationally, from 3 July 2006, when the first invitations to take part in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme were issued, to 31 July 2008, uptake is 51.75 per cent. 1,203,015 invitation letters have been sent and 622,384 testing kits returned.

Dementia: Research

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on research into *(a)* dementia excluding DenDRon and *(b)* neurogenerative diseases since 2000; [223142]

(2) how much his Department has spent on research into non-Alzheimer's dementia since 2000. [223143]

Mr. Bradshaw: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) support research into neurodegenerative disease and dementia. The expenditure information available is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Expenditure on dementia research		
	Department[1]	*Medical Research Council*	*Total*
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2
2005-06	18.3	6	24.3
2006-07	22.8	6.4	29.2

[1] Includes Dementia and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network spend of £0.4 million in 2005-06 and £1.8 million in 2006-07.

The Departmental figures for the years from 2002-03 to 2003-04 relate to national research programme expenditure on projects concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and care of people with dementia. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually at that time to national health service providers and spent on dementia and other progressive neurodegenerative conditions research. That information was not collected prior to 2004-05.

The Department does not collect expenditure data at the level that would be required to provide details of spend on particular dementia types. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS in the period in question can be found on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

The MRC awarded over £150 million to support research on neurodegenerative diseases between 2002 and 2006. Details of annual expenditure in this area is not currently available.

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to funding research into off-patent drug treatments for dementia. [223144]

Mr. Bradshaw: A draft of a National Dementia Strategy was published on 19 June for consultation. The consultation closes on 11 September 2008 and we will carefully consider all the responses we receive before deciding the final shape of the National Strategy, and what resources are available to support its implementation. As part of this consultation we have invited views on a dementia research summit for funders, charities and industry to review how all parties can work together to deliver a programme of research into prevention, cause, cure and care and, separately, a review of the use of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into

the causes and treatment of dementia in each of the last five years; and what the projected level of spending on such research is for the next three years. [223232]

Mr. Bradshaw: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council support research into dementia. Annual expenditure figures are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on dementia research

£ million

	Department	*Medical Research Council*	*Total*
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2
2005-06	18.3	6	24.3
2006-07	22.8	6.4	29.2

The departmental figures for the years from 2002-03 to 2003-04 relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually at that time to national health service providers and spent on dementia and other neurodegenerative conditions research. That information was not collected prior to 2004-05.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy Best Research for Best Health is being managed by and through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Awards are made after open, competitive, peer review. Future levels of expenditure on dementia will be determined by the success of relevant bids for NIHR funding. A number of those made over the last two years have already been successful.

Dental Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his report on the future of NHS dentistry. [223318]

Mr. Bradshaw: In order to identify and spread good practice the Department will evaluate how local commissioning is working in terms of the patient experience—both access and quality of services, and the incentives it offers to increase access and encourage prevention and health promotion, as well as treatment. The Department will also set out a vision for national health service dentistry in five years time. The evaluation will take place over the next few months and will be completed by the end of the year.

Dental Services: Termination of Employment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net number of dentists that have left the NHS since 1 April 2006. [223357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is contained in NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 which has been placed in the Library.

Following a recent consultation exercise on how to count the dental work force carried out by the NHS Information Centre, these figures are based on a revised methodology. The new measure of national health service dentists counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year. The NHS Information Centre has published figures for the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008.

Dentists who had activity recorded against them via FP17 forms in a year, but none the following year are recorded as a "leaver" in their last year of activity. Information on the numbers of leavers is only available at present for 2006-07. Information on the number of leavers for 2007-08 will be available only after the end of 2008-09.

The number of dentists who left the NHS in 2006-07 and those who joined the NHS in 2007-08 are available in Table 33 of the report. The numbers of dentists in 2006-07 and in 2007-08 and the difference between the two years are available in Table 32 of the report which is also available on the Information for Health and Social Care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Dental Services: Video Conferencing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment on the potential of video-conferencing to *(a)* facilitate the deregulation of dental care and *(b)* allow dental hygienists to deliver a greater proportion of treatment with remote diagnosis by dentists. [223185]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is an interesting suggestion, which we will bring to the attention of the General Dental Council (GDC). The GDC is responsible for the regulation of dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) including dental hygienists. The GDC's rules currently require that dental hygienists work to a treatment plan prepared by a dentist. However, in the spring, the GDC issued a consultation paper on the scope of practice of DCPs which invited comments on what additional training would be required to allow dental hygienists to see patients directly. The results of the consultation will be considered by a newly constituted GDC, which will be established in 2009.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219599]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219954]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221088]

Mr. Bradshaw: This Department supports and aims to meet the Government's targets to reduce carbon

emissions and improve the energy efficiency of the Government estate. While our energy efficiency (measured as consumption per m^2) has reduced over the period, to date largely due to our policy of closing buildings and concentrating more staff in our remaining estate.

We are committed to achieving the current Government targets to improve our energy efficiency by 15 per cent. by 2010, and 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000. We are working with the Carbon Trust to identify energy saving measures, and to implement a Carbon Management Programme throughout our core estate and in our arms length bodies.

(i) The changes in energy efficiency of our buildings (measured in kWh per m^2) since 1999-2000, which is the earliest year for which figures are available, are:

2006-07

	Percentage
Gas/fuel oil	-16
Electricity	+29
Total	+12

(ii) The change since 2002-03 is as follows:

2006-07

	Percentage
Gas	+0.5
Electricity	+31.7
Total	+20.9

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221104]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not entered into any rental or purchase commitments for any buildings where it is responsible for energy efficiency within the last 20 years.

In the event that the Department enters into any arrangements for a new purchase or rental, due diligence would be undertaken to ensure that the building and its fabric met criteria for energy efficient operation and that any Display Energy Certificate, DEC, (to be introduced from October 2008) was scrutinised.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221582]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies have not given any free or discounted room hire to non public or commercial organisations in the last five years. Rooms are however made available to other Government Departments and organisations in the public sector.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in the Department. [223280]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses Resource as its cleaning contractor. Current hourly rates of pay for cleaning staff are as follows:

	£ per hour
Cleaner part-time	5.52
Cleaner full-time	6.00
Supervisor part-time	6.30
Supervisor full-time	8.25

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 highest payments made by his Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216706]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been two cases of property compensation made in 2006-07. This information has been extracted from the Department's Losses and Special Payments Register for which information was last available 2006-07 and shown in the following table.

Description	*Number of cases*	*Value (£)*
Compensation payment to a member of staff after monies were stolen on DH premises.	1	170.00
Compensation payment to a member of staff after damage to personal property on DH premises.	1	20.00
Grand total	2	190.00

Neither case was contested.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221711]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215191]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's media centre employs members of staff at various grades from executive officer through to senior civil service 1 (salary scales given in the following table). The average cost of employing a member of staff in 2007-08, including salary, allowances, pension and national insurance contributions was

£49,440.71. This is not an average salary figure, it is a figure that includes all of the extra costs to the Department on top of the salary.

	£	
	Minimum	*Maximum*
Executive Officer	21,579	28,290
Higher Executive Officer	26,781	35,687
Senior Executive Officer	32,357	43,844
Grade 7	42,755	58,982
Grade 6	53,074	71,470
Senior Civil Service 1	57,300	116,000

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on departmental intranet, whether the individuals pictured on the green banner headings of his Department's webpages *(a)* http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm, *(b)* http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/index.htm, *(c)* http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/index.htm, *(d)* http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm and *(e)* http:www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/index.htm are employed by the NHS [221448]

Mr. Bradshaw: Images from the following pages of the Department's website have been sourced as follows:

(a) htttp://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm—(NHS and social care staff and service users)

(b) htttp://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/index.htm—(Social care staff and care home resident)

(c) htttp://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/index.htm

(d) htttp://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

(e) htttp://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/index.htm

The final three web pages contain images sourced from a commercial photographic library.

We are unable to determine whether any of these individuals are employed by the NHS.

Departmental Managers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1818W, on departmental managers, on what dates meetings of the national clinical directors have taken place in the last 12 months; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of each meeting. [209185]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the 12 months considered, the national clinical directors (NCDs) have had their monthly meetings on:

15 May 2008;
17 April 2008;
13 March 2008;
14 February 2008;
17 January 2008;
12 December 2007;
13 November 2007;
3 October 2007;
21 September 2007;
10 July 2007; and
19 June 2007

The NCDs did not meet during the month of August 2007.

The monthly meeting of the NCDs is primarily for the NCDs to update each other on their activities and for them to be kept informed on policy developments within the Department. The minutes serve to inform those directors not present of the issues that were discussed. Placing full copies of the minutes of these meetings in the Library would inhibit future free and frank discussion of the directors. Summaries of the minutes of each of the last 12 month's meetings have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221244]

Mr. Bradshaw: The hours of overtime worked by staff in the Department staff in each of the last 12 months broken down by pay grade, are presented in the following table.

	Grades								
	AO	*EO*	*HEO*	*FS*	*SEO*	*G7*	*G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
2007									
April	118	637	486	86	675	724	7	—	2,733
May	50	531	325	315	1,196	661	57	—	3,134
June	153	617	361	375	739	613	5	21	2,883
July	55	599	426	261	566	659	35	—	2,600
August	67	836	473	299	725	359	19	28	2,805
September	101	217	233	50	347	141	28	—	1,117
October	39	276	168	85	475	289	18	50	1,399
November	93	533	614	289	528	324	37	47	2,464
December	108	713	570	219	416	567	56	40	2,698
2008									
January	159	538	577	292	425	362	81	60	2,493
February	107	595	767	259	645	355	51	34	2,811
March	40	475	459	111	475	97	102	57	1,816

	Grades								
	AO	*EO*	*HEO*	*FS*	*SEO*	*G7*	*G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Grand total	1,088	6,567	5,467	2,640	7,210	5,151	493	336	28,952

Key to abbreviations:
AO—Administrative Officer
EO—Executive Officer
HEO—Higher Executive Officer
FS—Fast Stream
SEO—Senior Executive Officer
G7—Grade 7
G6—Grade 6
SCS—Senior Civil Service

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221293]

Mr. Bradshaw: The costs in pounds of overtime payments to staff in Department for each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade, are presented in the following table.

	Grade								
	AO	*EO*	*HEO*	*FS*	*SEO*	*G7*	*G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
2007									
April	1,366	10,258	7,498	1,144	10,801	14,869	181	–	46,116
May	647	8,723	5,254	4,296	17,554	11,499	1,361	–	49,334
June	1,748	9,761	5,592	5,024	11,918	13,355	199	556	48,153
July	709	10,130	6,444	3,585	8,252	11,152	875	–	41,146
August	837	13,779	7,403	4,210	12,371	6,277	426	894	46,198
September	1,335	3,480	3,489	717	5,452	2,717	841	–	18,030
October	543	5,057	2,688	1,111	8,075	5,594	705	1,462	24,833
November	1,202	8,934	8,936	4,395	9,563	5,790	1,305	1,341	41,467
December	1,414	12,284	8,237	3,438	6,909	10,021	1,303	1,158	44,754
2008									
January	2,135	8,901	8,324	4,459	6,846	8,606	2,748	1,694	43,712
February	1,481	9,825	12,294	3,980	10,732	7,025	1,513	988	47,838
March	477	8,205	6,338	1,693	8,773	1,851	3,309	2,376	33,022
Total	13,893	109,337	82,496	38,052	117,238	98,668	14,453	10,469	484,606

Key to grade abbreviations:
AO—Administrative Officer
EO—Executive Officer
HEO—Higher Executive Officer
FS—Fast Stream
SEO—Senior Executive Officer
G7—Grade 7
G6—Grade 6
SCS—Senior Civil Service

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220725]

Mr. Bradshaw: For photocopying purposes the Department uses 100 per cent. recycled paper.

For printed publications use of recycled paper accounts for 50 per cent. of the paper used.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221178]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount claimed in reimbursable expenses by Departmental press officers in each of the last three financial years is detailed in the following table.

	Amount claimed (£)
2005-06	5,046.98
2006-07	3,329.47
2007-08	2,495.45

Figures for the amount claimed by agencies are not held centrally.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221482]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department monitors the cost of its email services using the Royal Mail Online Business Account.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220434]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's standard terms and conditions state that the contractor shall be paid monthly in arrears within 30 days upon receipt of a properly prepared invoice. The Department does not have a standard policy regarding discounts for early payments.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; and what the (i) purpose, (ii) cost, (iii) private contractor and (iv) amount paid to the private contractor was in each case. [221353]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215977]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average length of single periods of sick leave, in days, for the Department and its agencies in each of the last three years are presented in the following table.

Organisation	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*Days 2005-06*
Department of Health	4.03	5.84	6.73
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	2.76	4.25	6.55
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency	4.55	3.83	4.00

Information is not available before 2005. Cabinet Office reporting changed from calendar years to financial years between 2005 and 2006.

Providing information for the other bodies reporting to the Department would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [216143]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates of the amounts paid in sick pay to staff in the Department and its agencies in the last three years, and the proportion of staffing expenditure this represents for each body, are presented in the following table.

	Department of Health		*Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency*		*NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency*	
	Sick pay (£)	*Proportion (percentage) of staffing expenditure*	*Sick pay (£)*	*Proportion (percentage) of staffing expenditure*	*Sick pay (£)*	*Proportion (percentage) of staffing expenditure*
2007-08	2,386,000	2.36	1,166,000	3.07	212,000	2.09
2006-07	2,926,000	2.89	1,116,000	2.93	249,000	2.44
2005	3,151,000	3.11	490,000	1.29	701,000	6.89

Notes:
1. The figures for 2007-08 are based on the average number of working days lost per member of staff due to sickness absence in that year, the average salary of staff at the middle of the year (September 2007) and the number of staff at the middle of the year (September 2007). Figures for 2006-07 and 2005 use the same average salaries and numbers of staff, but actual working days lost for the year in question. The use of average salaries will overestimate payments and expenditure since more senior (more highly paid) staff take less sickness absence than more junior (lower paid) staff, based on analysis of absence by grade in 2007-08.
2. The change from calendar years to financial years between 2005 and 2006 represents a change in Cabinet Office sickness absence reporting periods. Information is not available for years before 2005.
3. Providing information for other bodies reporting to the Department would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200127]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department runs or supports the following lines, using the *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 telephone numbers for the public. This corrects the information given in written answers to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy), on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1206W, and to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 109-10W.

	Telephone number
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690881
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690882
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690883
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690884
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690885
Asian Tobacco Helpline	08001690886
British Heart Foundation (Tobacco)	08001691900
Drinkline	08009178282
Drinkline	08006781110

	Telephone number
Drinkline	08007076336
Drinkline	08008766622
Drinkline	08008766776
Drinkline	08008766778
FRANK	0800776600
FRANK Minicom	08009178765
Hepatitis C Line	08000850859
Hepatitis C Line	0800451451
DDSHL Helpline 2007	08000121636
DDSHL Helpline 2007	08000121737
Pregnancy Smoking Helpline	08001699169
Sexual Health Line	0800567123
Sexual Health Line Minicom	0800521361
Sexwise	0800282930
Smoking Helpline	08001690169
Smoking Helpline	08009176699
Smoking Helpline	08000327252
Smoking Helpline	08001691236
Smoking Helpline	0800884411
Smoking Helpline	08001695262
Smoking Helpline	08005975976
Smoking Helpline	08001691697
Smoking Helpline	08000665623
Smoking Helpline	08000665552
Smoking Helpline Minicom	08001690171
Smoking Helpline	08001690256
Smoking Helpline	08005975976
Smoking Helpline	08000665552
Smoking Helpline	08000665598
Smoking Helpline	08001691236
Smoking Helpline	08000327252
Smoking Helpline	08000854413
Smoking Helpline	08000854489
Smoking Helpline	08000854564
Smoking Helpline	08000121551
Smoking Helpline	08000121612
Smoking Helpline	08000855076
Smoking Helpline	08000854332
Smoking Helpline	08000855052
EHIC Order Line	08456050707
EHIC enquiry line	08456062030
Healthy Start	08456076823
Healthy Start Minicom	08456017698
Social Work and Care Careers Recruitment Line	08456046404
Social Work and Care Careers Recruitment Minicom	08456016121

The Department ran the following non-revenue generating lines, using *(c)* 0870 numbers. While they were mainly for the use of national health service and social services professionals, there was some use by the public. Since May 2008, these services have been available via 0300 numbers but the 0870 numbers need to be maintained until the end of March 2009 to allow for the transition.

	Telephone number
DH Publication Orderline	08701 555 455
DH Publication Orderline minicom	08700 102 870

(a) 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by (ii) agencies which report to the Department.

The Department's Executive agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency have no 0800, 0845 or 0870 numbers for use by the public.

The Department has 25 arms length bodies and a number of national programmes e.g. NHS Employers. Information about telephone services for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of overseas visits made by members of staff in his Department in each of the last three years. [221522]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total cost of overseas visits made by members of staff of the Department in the last three years have been:

	£
2006	1,044,298.67
2007	722,803.56
2008	699,189.50.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220186]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers and proportions of staff in the Department and its agencies who are disabled are presented in the following table:

	Number	Proportion (percentage)
Department of Health	110	5.9
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	10	1.6
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)	—	<1.3

The figures in the table are taken from information published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as at 30 September 2007. They exclude people who have not declared their disability status. A number is not quoted for PASA because it was less than five; the proportion is therefore based on a maximum number of four.

The median salaries of full-time disabled staff, full-time non-disabled staff, part-time disabled staff and part-time non-disabled staff are presented in the following table:

£

	Full-time disabled	Full-time non-disabled	Part-time disabled	Part-time non-disabled
Department of Health	35,360	39,240	30,670	37,400
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	41,280	33,340	—	38,230
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	—	34,840	—	32,550

These figures are also taken from ONS information as at 30 September 2007. They exclude people who have not declared their disability status. Salaries are not quoted where there were less than five people in the category.

The civil service is committed to reflecting the society it serves, at all levels, including disabled people. The recently published "Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity—A Strategy for the Civil Service" builds on what has already been achieved and sets out what the civil service wants to achieve in equality and diversity in employment over the next three to five years. It also provides a framework against which Departments and agencies will take actions.

Reward arrangements below the senior civil service (SCS) are delegated to individual Departments and agencies. For the SCS, Departments and agencies are responsible for their own reward arrangements within a framework set by Cabinet Office. Departments and agencies are responsible for equality proofing their own reward systems.

Due to the self-reporting nature of disability and the relatively large proportion of civil servants whose disability status is unknown or undeclared, care should be exercised when drawing conclusions based on these statistics.

Extreme care should also be exercised when making comparisons of salaries between part-time and full-time disabled and non-disabled staff. For example, a simple comparison of median salary by disability status and working pattern does not take account of the different responsibility levels of the individuals concerned. Therefore, any meaningful comparison should take account of these compositional differences.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were discharged from treatment for drug misuse in England categorised as *(a)* treatment completed drug free, *(b)* treatment completed not drug free, *(c)* dropped out, *(d)* referred to other treatment, *(e)* individual entered prison, *(f)* individual died and *(g)* reason not known in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; [223388]

(2) how many individuals discharged from treatment for drug misuse in England on the grounds that they completed treatment drug free in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 subsequently re-entered treatment for drug misuse. [223389]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of individuals discharged from structured treatment for drug misuse, by discharge reason, for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07.

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Discharge reason[1]	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Treatment completed drug free	6.5	3,632	7.2	4,559	8.8	5,829
Treatment completed	13.8	7,656	16.8	10,662	19.7	13,022
Treatment completed—referred	8.1	4,516	10	6,348	13.1	8,662
Total successful discharges	28.4	15,804	33.9	21,569	41.6	27,513
Dropped out/left	43.1	23,955	41.1	26,136	35.8	23,646
Prison	4.4	2,441	5.5	3,486	6.2	4,069
Treatment declined by client	—	—	0.3	190	1.2	792
Treatment withdrawn/breach of contract	5.3	2,947	4.4	2,766	3.6	2,357
Moved away	2.6	1,448	2.4	1,521	2.7	1,772
Died	1.1	602	0.8	514	1.0	633
Inappropriate referral	—	—	1.2	759	1	646
No appropriate treatment available	1.3	695	6.1	3,863	4.3	2,816
Other	7.9	4,383	3.7	2,376	2.4	1,556
Not known	3	1,661	0.1	57	0.4	266
Not recorded (data missing)	2.9	1,624	0.5	297	0.1	57
Total discharged		55,560		63,534		66,123

[1] Discharge reasons are taken from the NDTMS statistical release 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. Data on individuals in structured drug and alcohol treatment are collected by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), using the following definitions:

'Treatment completed drug free' refers to an individual, who the treatment provider believes has completed their treatment no longer dependent on their drug of misuse and is not using any other illegal drugs.

'Treatment completed' refers to an individual, who the treatment provider believes has completed their treatment no longer dependent on their drug of misuse, but who may be using drugs in a non-dependent way.

'Treatment completed—referred' refers to an individual who, on completion of a Tier 3 or 4 service, is transferred to a Tier 2 service or support services such as housing support or employment support.

Substance misuse treatment is grouped into four tiers by the NTA, which reflect the increasing intensities of the treatment. Tier 1 refers to services provide by non-specialist drug services, e.g. accident and emergency departments and social care agencies. Tier 2 refers to open-access drug treatment and does not always include a care plan. Tier 3 refers to treatment, with a structured care plan, taken in the community and Tier 4 refers to residential drug treatment.

Figures for 2003-04 have not been provided due to data quality reasons. The current NDTMS data collection began in April 2004 and although some data were collected retrospectively for the period 2003-04 they are thought to be incomplete. Figures for 2007/08 will be published later this year.

Information on the number of individuals who have re-entered structured treatment, after having been discharged from structured treatment for drug misuse on the grounds that they had completed their treatment drug free is not held centrally by the Department. A copy will be placed in the Library shortly.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the psycho-social element of the integrated drug treatment system in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the projected expenditure is expected to be in 2008-09. [221406]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Psychosocial elements of the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) are funded by the Ministry of Justice.

The following was spent by prisons on implementing psychosocial elements of IDTS:

(a) 2006-07: £865,000, with an additional £1 million spent on refurbishments/equipment upgrades prerequisite to the delivery of IDTS services.

(b) 2007-08: £4.785 million, with an additional £742,000 spent on refurbishments/equipment upgrades prerequisite to the delivery of IDTS services.

I anticipate that the full allocation of £6 million will be spent in 2008-09.

Family Planning: Yorkshire and the Humber

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many family planning clinics there were in the *(a)* Hull, *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire, *(c)* North Lincolnshire and *(d)* North East Lincolnshire local authority area for each of the last 10 years. [223292]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of individual primary care trusts to decide upon the appropriate level of provision for the communities they serve.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which dates each Minister in his Department has met representatives of general practitioners in the last 12 months. [219378]

Mr. Bradshaw: Health Ministers met with general practitioner representatives during the last 12 months as follows:

Date	*Meeting*
Right hon. Alan Johnson MP—Secretary of State for Health	
17 July 2007	Met Dr. Hamish Meldrum, Chair of the British Medical Association
24 July 2007	Met Dr. Mike Dixon, Chair and Mike Sobanja, Chief Executive Officer, of the NHS Alliance
8 November 2007	Met Dr. Laurence Buckman, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association
23 November 2007	Attended the NHS Alliance Annual Conference
7 February 2008	Met Dr. Hamish Meldrum, Chair of the British Medical Association
27 February 2008	Met Dr. Laurence Buckman, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association
5 March 2008	Attended the launch of Healthcare Professionals' Consensus Statement at the Royal College of General Practitioners
13 May 2008	Attended the British Medical Association Dinner
19 June 2008	Met Dr. Hamish Meldrum, Chair of the British Medical Association
23 June 2008	Met Dr. Hamish Meldrum, Chair of the British Medical Association
Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham KBE—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	
4 July 2007	Meeting with stakeholders (including representatives from the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners)
18 July 2007	Meeting with the Royal College of General Practitioners
19 July 2007	Meeting with the British Medical Association
26 July 2007	Meeting with National Stakeholder Forum (including the British Medical Association, the Royal college of General Practitioners and the NHS Alliance)
31 July 2007	Meeting with the British Medical Association
5 September 2007	Meeting of the Social Partnership Forum (including the British Medical Association)
6 September 2007	Meeting with the NHS Alliance
11 October 2007	Meeting with the British Medical Association
18 October 2007	Meeting of the Social Partnership Forum (including the British Medical Association)
26 November 2007	Dinner with the Royal Colleges (including the Royal College of General Practitioners)
29 November 2007	Meeting with the NHS Alliance
29 November 2007	Meeting with the National Stakeholder Forum (including the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the NHS Alliance)
22 January 2008	Dinner with primary care colleagues (including the NHS Alliance, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the National Association of Primary Care)
6 February 2008	Meeting of the Primary and Community Care Advisory Board

Date	Meeting
7 February 2008	Meeting with the NHS Alliance
21 February 2008	Meeting of the Social Partnership Forum
4 March 2008	Dinner with the Royal College of General Practitioners
11 March 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
12 March 2008	Meeting with the Royal Colleges (including the Royal College of General Practitioners)
12 March 2008	Meeting of the National Association of Primary Care Members Forum
18 March 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
1 May 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
8 May 2008	Meeting with stakeholders (including the British Medical Association, Royal College of General Practitioner, NHS Alliance and National Association of Primary Care)
13 May 2008	Speech to the National Association of Primary Care Spring Conference
13 May 2008	Attended the British Medical Association Annual Dinner
21 May 2008	Meeting with the Royal Colleges (including the Royal College of General Practitioners)
11 June 2008	Meeting with the National Association of Primary Care
12 June 2008	Meeting with the Royal College of General Practitioners
12 June 2008	Meeting with the NHS Alliance
19 June 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
25 June 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
9 July 2008	Meeting with the National Association of Primary Care Members' Forum
10 July 2008	Meeting of the National Stakeholder Forum (includes the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the NHS Alliance)
Mr. Ben Bradshaw MP—Minister of State	
3 July 2007	Dinner with GPs on Practice Based Commissioning
13 September 2007	Attended the launch of the NHS Alliance's document "Practice Based Commissioning—early success, early lessons"
11 October 2007	Meeting with the British Medical Association (with Lord Darzi)
18 October 2007	Attended the National Association of Primary Care Conference 2007
16 October 2007	Meeting with Primary Care Stakeholders—Dr. James Kingsland, Chair of the National Association of Primary Care
8 November 2007	Meeting with NHS Alliance Practice Managers
21 November 2007	Introductory meeting with Dr. Laurence Buckman, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association
6 December 2007	Met Dr. Michael Dixon, Chair of the NHS Alliance
6 February 2008	Chaired Jointly with Lord Darzi the Primary and Community Care Advisory Board
7 February 2008	Attended the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health (with Dr. Michael Dixon, Trustee of the Prince's Foundation and Chair of the NHS Alliance)
27 February 2008	Meeting with the National Association of Primary Care Practice Managers
1 April 2008	Meeting of the Primary and Community Care Advisory Board
14 April 2008	Joint visit with Alan Johnson to the College Surgery Partnership hosted by Dr. Michael Dixon, Chair of the NHS Alliance
13 May 2008	Meeting of the Primary and Community Care Advisory Board
13 May 2008	Attended the British Medical Association Dinner
21 May 2008	Attended the British Medical Association Spring Reception
2 June 2008	Meeting with Primary and Community Care Strategy stakeholders
19 June 2008	Visit to Sturminster Newton Practice meeting: Dr. Matthew Cripps, Senior Partner; Dr. Elizabeth Burton, Partner; Jane Dawes, Practice Manager; along with Anne Thomas, Chair of Dorset Primary Care Trust; Robin Smith, Interim Chief Executive of Dorset Primary Care Trust; and Claire Warner, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs at Dorset Primary Care Trust
9 July 2008	Attended the Primary and Community Care Strategy Advisory Board reception
23 July	Meeting in Dan Norris' constituency with general practitioners to discuss their concerns about the future of General Practice from the hours issue. to Polyclinics
Right hon. Dawn Primarolo MP—Minister of State	
21 November 2007	Meeting with Stakeholders on New Infant Formula and Follow on Formula (Royal College of General Practitioners represented)
20 February 2008	Met Dr. Vivienne Nathanson, Director of Professional Activity at the British Medical Association
13 May 2008	Attended the British Medical Association Annual Dinner
Ms Ann Keen MP—Parliamentary Under Secretary of State	
—	Meets every month with the British Medical Association as part of the Social Partnership Forum
10 May 2008	Attended a dinner with Bangladeshi general practitioners
23 May 2008	Met general practitioners with the Prime Minister
Mr. Ivan Lewis MP—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	
30 January 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
12 March 2008	With Lord Darzi, met with all the Medical Royal Colleges to discuss the NHS Constitution (Royal College of General Practitioners were present)
22 April 2008	Meeting with the British Medical Association
13 May 2008	Attended the NHS Confederation and British Medical Association Annual Dinner

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives there are for general practitioners to set up practices in deprived areas under each of the primary medical services contracts. [223458]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the national General Medical Services contract general practitioner practices are intended to receive income based on a weighted capitation, needs-based formula. However, the impact of the minimum practice income guarantee negates much of the agreed equitable funding incentive that rewards practices based on patients needs. That is why we remain committed to delivering a fair funding system to all primary medical care contractors.

Under other local primary medical care contracts (Personal Medical Services, Alternative Provider Medical Services and Primary Care Trust Medical Services) PCTs have more flexibility to negotiate and agree locally funding arrangements that better match patient needs and resourcing to ensure the services provided meet those needs. Guidance to PCTs makes it clear however that they must contract with all providers on a fair and equitable basis.

General Practitioners: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the minimum practice income guarantee cost in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in current prices in each year since 2004; what plans he has for the future of the guarantee; what assessment he has made of its effects on funding levels in deprived areas; and if he will make a statement. [223461]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table shows spend on the minimum practice income guarantee (MPIG) since 2004-05 in cash and at current year's prices.

Minimum practice income guarantee spend

£000

Financial year	*Cash*	*Real terms*
2004-05	327,978	364,777
2005-06	328,315	357,469
2006-07	322,291	341,628
2007-08	327,615	337,443

NHS Employers are currently discussing with the BMA's General Practitioners Committee how best to achieve and implement a more equitable funding system for the provision of primary medical care services. These discussions include the possible timescale for, and any funding that may be needed to support, the phasing out of the MPIG.

The impact of MPIG on funding levels in deprived areas has been considered within the assessment of general practitioner contract reform within the Primary and Community Care Strategy. This assessment has not been published as contract negotiations are ongoing. Moving to a fair and equitable weighted capitation formula will ensure more resources are allocated to practices based on the needs of the patients they are responsible for.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of general practitioners per 100,000 population was in each primary care trust, in each of the last five years, broken down by index of deprivation decile. [223459]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average number of general practitioners per 100,000 population in each primary care trust in each of the last five years is in the table which has been placed in the Library. The information requested is not available broken down by index of deprivation decile.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit the village of Farningham in Kent to discuss with residents his proposals regarding dispensing doctors. [223251]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend has no plans to visit Farningham.

The White Paper Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—delivering the future (cm 7341) promised to consult further on a number of proposals.

The consultation Building on Strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change began on 27 August 2008 and provides everyone with an opportunity to contribute—patients, the NHS, contractors and healthcare professionals alike. Any final decisions will be taken in the light of the responses and the feedback received. The consultation, together with the relevant impact assessments, is available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/LiveConsultations.

The consultation ends on 20 November 2008.

It would not be appropriate to discuss possible outcomes until that consultation has ended. However, I hope the residents of Farningham will contribute to the consultation process.

The hon. Member's constituents may also wish to know that the Department will be holding listening events in October and these will be announced shortly.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether it is his policy that GP practices with dispensaries will be required to re-apply for permission for their dispensaries to continue; [223286]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that GP dispensaries with a pharmacy within one mile will be permitted to continue to have their dispensaries. [223288]

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the removal of the one mile rule on the number of *(a)* dispensing doctors and *(b)* patients able to fulfil prescriptions at dispensing doctors' practices. [223377]

Mr. Bradshaw: The White Paper Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—delivering the future promised to consult further on a number of proposals. Building on Strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change was published on 27 August 2008.

As part of this consultation, we have put forward options for possible reform of general practitioner dispensing arrangements on which we are seeking views.

We have no preferred option at this stage nor have we come to a view as to whether any reform of these particular arrangements is necessary. The accompanying impact assessments to the consultation document consider the likely effects of each of these options.

General Practitioners: Surgery

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners are accredited to carry out minor surgery. [223219]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners carried out minor surgery in the latest period for which figures are available. [223220]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Hazardous Substances: Screening

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider introducing mandatory post-mortem tests for *(a)* carbon monoxide poisoning and *(b)* poisoning by toxins resulting from the products of combustion. [221037]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Coroners, who are independent judicial office holders, are required to investigate all deaths where the cause of death is believed to be violent, unnatural or a sudden death of unknown cause. Coroners have the power, under the Coroners Act 1988, to order both post mortem examinations and special examinations (including histopathology and toxicology), as and when they consider it necessary, in order to establish the cause of death. It is for the coroner to decide whether tests for carbon monoxide poisoning and poisoning by toxins resulting from the products of combustion would be justified in the light of the available facts in each individual case.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a patient is treated in a GP-led health centre without being registered there, by what mechanism the centre will be paid for that patient's treatment. [220995]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a local contractual matter for each primary care trust, who have been advised to make payments on a similar basis to that whereby existing general practitioner practices receive funding for treating such patients e.g. based on the volume of patients treated at a fixed price.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement that there is significant variation in practice in care relating to *(a)* cataracts, *(b)* fractured neck of femur, *(c)* cholecystectomy and *(d)* stroke care, as referred to on page 55 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [221114]

Mr. Bradshaw: Evidence gathered by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement and published as part of its "Focus on High Volume Care" series shows that there is a significant variation in practice in care for these four areas. A copy of the NHS Institute's latest report "Focus on High Volume Care: Update" has been placed in the Library.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on *(a)* the recommended caseload levels of health visitors and *(b)* the timing and frequency of visits made by health visitors to families with children under the age of five. [223401]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no central recommendations for health visitor caseloads. While the updated Child Health Promotion Programme, launched on 17 March 2008, identifies health visitors as the lead practitioners in promoting the health of children below the age of five, it is for local commissioners to commission services according to local needs. There is no central guidance about numbers of health visitors or about the timing and frequency of visits in different circumstances.

Hearing Aids: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were fitted with bone anchored hearing aids in 2007. [223228]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information.

Hearing Aids: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2734W, on hearing aids: waiting times, what the average waiting time for all audiological assessments, including assessment for digital hearing aids, has been in *(a)* West Kent and *(b)* Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching Primary Care Trust area in the period since 1st January 2008. [223249]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the average (median) waiting times for all audiological assessments, including assessment for digital hearing aids, in West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT areas in each month from January to June 2008, which is the most recent information available.

Average (median) wait, in weeks, for audiological assessment, January to June 2008

PCT	January	February	March	April	May	June
West Kent	17.2	15.7	5.6	2.4	2.5	3.4
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching	48.8	41.2	4.3	2.6	4.1	3.4

Source:
Department of Health form DM01 - Diagnostic Monthly.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of ending charges for car parking at all NHS hospitals in England. [223263]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate has been made of the cost to the national health service of ending charges for car parking at all NHS hospitals. In England, hospital car parking charges are decided locally by individual trusts to cover the cost of running and maintaining a car park. If charges were not imposed, such costs would need to be funded from resources currently used to provide healthcare to patients.

All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what breakdown in points allocation was awarded to *(a)* Gardasil and *(b)* Cervarix under the criteria and weighting system for evaluation of the contract to supply a human papilloma virus vaccine. [223187]

Mr. Bradshaw: The points allocated to Gardasil and Cervarix under the award criteria for the Human Papillomavirus vaccine are commercial-in-confidence. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson), on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 531W, which outlines the award criteria and their weightings for this contract.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports his Department has commissioned from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in the last 12 months; and in what percentage of these cases the Panel made recommendations which differed from the proposals being made by the relevant NHS trust. [223088]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between September 2007 and September 2008, the Secretary of State asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to review the following referrals from local Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

Referral	*Date published*
Sandwell and West Birmingham	18 December 2007
West Kent	18 December 2007
West Suffolk	6 February 2008
North Oxfordshire	20 March 2008
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire	21 July 2008
Bridlington	4 September 2008
East Sussex	4 September 2008
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey	4 September 2008

Of these, the IRP supported proposals for changes in all cases with the exception of East Sussex and North Oxfordshire.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times he has not accepted a recommendation from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel since the panel's establishment. [223090]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no occasions where the Secretary of State has chosen not to accept the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's recommendations.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1706W, on Ipsos MORI, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* Stakeholder Research Programme, *(b)* Public Perceptions of the NHS July 2007, *(c)* Qualitative Research into Access to GP Practices, *(d)* GP Satisfaction Among Ethnic Minority Groups, *(e)* Senior Stakeholder Survey (Quantitative), *(f)* Long-term Health Conditions, *(g)* Public Perceptions of the NHS, December 2007, *(h)* Patient Experience Survey - Pilot Study and *(i)* Public Perceptions of the NHS March 2008 reports. [221129]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following reports have been placed in the Library:

GP Satisfaction Among Ethnic Minority Groups (title at publication: "Report on Self Reported Experience of Patients from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups");

Patient Experience Survey - Pilot Study; and

Long-term Health Conditions (title at publication: "Self Care": "A National View in 2007 Compared to 2004-05")

The Department will place a copy of the following reports in the Library in the next 12 months:

"Stakeholder Research Programme and Senior Stakeholder Survey" (Quantitative).

The reports "Public Perceptions of the NHS July 2007", "Public Perceptions of the NHS December 2007" and "Public Perceptions of the NHS March 2008" will be published as part of the Department's "Freedom of Information" publication scheme. These reports will be placed in the Library on publication.

The project Qualitative Research into Access to GP Practices was mistakenly listed as a report in the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1706W. This was, in fact, a series of workshops delivered by Ipsos MORI.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1706W, on Ipsos MORI, how much was paid to Ipsos MORI for each report. [221130]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following amounts were paid to Ipsos MORI:

		£
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 18	June 2007	19,120
Stakeholder Research Programme	July 2007	39,680
Pandemic flu public engagement and research reports (total)	July 2007 - May 2008	118,000
NHS Desk Research Insight Project	August 2007	43,160
Public Perceptions of the NHS July 2007	August 2007	41,122
Qualitative Research into Access to GP Practices	September 2007	45,000
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 19	October 2007	27,400
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 1	October 2007	52,875
Choice Omnibus Survey	November 2007	7,300
GP Satisfaction Among Ethnic Minority Groups	November 2007	17,000
Senior Stakeholder Survey (Quantitative)	November 2007	51,959

		£
Long-Term Health Conditions	December 2007	40,666.67
NHS Choices evaluation - public tracker survey (benchmark and one tracker)	January 2008	121,000
Public Perceptions of the NHS, December 2007	January 2008	42,372
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 2	January 2008	45,355
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 20	March 2008	29,600
Patient Experience Survey - Pilot Study	March 2008	64,598
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 3	April 2008	45,300[1]
NHS Staff Survey Analysis	May 2008	49,960
Patient Choice Omnibus	May 2008	14,600
Public Perceptions of the NHS March 2008	May 2008	40,372

[1] Estimated

IVF

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cycles of in vitro fertilisation treatments each primary care trust offered at the latest date for which figures are available. [223227]

Mr. Bradshaw: In autumn 2007, the Department carried out a survey of each primary care trust in England to establish the level of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) provision. A report of the survey was published on 23 June 2008 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The report can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085665

Lasers: Injuries

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many injuries were sustained from Class 3b and 4 lasers and intense light sources in each of the last five years. [223216]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table represents adverse events from laser and intense light sources that have been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) between 1 January 2003 and the 5 September 2008

	Laser 3B	*Laser 4*	*Intense Light Source*
2008 (to date)	12	15	1
2007	18	21	1
2006	11	25	2
2005	16	8	0
2004	14	20	2
2003	7	14	3
Total	78	103	9

It is important to note that not all adverse events are reported to the MHRA. Whilst manufacturers are required to report an event if it falls under the definition of the Medical Devices Directives Vigilance, (i.e. an actual or potential injury either to a patient or the user) reporting of such events from the national health service or private healthcare facilities is voluntary.

Malaria: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of falciparum malaria were recorded in London in each year from 1997 to 2008. [223235]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of recorded hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of falciparum malaria for incidents recorded for the London strategic health authority (comprising five SHAs from 1997-98 to 2005-06 and one SHA from 2006-07) from 1997 to 2008 are given in the table as follows:

	Total admissions
2006-07	843
2005-06	821
2004-05	757
2003-04	823
2002-03	804
2001-02	892
2000-01	764
1999-2000	757
1998-99	517
1997-98	686

Note:
Hospital admissions and numbers of cases may differ since the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion for the same illness/treatment episode. Data are not available on numbers of cases

Mass Media

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 449W, on mass media, if he will place in the Library the assessments made by press officers of media coverage of *(a)* departmental announcements and *(b)* major health stories in each week of 2008. [221442]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Media Centre does not currently produce written weekly assessments of media coverage of departmental announcements and major health stories, and the Department do not employ any agencies to make such reports on its behalf.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse events have been recorded in NHS maternity services *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997, broken down by type of adverse event. [223355]

Ann Keen: The information requested is being compiled by the National Patient Safety Agency. This will be placed in the Library shortly

National Strategy for England

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding allocations his Department has made to support the delivery of its National Strategy for England in the next five years. [223145]

Mr. Bradshaw: A draft of a National Dementia Strategy was published on 19 June for consultation. The consultation closes on 11 September and we will carefully consider all the responses we receive before deciding the final shape of the Strategy, and what resources are available to support its implementation. Funding will be announced around the same time when the strategy is published.

NHS: ICT

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the extra costs incurred by the Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust as a result of use of the CERNER NHS IT system in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what the expected source of the funding of the additional costs will be; [223427]

(2) which other NHS acute hospital trusts have the version of the CERNER NHS IT system supplied to the Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust; what assessment he has made of *(a)* present and *(b)* future costs and benefits of the system; and if he will make a statement. [223428]

Mr. Bradshaw: The implementation of a strategic hospital clinical IT system represents a major change programme. There is an inevitable initial increase in, primarily, staff costs both during preparation and during initial deployment, and then as the system is bedded in and staff familiarity with the new functionality develops.

The trusts' business cases for the change have recognised that these initial increased locally sourced costs are offset by the benefits realised by the trust over the life of the system. These will include, over time, a patient administration system with integration with other systems and sophisticated reporting; order communications and diagnostics reporting, including all pathology and radiology tests and tests ordered in primary care; and scheduling for beds, tests, and theatres.

Information on any additional costs incurred by Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust arising from the deployment of Cerner software is not held centrally.

Of the NHS acute trusts which have to date received deployments of the Cerner Millennium system, as at 31 August 2008 the following had the same (R0.05) version as that currently being used at the Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS trust:

Weston Area Health NHS Trust;

Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust;

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust.

The costs and benefits will be identified in the local business cases.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on (i) general medical services, (ii) personal medical services and (iii) alternative provider medical services contracts in (A) cash and (B) real terms in current prices in each of the last five years. [223460]

Mr. Bradshaw: Allocations to primary care trusts for primary medical care services do not identify funding separately for general medical services, personal medical services and alternative provider medical services. The table shows actual spend in cash and at this year's prices for each of these contracting routes since 2004-05, the year that the new general practitioner (GP) contract was introduced and the first year for which this information is available.

Primary medical care services spend

£000

	General medical services		*Personal medical services*		*Alternative provider medical services*	
Financial year	*Cash*	*Real terms*	*Cash*	*Real terms*	*Cash*	*Real terms*
2004-05	3,180,086	3,536,892	2,769,671	3,080,428	59,459	66,130
2005-06	3,484,327	3,793,735	3,063,145	3,335,152	134,205	146,122
2006-07	3,527,927	3,739,603	3,113,131	3,299,919	153,114	162,301
2007-08	3,536,231	3,642,318	3,204,626	3,300,765	148,666	153,126

Separate to these arrangements primary care trusts who have been identified as having the poorest primary medical care provision, and who are taking part in a local procurement to commission new GP practices, will also receive additional funding in 2008- 09 and subsequent years to secure this additional GP capacity.

NHS: Re-organisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each submission to his Department's national review Our NHS Our Future; [219370]

(2) what the *(a)* commissioning and development costs, *(b)* publishing and printing costs, *(c)* distribution costs and *(d)* media costs were for (i) Lord Darzi's national review of the NHS in England and (ii) each of his regional reviews; [219371]

(3) how many staff in each pay band in his Department worked solely on Lord Darzi's review of the NHS in England; [219372]

(4) how much was spent on consultative events in each region as part of Lord Darzi's review of the NHS in England. [219374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Service Next Stage Review has been a year-long process, led by more than 2,000 clinicians and engaging with approximately 60,000 patients, public and staff. An analysis of the views and opinions gathered in this engagement process is available on the Review's website:

www.ournhs.nhs.uk

A final figure for the cost of the Review is not yet available. However, the costs to date to the Department of conducting the review itself is approximately £3.5 million.

The NHS Next Stage Review is core business for all civil servants in the Department.

The estimated costs of consultation undertaken by strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of the nationwide NHS Next Stage Review is not held centrally.

NHS: Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of single periods of sick leave taken by NHS employees was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215978]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Video Conferencing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides on the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* use of video-conferencing technology for the delivery of healthcare in the NHS. [223184]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) has a framework for the provision of voice, video and data products and services which includes the procurement of video-conferencing services. This framework is available to all NHS trusts in England providing for the supply, design, project management, maintenance and installation of video conferencing equipment for point-to-point or point-to-multipoint communication services.

There are 16 suppliers providing these services and NHS PASA provides procurement advice and expertise.

Implementation and the potential application of the technologies, especially in clinical areas is determined by trusts based on local needs.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to enable the N3 network for video conferencing. [223186]

Mr. Bradshaw: The N3 network is already enabled to support video conferencing.

Patients: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Table 9a of his Department's Memorandum to the Health Select Committee, entitled Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2006, published in November 2006, what the equivalent figures on patient charges are for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08, broken down by type of charge. [223359]

Mr. Bradshaw: Latest information on NHS Income from Charges is given in table 1. 2007-08 NHS Accounts Data is not yet available.

Table 1: Breakdown of NHS income from charges by charge type for period 1996-97 to 2004-05

£ million

Charges	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Health Authority—fees and charges	67.7	90.1	92.0	113.8	65.8	3.5	4.7	6.4	11.9	12.4	
Road traffic accident income	—	—	30.0	75.8	98.3	105.0	105.6	117.5	121.5	128.2	
NHS Trusts—fees and charges	169.6	216.7	224.2	266.0	268.2	126.3	136.8	228.1	230.9	306.2	
NHS Trusts—private patients	273.2	290.8	304.8	316.6	540.8	366.7	383.9	349.0	364.7	379.6	
NHS Trusts—Local Authorities	—	—	—	—	—	259.8	394.9	516.4	683.3	690.0	
PCTs	—	—	—	1.5	24.5	61.6	72.2	105.1	105.5	104.4	
PCTs—Local Authorities	—	—	—	—	—	295.4	404.1	592.7	605.1	688.0	
NHS Supplies Authority fees	39.1	36.1	20.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.0			
Dental charges	388.4	419.6	431.2	453.1	472.1	486.7	483.6	425.9	409.8	479.5	
Prescription charges	320.9	341.3	366.7	386.9	413.1	423.0	428.3	424.6	426.9	433.5	
Nursing home inspection fees	4.8	8.8	9.5	9.8	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	
Subsidised dried milk	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	3.0	2.9	2.1	2.0	—	—	
Medicines Control Agency—licences and inspections	28.1	26.6	29.4	34.1	36.7	41.3	—	—	—	—	
Youth Treatment Service Income	4.5	4.7	4.6	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
NHS Pensions Agency fees	2.3	6.2	2.2	1.8	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	—	—	
Medical Devices Agency Fees	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	—	—	—	—	

Table 1: Breakdown of NHS income from charges by charge type for period 1996-97 to 2004-05

£ million

Charges	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: licence fees	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.6	2.5	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.5	5.4
English National Board for Nursing (ENB): registration fees	—	1.6	1.6	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	52.4	57.7	53.1	70.1	82.4
Total	1,302.6	1,446.7	1,520.7	1,665.3	1,732.5	2,176.2	2,473.4	2,831.0	3,017.0	3,296.4	

Notes:
1. The table has been restated to include NHS trusts private patients, NHS trust income from local authorities and primary care trust (PCT) income separately.
2. Health authorities were established on 1 April 1996 and strategic health authorities on 1 October 2002.
3. PCTs were established from 1 April 2000.
4. Figures from 2004-05 have been uprated (by expenditure) to estimate income to NHS foundation trusts.
5. Income from local authorities was separately identified for the first time in 2002-03.
6. From 2000-01 NHS Supplies Authority split into NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency and NHS Logistics. All fees for forward years score against the NHS Logistics.
7. Dental and prescription charge income prior to 2001-02 drawn from cash data in appropriation accounts. 2001-02 and subsequent years' data drawn from resource data in summarised accounts.
8. From April 2002 the National Care Standards Commission regulated nursing homes.
9. Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency formed in 2003-04—brings together work of Medical Device Agency and Medicines Control Agency.

Pedestrians: Accidents

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in each region were admitted to hospital as a result of road accidents in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* type of accident, *(c)* type of vehicle involved in the accident and *(d)* type of injury; [221013]

(2) how many pedestrians in each region were admitted to hospital as a result of traffic accidents in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* type of vehicle involved in the accident. [221014]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available in the format requested. Tables showing the number of people injured in all transport accidents and the number of pedestrians injured in transport accidents respectively have been placed in the Library.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216683]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no personal injury cases made in 2006-07. This information has been extracted from the Department's Losses and Special Payments Register for which information was last available, 2006-07.

Press

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* staffing, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other overhead costs of his Department's press office were in each of the last five years. [216546]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of the Department's Media Centre staff, 2003-04 to 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

	Cost (£ million)
2007-08	1.369
2006-07	1.765
2005-06	1.772
2004-05	1.471
2003-04	1.284

Figures exclude social security and pension costs.

It is not possible to calculate the accommodation and overhead cost for the press office. The only figure available would be that for the whole of Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, where the press office is located.

Primary Health Care: Standards

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of the Qualities and Outcomes Framework (QOF) on *(a)* reducing health inequalities and *(b)* supporting mental health provision in primary care; whether he plans to amend the QOF to increase funding for these priorities; and if he will make a statement. [223462]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent research published by the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC) suggests that the health gap between affluent and deprived areas is closing.

The Department has not commissioned any specific research on impact of the QOF on mental health provision. However, the most recent data indicates that achievement levels are high. Specific examples are shown as follows:

Indicator		Total points achieved percentage
MH9	The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses with a review recorded in the preceding 15 months. In the review there should be evidence that the patient has been offered routine health promotion and prevention advice appropriate to their age, gender and health status	94.4
MH6	The percentage of patients on the register who have a comprehensive care plan documented in the records agreed between individuals, their family and/or carers as appropriate	94.0

The content of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2009-10 is currently being discussed between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association, advised by the independent expert panel. Those discussions are informed by "Our Vision for Primary and Community Care" published on 3 July that informed part of Lord Darzi's NHS review.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the future of services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. [223123]

Mr. Bradshaw: Due to the way in which data is collected, the Department is unable to provide the exact number of letters received in relation to the future of services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. However, a search of the Department's correspondence and parliamentary questions database shows that there were approximately 24 completed correspondence cases on Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup between November 2007 to date, of which 14 were regarding the future of services at the hospital. No parliamentary questions specifically relating to the future of services at Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup were found.

There have been no ministerial meetings with hon. Members or debates specifically on the future of services at Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup between November 2007 to date.

The London borough council of Bexley's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, independently from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, formally referred proposals for hospital reconfiguration regarding A Picture of Health for South East London (which includes Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup) to the Secretary of State for Health on 28 August 2008.

Skin Cancer

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of recurrences of basal cell carcinoma occurred in patients whose cancer had been removed by *(a)* GPs and *(b)* hospital consultants in the latest period for which figures are available. [223221]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on recurrences of basal cell carcinoma in patients whose cancers have been removed is not collected centrally.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion recurrences of skin cancer occurred in patients whose cancer had been removed by *(a)* GPs and *(b)* hospital consultants in the latest period for which figures are available. [223222]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on recurrences of skin cancer in patients whose cancers have been removed is not collected centrally.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on GPs undertaking procedures to remove skin cancer. [223223]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department fully supports the guidance provided by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its "Improving Outcomes for People with Skin Tumours including Melanoma", published in February 2006. This guidance states that different degrees of specialisation are required to treat the various types and stages of skin cancer.

Some treatments, for those groups of patients specified in the guidance, may be carried out in the community by a variety of clinicians, including general practitioners with a special interest in skin cancer. All health professionals who knowingly treat patients with any type of skin cancer should be members of a local hospital skin cancer multidisciplinary team or a specialist skin cancer multidisciplinary team.

Sunbeds

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sunburn arising from sunbed use have been reported to NHS Logistics in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many such cases involved under-16 year olds. [220654]

Ann Keen: NHS Logistics has been disbanded and while operational did not collect information on cases of sunburn arising from the use of sunbeds.

Telemedicine

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to establish an English Centre for Telehealth. [223183]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no current plans to establish an English Centre for Telehealth.

Trauma: Death

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the fatality rates of trauma patients were in each year from 1995 to 2007. [221327]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested data are not collected centrally because there is no link between mortality data from the Office for National Statistics and the case data on trauma patients from Hospital Episodes Statistics.

Trauma: Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* accident and emergency departments and *(b)* trauma centres have co-located cardio-thoracic facilities. [221321]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such assessment has been made centrally. These are matters for the national health service to determine. Over the last year, as part of the Next Stage Review, each strategic health authority has set out its vision for improving health and healthcare based on the recommendations of clinically-led pathway groups including acute care. These visions identify the need for high quality trauma services and a common theme was the need for specialised centres for major trauma.

Vioxx

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in England with increased cardio-vascular risk as a result of using Vioxx. [223303]

Mr. Bradshaw: Vioxx (rofecoxib) was one of a group of anti-inflammatory medicines known as COX-2 selective inhibitors. It was licensed in the United Kingdom and many other countries for the treatment of arthritic conditions—osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis—and also for the short-term treatment of some painful conditions. COX-2 selective inhibitors are effective anti-inflammatory, pain-relieving medicines that are thought to have less risk of gastrointestinal side effects, for example stomach ulcers, than conventional anti-inflammatory medicines.

Since 2000, evidence from clinical trials had raised concerns about a possible increased risk of heart attacks and other cardiovascular conditions associated with Vioxx, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency/Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) kept the cardiovascular safety of this drug under continual review since it was first licensed. The product information for healthcare professionals and patients, which lists all the known side effects of the medicine, was updated on a number of occasions to better reflect its cardiovascular safety, in accordance with CSM's advice.

Data are not available on which to base a valid estimate of the number of people with increased risk of heart attacks, strokes and other adverse cardiovascular effects that may have been associated with Vioxx and other COX-2 inhibitors. The underlying medical condition of many patients treated with COX-2 inhibitors means that they are already at higher risk of heart attack and stroke than the rest of the population, and it is not possible to calculate the impact of the COX-2 inhibitor on this risk. Furthermore, there is insufficient evidence to determine the rate at which cardiovascular risk reduces after cessation of treatment with Vioxx, but there is evidence from one study suggesting that the risk wanes after cessation of therapy, although the exact time course for the reduction in risk is uncertain, and it is not possible to exclude persistence of risk for several months after treatment has stopped.

Since Vioxx was voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer in 2004, the safety of other COX-2 inhibitors and traditional anti-inflammatory drugs—non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)—has been carefully and intensively assessed in the UK and Europe. The latest evidence suggests that both NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors are effective painkilling anti-inflammatory treatments but might pose a small increased risk of heart attacks or strokes, although the exact level of risk may vary between medicines. The MHRA has widely communicated the latest information and advice for healthcare professionals in letters and bulletins, and other publications through liaison with the British National Formulary and National Prescribing Centre. In addition, product information for healthcare professionals and patient information leaflets have been updated in order to support informed decision-making in relation to the choice of anti-inflammatory medicine.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with Merck in the United States on the effects of Vioxx on people in England; and if he will make a statement. [223304]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), met with representatives of Merck Sharpe and Dohme UK Ltd on 10 July 2008 where he highlighted the concerns raised by hon. Members on behalf of their constituents. A representative from Merck and Co., Inc. was also present at that meeting.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Apprentices

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of people undertaking adult apprenticeships. [223117]

Mr. Lammy: 'World-class Apprenticeships' confirmed our commitment to making apprenticeships a top-quality option for both young people and adults and set out several steps to increase the numbers of people undertaking adult apprenticeships. Last year we abolished the upper age limit for apprenticeships and we are increasing apprenticeships funding to over £1 billion between 2007-08 and 2010-11, including funding to expand apprenticeships for older learners. Skills Accounts are soon to be trialled to empower individuals to take up and progress in adult learning, including apprenticeships. Expanding apprenticeships for adults will play a key role in helping us to deliver over 250,000 apprenticeship starts and 190,000 successful completions by 2020 in order to deliver the Leitch ambition of 400,000 apprenticeships in England.

Apprentices

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices have *(a)* started and *(b)* completed (i) programme-led and (ii) work-based apprenticeships in construction in the last three years. [208795]

Mr. Lammy: In 2006-07 21,000 young people and adults started an apprenticeship in the construction sector, including 1,820 who started on a programme-led apprenticeship (PLA) in the workplace pending a move

to an employed apprenticeship with an employer. A further 1,630 people started a PLA based at a further education college. In the same year 12,560 people completed an apprenticeship framework in construction. Some of those completing an apprenticeship have been on a PLA in the workplace but there are no data currently available to track PLA learners through to completion of an apprenticeship.

The following table provides the available data for the last three years.

Number of learners on LSC-funded work-based apprenticeships and programme-led apprenticeships in construction

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Programme-led Apprenticeships (FE-led learning)			
Learners	n/a	1,820	1,630
Programme-led Apprenticeships (work-based learning (WBL))			
Starts	n/a	970	1,820
Leavers	n/a	800	1,350
Work-based Apprenticeships			
Starts (including WBL PLA starts)	18,740	15,730	21,000
Completions	5,750	9,500	12,560

Notes:
1. Information on the number of programme-led apprentices (PLAs) in 2004-05 is not available on a consistent basis.
2. WBL Frameworks included are Construction (107) and Engineering Construction (116).
3. For FE-led programme-led apprentices, figures are based on learners in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment Sector Subject Area.
4. Information on the number of Leavers for programme-led apprenticeships includes learners who have completed their programme of study and learners who have left early.
5. Information on completions is not available for FE-led PLAs. Achievement information is available but for individual programmes of study and not consistent with learner numbers (a learner may be enrolled on more than one course)

Source:
Work-based learning ILR/FE ILR.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 16 and 17, *(b)* 18 and over and *(c)* in total have enrolled on an apprenticeship in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) nationwide in each year since 1997. [223118]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows the number of people that have started on an apprenticeship from 1997. Information on individual age volumes is unavailable between 1997-98 and 2001-02. We have, however, provided a national figure for the number of apprenticeship starts over this period.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, by age at start of course.

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total apprenticeship starts, by age[1]										
16- year-old apprenticeship starts[2]	—	—	—	—	—	40,000	39,000	44,000	34,000	34,000
17 year old Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—		41,000	37,000	38,000	33,000	36,000
18+ Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	122,000	117,000	108,000	108,000	115,000
Total Apprenticeship Starts	75,000	118,000	165,000	177,000	162,000	204,000	194,000	189,000	175,000	184,000
Apprenticeship starts in the North East[3], by Age[1]										
16-year-old apprenticeship starts[4]	—	—	—	—	—	3,800	3,600	3,800	3,000	2,900
17-year-old apprenticeship starts	—	—	—	—	—	3,600	2,900	3,300	3,000	2,900
18+ Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	8,300	7,300	6,900	7,500	6,800
Total apprenticeship starts in the North East	—	—	—	—	—	15,600	13,800	14,000	13,500	12,600
Apprenticeship Starts in South Tyneside[4], by Age[1]										
16-year-old Apprenticeship Starts[4]	—	—	—	—	—	300	360	280	260	210
17 year old Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	220	250	220	240	240

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, by age at start of course.

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
18+ Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	470	460	420	540	450
Total Apprenticeship Starts - South Tyneside	—	—	—	—	—	990	1,080	920	1,040	890
Apprenticeship Starts in Jarrow[5], by Age[1]										
16-year-old Apprenticeship Starts[2]	—	—	—	—	—	160	180	160	140	100
17-year-old Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	150	140	120	110	120
18+ Apprenticeship Starts	—	—	—	—	—	250	240	220	280	220
Total Apprenticeship Starts - Jarrow	—	—	—	—	—	560	560	500	530	450

[1] Age is based on learner age at the start of the course.
[2] A small number of learners aged under 16 at the start of the course are included in this figure.
[3] North East Government Office Region, based on learner's home postcode.
[4] South Tyneside Local Authority, based on learner's home postcode.
[5] Jarrow constituency, based on learner's home postcode.
Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. These figures represent learners starting an apprenticeship or an advanced apprenticeship. Additionally, there are a very small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships included in the 2006-07 total.
Source:
ISR/ILR Work-Based Learning data.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged 18 and over at the outset of an apprenticeship have completed their apprenticeship in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [223119]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows the number of people aged 18 or over at the start of their apprenticeship. Framework completion data was not published in the pre-LSC era, so figures are not available for the period between 1997-98 to 2001-02.

Table 1: Full framework apprenticeship completions for learners aged 18 or over[1] at the start of their apprenticeship

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total Apprenticeship Completions	23,800	28,700	38,500	57,200	66,700
Apprenticeship Completions in the North East[2]	1,600	1,800	2,600	3,700	4,400
Apprenticeship Completions in South Tyneside[3]	60	110	150	220	290
Apprenticeship Completions in Jarrow[4]	30	50	90	120	150

[1]. Age is based on learner age at the start of the course.
[2]. North East Government Office Region, based on learner's home postcode.
[3]. South Tyneside Local Authority, based on learner's home postcode.
[4]. Jarrow constituency, based on learner's home postcode.
Note:
Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
Source:
ISR/ILR work-based learning data.

These figures represent learners starting an apprenticeship or an advanced apprenticeship. Additionally, there are a very small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships included in the 2006-07 total.

Biofuels: Research

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with universities involved in biofuels research on the implications of the Gallagher review. [221387]

Ian Pearson: No specific meetings or discussions have been held between Ministers in this Department and universities about the Gallagher Review. The Research Councils are responsible for providing funding for research at universities, including energy related research and post graduate training. The councils are considering the outcome of the review and will use the review to guide the development and support for research related to biofuels. For instance, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) bioenergy strategy shares many of the conclusions of the Gallagher Review by placing importance on basic science underpinning second generation biofuels, such as those that can utilise marginal land or crop residues or non-food crops.

Carers: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to paragraph 3.11 in the Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided by his Department over each of the next two years. [220299]

Bill Rammell: DIUS is not involved in making direct respite care payments to carers of disabled children. The Department of Health are the budget holders of the £150 million referred to therefore we would refer the hon. Gentleman to the response from the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) (220304).

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219597]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219956]

Mr. Lammy: Any expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is made in accordance with guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception. Where it is provided, it is generally purchased by the caterer for the event in question.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221086]

Mr. Lammy: Estate services for the main office accommodation occupied by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills are provided by the Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Children, Schools and Families. Answers given by those Departments will therefore cover this Department as well.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills also manages an estate in Teddington, occupied principally by the National Physical Laboratory. The majority of activities undertaken on the estate have recently moved to new and very different accommodation, so historical comparisons would not be meaningful. However a number of tasks are underway to improve the energy efficiency of the new NPL building such as night-time set-back of environmental control, filming of windows and installation of the infrastructure for a ground source heat pump system.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221102]

Mr. Lammy: The Department at present has not rented or purchased any building outside the current civil estate. If we were looking to occupy a new building we would seek to obtain a building with the highest BREEAM rating available.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214682]

Mr. Lammy: The Department compiles their accounts consistent with the Financial Reporting Manual (FreM). The value of the Department's computer systems are as follows:

	Value of computer systems (£000)
(a) At the time of purchase	953
(b) Now (as at 31 March 2008)	896

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information technology projects initiated by his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221709]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is a new Department established in June 2007 substantially from parts of the former DTI and DfES. As far as we are aware, since June 2007 the Department has not cancelled any information technology projects.

No information technology projects were cancelled in the last five years for those functions brought over into DIUS from the former DTI.

It is not possible, without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold, to determine if any information technology projects were cancelled in the last five years for those functions brought over into DIUS from the former DfES.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221292]

Mr. Lammy: The cost of overtime payments in the Department by grade is set out in the following table[1]. Overtime is not payable to members of the senior civil service.

[1] Specialist grades are included in their grade equivalent. Grades 6 and 7 are entitled to an extra hours' discretionary payment for long hours working and a weekend attendance allowance subject

to an overriding limit. Figures include BERR grade pay ranges: range 4 (EA); ranges 5-6 (EO); ranges 7-8 (HEO); range 9 (SEO); range 10 (Grade 7); range 11 (Grade 6).

£

	Executive assistant (EA)	Executive officer (EO)	Higher executive officer (HEO)	Senior executive officer (SEO)	Grade 7	Grade 6	Total
June 2008	9,194	7,534	11,152	12,424	32,067	0	72,371
May 2008	11,540	6,754	8,827	15,301	29,293	155	71,870
April 2008	10,902	12,833	14,809	16,392	33,747	0	88,683
March 2008	5,368	6,604	17,057	12,644	15,976	0	57,649
February 2008	9,672	7,706	6,456	14,885	19,488	279	58,486
January 2008	9,972	16,464	10,809	13,737	27,218	0	78,200
December 2007	6,099	18,885	3,712	16,940	17,914	0	63,550
November 2007	12,245	21,792	2,810	16,484	21,531	0	74,862
October 2007	13,878	17,951	10,291	19,452	18,677	0	80,249
September 2007	7,667	13,129	6,957	11,237	16,762	0	55,752
August 2007	8,333	25,572	7,280	7,783	6,819	0	55,787
July 2007	9,571	28,284	5,686	3,933	2,099	449	50,022
Total	114,441	183,511	105,846	161,212	241,591	833	807,481

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215235]

Ian Pearson: Since the creation of DIUS in June 2007 Special Advisers have claimed £1,525.63 in reimbursable expenses.

Special advisers are temporary civil servants and are therefore entitled to claim expenses available to other civil servants. Guidance on claiming expenses can be found in chapter 8 of the Civil Service guide:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/online_report/8.asp

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221176]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. During the 2007-08 financial year £168.73 has been claimed by press officers for reimbursable expenses.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220432]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 and currently operates two ledgers. Science and Innovation and Higher and Further Education have the following policies regarding swift payment of invoices:

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Science and Innovation)

The Department follows OGC best practice guidance in making payments to its suppliers within 30 days of a correctly submitted invoice. This is reflected in the provisions of our standard form of contract. The Department does not have a practice of requesting discounts in return for swift payment of invoices.

The Department is subject to the provisions of the Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 which provides suppliers with rights to claim interest on late payments of a commercial debt.

Department for Children, Schools and Families (Higher and Further Education)

The Department follows OGC best practice guidance in making payments to its suppliers. The 'Model invitation to tender letter' states: "the successful tenderer should provide details of discounts for prompt payment".

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221592]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. Neither DIUS or its agency hires rooms to other organisations. Rooms are not generally made available free to other organisations, but we do not keep a central record of whether this has ever occurred. It may sometimes be appropriate for events or meetings convened by DIUS-sponsored bodies to be hosted in DIUS rooms.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has

held since establishment; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221353]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

Since its establishment the Department has held the following listening exercises and public forums:

Listening exercise/public forum/consultations	*Purpose*	*Total cost (£)*	*Of which: Private contractor*	*Cost (£)*	*Service provided*
Informal Adult Learning (IAL) Citizen Summit x1 June 2008	Facilitate debate with members of the public around the key issues and aims of the consultation. Define the broad range of IAL activities. Develop proposal for the 'new vision' of IAL. Deliver qualitative and quantitative information on the experiences of the public.	[1]115,470.70	BMRB (British Market Research Bureau)	59,357.00	Event facilitation
			Hilton Paddington	9,270.52	Venue
			Stage Electrics	*4,600.00	Site production, lighting etc.
			Cheerful Scout	6,810.00	Voting and data capture
			Neal Display	*4,000.00	Set and staging
Informal Adult Learning Stakeholder Roundtable Discussions x7 May to July 2008	Engage the following sectors in the IAL consultation: broadcast and technology; families; older learners; the workplace; the voluntary and community sector. Plus a reconvened event to discuss the sector findings.	36,721.75	None		
Five student juries altogether in the financial year 2007-08	To capture the views of higher education students and feed them into the policy-making process.	20,000.00	SHM Productions Ltd.	20,000.00	
The European Research Area (ERA)—new perspectives.	To inform the UK Government's response to the Commission's Green paper 'The European Research Area (ERA)—new perspectives'.	4,686.30	Institution of Mechanical Engineers	4,686.30	Venue hire etc.
Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver—nine regional events relating to FE.	To raise awareness and understanding of the proposals set out in Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver and to capture views on them.	[2]201,924.56	None		
The Review Report 'World Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All'.	Readers were asked to provide comments/views on future strategy for Apprenticeships set out in the document. The Central Office of Information strategy consultancy were engaged to produce an assessment report of the 104 responses received.	8,240.00	None		
Public consultation on the draft Apprenticeships Bill.	This is a joint consultation with DCSF. It is hosted by the DCSF consultation unit. Its purpose is to consult on the draft Bill.	[3]0	None		

Listening exercise/public forum/consultations	*Purpose*	*Total cost (£)*	*Of which: Private contractor*	*Cost (£)*	*Service provided*
Single Equality Scheme consultation event.	Single equality scheme consultation to gauge public opinion and input prior to publication of scheme.	32,324.00	Paul James Associates	32,324.00	Management and facilitation of event plus post event consultation with attendees and production of report.
Adult advancement and careers service.	Workshop held to share expertise and views on the development of new adult advancement and careers service.	22,000.00	CRAC: The Career Development Organisation and the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling.	22,000.00	
Five regional innovation roadshow events in north-west, east of England, north-east, west midlands and south-west regions held between May and July 2008. Further events in east midlands, south-east, London and Yorkshire and Humber due to take place in September to November.	To promote the range of support available regionally to businesses for innovation and to facilitate discussion with a business audience on the main recommendations of the Innovation Nation White Paper.	[4]100,000.00	[5]	[5]	[5]

[1] Full final costs not yet invoiced by some suppliers—costs marked '*' based on budget.
[2] Contract delivered by the Central Office of Information.
[3] No external costs.
[4] The total costs of the nine events will be approximately £90,000-100,000. The costs will be split 50/50 between DIUS and the regional development agencies.
[5] Event arrangements such as venue hire, printing of materials etc. and any related private sector costs are procured by the regional development agency for each event. DIUS has agreed to meet 50 per cent. of total costs which may include costs for private contractors.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221365]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

The Department places the highest emphasis on effective review and consultations with public and stakeholders as vital elements of evidence based policy making and delivery.

The *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations initiated by the Department have been detailed as follows.

(a) Reviews

Review of the Designing Demand programme run by the Design Council

Audit of the Government Chemist function by two external experts

The Review of Post 16 Learner Statistical First releases

Operation of the Government funded Apprenticeship programme in England (joint with DCSF)

Review of Investors in People UK's remit including services to help employers develop their business

The performance management arrangements for offender skills and employment delivery

Reform of Weights and Measures Legislation

(b) Consultations

Science and Society Strategy Consultation Innovation Nation Consultation

The PIUS Single Equality Scheme

Raising Expectations: Consultation on two new systems to deliver education and training for young people and adults (jointly with DCSF)

Focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) on Community Cohesion

Informal Adult Learning—Shaping the Way Ahead

The role of Further Education Providers in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism

The draft Apprenticeships Bill

Improvement in the Further Education Sector—a consultative prospectus for a new sector-owned organisation (joint with Quality improvement Agency (QIA) and Centre for Excellence in Leadership(CEL)

A formal time to train consultation

European IP Charter (Code) for the management of intellectual property by universities and other public research organisations

Fast track processing of Patents and Trade Marks

The Draft Patents (Compulsory Licensing and Supplementary Protection Certificates) Regulations 2007

Proposed changes to copyright exceptions

Modernisation and consolidation of the Trade Marks Rules.

Informal Consultation Paper on The Modernisation of the Trade Marks (International Registration) Order

The Artist's Resale Right: Derogation for Deceased Artists

Proposed changes to Copyright Exemptions in respect of Music Licensing

Informal Consultation Paper on The Patent Research Exception

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221615]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's accounting records do not collate information to this level of detail. To provide a response would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has a standard retirement age; and how many employees have been asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218215]

Mr. Lammy: As part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007, the Department has taken on board terms and conditions of staff transferred in from the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Department for Trade and Industry (DTI). In DfES there was no set retirement age for the majority of staff. In DTI staff could retire at any time between the minimum retirement age of 60 and the maximum retirement age of 65. Staff also have a statutory right to request to continue working beyond 65. Careful consideration is given to such requests, but any offer to continue working beyond that age will be at the discretion of the Department.

A retirement age of 65 has been adopted by central Government for the senior civil service (SCS) but members of the SCS can request to work beyond that age.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders since the Department's establishment; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement; [216158]

(2) how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders since the Department was established; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216159]

(3) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence has been since the Department was established; and if he will make a statement. [216160]

Mr. Lammy: Sickness absence figures for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills for the year ending 31 March 2008 are available on its website:

www.dius.gov.uk/press/civil_sickness.html.

It is not possible to separate information on absence relating to stress and mental health and behavioural disorders as these are grouped together under 'mental disorders'. As the Department was not created until 28 June 2007, the sickness absence figures reported include the actual sickness absence for the period July 2007 to March 2008, with estimated figures given for the period April 2008 to June 2008. The figures include the Department's two agencies, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO), but they do not include the non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally.

Absence management is a high priority for the Department. We are aware of the importance of tackling stress, mental health and behavioural issues and are taking positive steps to manage these issues.

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Absence management is a high priority for the Department. We are aware of the importance of tackling stress, mental health and behavioural issues and are taking positive steps to manage these issues.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders since the Department was established; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216162]

Mr. Lammy: Since the formation of the Department to 31 March 2008, 1,034 (52 per cent.) staff from the Department and its agencies have taken a period of sick leave and will have received sick pay but it is not possible to break this down to stress, mental health and behavioural disorders and other illnesses without incurring disproportionate cost. We do know that just under 21 per cent. of all days sickness absence in my Department are due to mental disorders, including stress, and that 958 staff (48 per cent.) have not taken any sick leave in the period described. These figures include the Department's two agencies, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO), but they do not include the non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally.

My Department is aware of the importance of tackling stress, mental health and behavioural issues. Later this year we will be publishing a new stress prevention and management policy called 'building resilience'. We will also be providing learning and development for line managers and mental health awareness events from September.

Further Education: Student Wastage

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in further education in England failed to complete their course in the last 12 months; and how many of them were in *(a)* the final year of their course and *(b)* the first year of their course (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [220139]

Bill Rammell: Table 1 shows the percentage and number of students that failed to complete their course in 2006/07 for FE colleges, Work Based Learning (WBL) and Train to Gain (TTG) separately. The figures are calculated using different methodologies and should not be used to compare performance between the sectors. Similar figures for Personal and Community Development Learning are not available.

Data on how many learners dropped out in the first and second years respectively are not available.

Table 2 shows the percentage and number of FE college students that failed to complete their course by region in 2005/06. Similar analysis for later years and for WBL and TTG is not available.

Table 1: Percentage and number of students that failed to complete their course in 2006/07 for FE colleges, WBL and TTG

Sector	*Starts (thousand)*	*Percentage early leavers*	*Number early leavers (thousand)*
FE colleges	3,567	12.6	449
WBL	181	32.7	59
TTG	93	40.2	37

Table 2: Percentage and number of FE college students that failed to complete their course by region in 2005/06

Sector	*Starts*	*Percentage early leavers*	*Number early leavers (thousand)*
East of England	325	13.0	50
East Midlands	363	12.7	53
Greater London	744	11.8	98
North East	244	12.1	35
North West	661	13.7	97
South East	608	13.2	86
South West	470	13.7	71
West Midlands	591	12.8	80
Yorkshire and the Humber	464	14.4	75
England	4,470	13.0	645

Higher Education: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* higher education and *(b)* further education in Blackpool in each year since 1997. [223127]

Bill Rammell: Expenditure incurred by HEFCE, the Student Loans Company and the Learning and Skills Council is not collected by my Department at the level of detail requested. We will, however, work with HEFCE and the Student Loans Company to try to gain a detailed breakdown of the higher education expenditure and will write to the hon. Member with further relevant detail. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with additional information on further education expenditure.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216674]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no personal injury claims against the Department.

Students: Debts

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of graduates who have not repaid any of their student loan in the latest period for which figures are available. [218521]

Bill Rammell: Borrowers are liable to begin repaying their student loans from the April after they finish or leave their course. Student loans borrowers with income-contingent loans, which were introduced in 1998, repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000 per year.

Those earning less than £15,000 are not required to repay. Repayments are collected through the tax system, usually by employers, in the same way as income tax and National Insurance contributions and are therefore automatically deducted. Therefore borrowers covered by the PAYE UK tax system are not able to get into arrears. Self employed borrowers make repayments through the self assessment system.

Borrowers with the older mortgage-style loans repay over a fixed term whenever their income exceeds the repayment threshold, usually through direct debits. The threshold for mortgage-style loans is 85 per cent. of national average earnings, £25,287 from 1 September 2007. Borrowers who demonstrate that their income is below the threshold and for whom the Student Loans Company (SLC) has agreed a deferment of repayment will not make any repayments.

Most of the following provisional information is taken from the Statistical First Release Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 published by the Student Loans Company in June 2008:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022008.pdf

At the end of the 2007-08 financial year there were 1,237,300 income-contingent loan borrowers and nearly 341,100 mortgage-style loan borrowers past statutory repayment due date, i.e. due to repay loans if their income was above the relevant threshold.

Income-contingent loan borrowers[1] March 2008

Non-repayment categories (records being matched and information being collected)	71,100
Below earnings threshold not repaying	384,300
Living overseas—in arrears[2]	500
Not yet repaying subtotal	455,900
SLC awaiting first year HMRC return—repayment status not yet determined[3]	254,600
Above earnings threshold -repaying	374,700
Currently below earnings threshold but have made repayments via the tax, system during the last year[4]	152,100

[1] Excludes borrowers not yet required to repay because they are still in higher education or have recently left and those with accounts being fully repaid, written-off or closed.
[2] May have made repayments that did not bring their accounts up to date.
[3] Those for whom the first tax year return has not yet been received by SLC so their repayment status cannot yet be determined. This will include some borrowers who are repaying and SLC will be passed details of their repayments after the end of their first tax year of repaying.
[4] Those whose earnings have fluctuated during the year and who have therefore made repayments in some months but have earnings below the threshold at the end of the financial year.

The income-contingent loan scheme is still relatively young; the first cohort of borrowers completing three year courses became liable to begin repaying in April 2002 if their income was above the repayment threshold. Therefore a higher proportion of borrowers are new graduates, who will be new to the labour market, than will be the case in steady state. The figures also reflect the time delay of up to 18 months between graduates starting to repay, and when information on the repayments they have made is available to SLC. This is because repayments are made through the tax system. HMRC receives an annual P14 return from employers, setting out the deductions they have made in the past year, and passes on this information to SLC to update borrowers' accounts. Despite the inevitable time lags, collecting student loans through the tax system remains the most efficient and cost-effective method.

The vast majority of income-contingent borrowers who are not repaying (84 per cent. of those not repaying) earn below the £15,000 threshold and are not therefore required to make any repayments. Repayments for a further 16 per cent. have not yet started because details are still being matched with employer's records or other information that is being collected.

Borrowers living overseas who have not yet repaid the amount they were scheduled to repay represent 0.04 per cent. of income-contingent borrowers covered in the table and 0.1 per cent. of those not repaying. The Student Loans Company has arrangements in place for repayments to be scheduled from borrowers living overseas and these borrowers are made aware of the methods of repayment available to them. Effective collection across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgements in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

Mortgage-style loan borrowers March 2008[1]

Deferring repayments until following year[2]	
Deferring repayments	133,800
Deferring repayments with arrears	6,500
In arrears (may have made repayments that did not bring accounts up to date)	
Owing less than 2 months repayments[1]	2,200
Owing 2 or more months repayments[1]	23,900
Overdue with no repayment schedule owing less than £100[1]	2,200
Overdue with no repayment schedule owing £100 or more[1]	53,500
Repaying	
Ahead with repayments	37,300
Up to date with repayments	87,100
Account closed	
Fully repaid since loans introduced	534,300
Cancelled/written-off since loans introduced	71,800

[1] Individual borrowers may be counted in more than one category if they have loan accounts in more than one status.
[2] Borrowers with mortgage-style loans who have income below the repayment threshold are entitled to apply for deferment of repayment for one year at a time.

Of those borrowers who have received mortgage-style loans since their introduction in 1990, 56 per cent. have fully replaced and a further 8 per cent. have had their loans cancelled or written-off for reasons such as age, death, or becoming disabled and permanently unable to work. Around 23 per cent. are currently deferring or have arrears. Mortgage-style loans were replaced by income-contingent loans from 1998.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's policy is on permitting medical students with a first degree from a UK institution to defer payment of up-front tuition fees. [213893]

Bill Rammell: Fee support has always been restricted for people who have already had a chance to experience higher education. Students with an honours degree from a UK institution are not eligible for tuition fee loans for a second undergraduate degree. For medical students who have already achieved a first degree, the position has not changed. The student support arrangements are designed to support one opportunity to take a full-time course of higher education.

However, graduate medical students are eligible for loans for living costs and supplementary grants for the second undergraduate degree, because of a special dispensation for students studying for a professional qualification.

The Department of Health supports medical students on the full undergraduate course in years 5 and 6. For graduates on the four-year accelerated courses these students have their fees paid and receive means-tested bursaries for years 2 to 4 of the accelerated course.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students began undergraduate courses in England on fees varied from the statutory permissible maximum in each year since the introduction of the Higher Education Act 2003. [218782]

Ian Pearson: Variable fees were introduced in 2006/07. In that year new entrants to higher education could be charged up to £3,000. Increases are limited to the rate of

inflation until at least 2010. Universities charging variable fees have to have an access agreement with the Office For Fair Access (OFFA) and are required to provide bursaries to students receiving the full Maintenance Grant. Many offer considerably more than the minimum bursary required. Fees can vary by course as well as institution.

English domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants to English higher education institutions by fee status 2006/07

Fee status of institution	*New entrants*[1]	*Percentage of students*
Institutions charging full fee	277,200	93
Institutions not charging full fee	19,445	7

[1] Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

Sources:
OFFA lists of institutions by fee status; Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will break down the data in Tables 1, 2(ii) and 2(iii) of the Press Release entitled Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (Provisional), issued on 17 June 2008 by *(a)* students domiciled in England, *(b)* students domiciled in the UK but not in England and *(c)* students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK. [212684]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company (SLC) publication Student Loans for Higher Education in England Financial Year 2007-08 (provisional) covers loans to English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU domiciled students studying in England. SLC produces separate publications for the other home countries, in consultation with the devolved administrations.

EU domiciled students studying in England may apply for tuition fee loans, first introduced in September 2006. They are not eligible for maintenance loans. Table 2(ii) of the England publication which has been placed in the Library covers the older mortgage-style maintenance loans only, and is therefore covering only England domiciled students. Table 2(iii) which has also been placed in the Library shows EU domiciled students in separate columns, the remainder of the table covers England domiciled students.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many live accounts are held by the Student Loan Company for which no repayment is currently being received, broken down by reason for the lack of repayment. [220225]

Bill Rammell: Borrowers are liable to begin repaying their student loans from the April after they finish or leave their course. Student loans borrowers with income-contingent loans, which were introduced in 1998, repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000 per year. Those earning less than £15,000 are not required to repay. Repayments are collected through the tax system, usually by employers, in the same way as income tax and National Insurance contributions and are therefore automatically deducted. Therefore borrowers covered by the PAYE UK tax system are not able to get into arrears. Self employed borrowers make repayments through the Self Assessment system.

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ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Inland Waterways: Property

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many lock-keepers' cottages his Department plans to *(a)* sell and *(b)* let in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [223341]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has put on hold any changes proposed by its lock house review until the completion of a full review of Waterways staff roles and responsibilities, and terms and conditions on the River Thames.

No action will be taken to sell or rent lock houses until negotiations on the full review are completed. It is anticipated that negotiations will take six months but no action will be taken before 1 January 2009. The Environment Agency will then review the position on lock houses with lock-keepers and their representatives, and with concerned MPs.

Nitrates: Air Pollution

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of a UK derogation from the nitrogen oxide provisions of the EU Air Quality Directive; whether he plans to meet the European Commission to discuss the matter; and if he will make a statement. [223243]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK is working to meet ambient air quality limit values in the shortest time possible. The UK Air Quality Strategy provides full details which can be found on the DEFRA website. The nitrogen dioxide limit values are extremely challenging and current projections indicate that despite these efforts, the UK, like most other member states, expects to report breaches beyond the 2010 compliance deadline. Subject to a full public consultation, the Government will therefore need to use the provision in the new Ambient Air Quality Directive which gives the possibility of a further five years to meet the limit values.

A successful application to the European Commission will need to demonstrate how compliance with the limit values will be achieved by 2015. The Government, with the devolved Administrations, are currently working to establish the extent and nature of the measures that will be required.

In the meantime, my officials are working closely with other member states and the European Commission in taking this issue forward.

Sewers

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he proposes for the adoption of private sewers; and if he will make a statement. [223269]

Mr. Woolas: The Government announced in February 2007 their decision to transfer private sewers and lateral drains draining to the public sewerage system into water company ownership. We subsequently published a public consultation in July 2007 on implementation options for the proposed transfer. The consultation also posed questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer and ways in which the creation of new private sewers could be prevented.

A summary of responses was published in March 2008 and we are currently considering in detail the issues raised with the help of a steering group of key stakeholders. The work of the steering group will inform the decision on the timing of transfer and we expect to make an announcement later this year.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 404W, on sewers, when the steering group expects to complete

its work on the proposed transfer of private sewers; and when he expects to announce his decision on the timing of transfer. [223399]

Mr. Woolas: The steering group has almost concluded its work and we expect to make an announcement later this year.

Water: EC Action

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations his Department has received on the provisions of the proposed EU Water Performance Directive for Buildings. [223213]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has received no representations on a directive proposal but has been engaging with the European Commission regarding the communication on water scarcity and drought.

The communication identifies a wide range of policies to reduce water scarcity including a proposal for a study to consider the need for a directive similar to the energy performance directive on the water performance of buildings.

Weedkillers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Pesticides Safety Directorate has withdrawn its provisional authorisation for aminopyralid. [223172]

Mr. Woolas: The Pesticides Safety Directorate has amended the approvals of aminopyralid containing products to remove approval for sale, supply and use at the request of the approval holder.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date *(a)* (i) the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) and (ii) the relevant Minister was informed that the manufacturers of aminopyralid had withdrawn it, *(b)* the PSD recommended that the provisional authorisation for aminopyralid should be withdrawn and *(c)* a Minister decided to withdraw the provisional authorisation. [223173]

Mr. Woolas: Following PSD calling the main approval holder for aminopyralid to a meeting, the approval holder asked on 21 July 2008 for their product approval to be modified to remove approval for sale, supply and use. PSD accepted this application and accordingly issued a notice amending the conditions of approval with effect from 23 July 2008.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new child benefit claims have been made in each of the last 12 months; and how many and what proportion of those claims have been made by *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU citizens resident outside the UK. [223163]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested.

Child Benefit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much revenue the Child Benefit Helpline has generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223432]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 827W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of callers to the Child Benefit Helpline whose call was logged with the promise of a call back within 24 hours received a call back in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223433]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a final reply to be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North from the chief executive of the Child Support Agency (CSA) about a constituent of the hon. Member further to the CSA letter of 30 July 2008, reference PCO/177 431/CM/WOD. [223188]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. Winnick:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will arrange for a final reply to be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North from the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency (CSA) about a constituent of the hon. Member further to the CSA letter of 30th July 2008 reference PCO/177 431/CM/WOD. (223188)

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who did not receive timeous payment as a result of the Child Support Agency's computer system failure in the first week of September 2008; what assessment he has made of the hardships likely to be caused to clients affected by the failure; what steps he plans to take to compensate those who have incurred bank charges and other financial penalties as a result of the failure; and if he will make a statement. [223364]

Mr. Timms: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of people who did not receive timeous payment as a result of the Child Support Agency's computer system failure in the first week of September 2008; what assessment he has made of the hardships likely to be caused to clients affected by the failure; what steps he plans to take to compensate those who have incurred bank charges and other financial penalties as a result of the failure; and if he will make a statement. [223364]

The Agency is not aware of a computer system failure in the first week of September 2008 which has affected payments to clients.

If you have any concerns relating to a particular case, I would be happy to investigate and respond accordingly.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many new scheme cases were handled by the Child Support Agency in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East *and (d)* the UK in each year since 1997; [223283]

(2) how many old scheme cases were handled by the Child Support Agency in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [223284]

Mr. Timms: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many new scheme cases were handled by the Child Support Agency in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997 [223283] and

How many old scheme cases were handled by the Child Support Agency in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [223284]

The Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics contains information on its caseload in Table 1, and additional information at the geographical areas requested for the most recent quarter only in tables S1a and S1b. The latest copy is available in the House of Commons library or via the internet at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

The attached table contains the number of cases with a calculation or an assessment for each of the years and areas that you have requested.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency caseload by scheme

	Great Britain Caseload		North East Caseload	
Month	*Old Scheme*	*New Scheme*	*Old Scheme*	*New Scheme*
May 1997	609,800	n/a	38,800	n/a
May 1998	785,500	n/a	50,700	n/a
May 1999	942,300	n/a	63,900	n/a
May 2000	1,040,000	n/a	72,100	n/a
May 2001	1,035,400	n/a	72,900	n/a
May 2002	1,077,000	n/a	75,400	n/a
June 2003	985,400	7,100	66,400	300
June 2004	893,500	123,500	58,200	6,300
June 2005	845,000	229,100	57,400	13,100
June 2006	788,200	364,700	53,800	20,600
June 2007	707,600	497,600	49,400	29,000
June 2008	635,100	612,300	44,500	35,800

	South Tyneside Caseload		Jarrow Caseload	
Month	*Old Scheme*	*New Scheme*	*Old Scheme*	*New Scheme*
May 1997	2,100	n/a	1,100	n/a
May 1998	3,000	n/a	1,400	n/a
May 1999	3,500	n/a	1,800	n/a
May 2000	4,200	n/a	2,100	n/a
May 2001	4,100	n/a	1,800	n/a
May 2002	4,200	n/a	1,900	n/a
June 2003	4,000	–	1,800	–
June 2004	3,600	400	1,600	200
June 2005	3,600	900	1,600	500
June 2006	3,500	1,400	1,600	700
June 2007	3,200	1,900	1,500	1,000
June 2008	2,900	2,400	1,300	1,200

Notes:
1. Figures include all cases with a calculation/assessment, including nil liability calculations and assessments.
2. Cases have been allocated to the North East, Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency and South Tyneside Local Authority by matching the postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. '–' indicates a figure less than 50.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent representations he has received on changes to the mobility component of disability living allowance for blind and visually-impaired people; [223453]

(2) what progress has been made in implementing changes to the mobility component of disability living allowance received by blind and visually-impaired people. [223454]

Mrs. McGuire: We have received a number of representations from hon. Members, organisations and members of the public on this issue.

We have been in long-term discussions with the Royal National Institute of Blind People and others on whether there is scope to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe visual impairments. While we understand the force of the arguments put forward by the Royal National Institute of Blind People, and are sympathetic to their aims, we cannot at this time commit to amending the existing arrangements for the mobility component of disability living allowance.

The Green Paper, "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" Cm 7363, published on 21 July, sets out our strategy to help greater numbers of sick and disabled people who want to work to fulfil their aspirations. Part of this strategy is the proposal to increase the access to work budget to help greater numbers of disabled people return to and remain in work. Currently, around one in four customers of access to work are people with a visual impairment.

Employment: Mothers

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has conducted into the quality of the assistance and advice given to mothers seeking employment. [223237]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pensions conducts a wide range of research to inform the strategic development and operational delivery of its policies. This includes formal evaluations of employment programmes and pilots, as well as more strategic research on work-related and service delivery issues. Other research considers, more broadly, customer satisfaction with various aspects of Jobcentre Plus provision.

Given the importance of reducing child poverty, research on mothers' employment patterns and their experiences of and attitudes to work is a key strand of the Department's research programme. This includes a comprehensive programme of evaluation of employment programmes for which mothers are eligible, including the new deal for lone parents, work focused interviews for lone parents, and new deal for partners, as well as focussing on issues specific to mothers' employment such as child care.

A list of relevant recently published research has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Arrears

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for 52 week backdating of housing benefit have been received in each of the last five years; and how many and what percentage of those applications were successful. [223367]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer the Parliamentary Under-Secretary gave the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central, (Jenny Willott), on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1173W.

Jobcentres: Location

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the proportion of benefits claimants who live *(a)* within 10 miles, *(b)* within 20 miles, *(c)* within 30 miles and *(d)* further than 30 miles from a Job Centre Plus office; and if he will make a statement. [223431]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Self-Employed: Parents

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many self-employed parents had children aged 15 years or under at the latest date for which figures are available. [223343]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 September 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many self-employed parents had children aged 15 years or under at the latest date for which figures are available. (223343)

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets for the period April to June 2008 show there were 1.26 million self-employed parents who had dependent children aged 15 years or under.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

TREASURY

Animal Products: Imports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what resources HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors deployed to control imports of products of animal origin in each of the last five years; [223337]

(2) how many checks designed to detect products of animal origin were conducted by HM Revenue and Customs at UK ports of entry in each of the last five years. [223338]

Jane Kennedy: All front-line customs detection staff are employed to tackle a range of risks at the border and most work on a multi functional basis. These working arrangements continue to operate following the transfer of these staff to the interim UK Border Agency's management structure with effect from 1 April 2008.

HM Revenue and Customs and before that, HM Customs and Excise deployed front-line enforcement staff to detect illegal products of animal origin (POAO) imports at points of entry into Great Britain as follows:

POAO resources

Financial year	*Detection FTE staff years used*	*Number of detector dogs*
2003-04	86.4	6
2004-05	105.5	10
2005-06	155.3	10
2006-07	250.9	11
2007-08	185.6	11

Front-line staff are supported by POAO detector dogs. The detector dog programme has expanded from two in April 2003 to 11 in 2007-08. The actual number available for deployment can differ according to the need to train new dogs and handlers and to replace dogs through retirements and ill health.

Resources were also deployed in each of the last five financial years to deal with storage and destruction of seized meat and other POAO, publicising the regulations to the travelling public, investigation and prosecution work supported by policy activities.

The information sought on detection checks is not available as HMRC central records do not include any statistics on the number of checks carried out by detection staff.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008 on

child care vouchers, if he will publish his Department's analysis of the care vouchers scheme for carers sponsored by Accor Services UK, Busy Bees Ltd, Grassroots Group and Sodexho Pass. [221564]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury have a contract with Accor Services UK for the provision of child care vouchers.

HM Treasury do not undertake a formal analysis of the child care scheme but do review take-up, budget and expenditure on a frequent basis.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on council tax: valuation, what the cost of licensing the TENET mapping software is to the Valuation Office Agency each year. [218312]

Jane Kennedy: The information concerned is commercially sensitive

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, HC 583, what assessment the Valuation Office Agency has made of the reasons for its failure to meet its target for providing a considered decision on council tax enquiries and proposals within two months of receipt in 98 per cent. of cases. [221281]

Jane Kennedy: The reasons are set out in the report and accounts at page 20.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219937]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer given to the hon. member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in the Department. [223282]

Jane Kennedy: Services such as cleaning are provided in 1 Horse Guards Road as part of a PFI contract with Exchequer Partnership (EP). One Complete Solution (OCS) deliver the cleaning element of those services.

These services are currently being market tested by EP and it would be inappropriate to disclose details of pay rates at this time.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217405]

Angela Eagle: Responses for HM Treasury, OGC, OGCbuyingsolutions and Debt Management Office are as follows.

Department	*Number of staff disciplined in last two years*	*Number of staff dismissed in the last two years*
HMT	13	Less than 5
OGC	Less than 5	Less than 5
OGCbuyingsolutions	Less than 5	Less than 5
DMO	0	0

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221748]

Angela Eagle: No IT projects have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206547]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Number of staff employed each year

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
UK citizens born in the UK					
Royal Mint	1,124	985	1,088	1,008	893
NS and I	14	15	16	18	21
HMT	731	795	783	835	877
UK citizens born abroad					
Royal Mint	6	6	7	8	6
NS and I	0	2	0	0	0
HMT	79	77	77	92	85

	Number of staff employed each year				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Foreign nationals					
Royal Mint	1	0	1	1	3
NS and I	1	4	4	5	6
HMT	3	4	9	19	33

For HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) the information is as follows:

HMRC	2007	2008
UK citizens	101,869	100,799
Non UK nationals	489	504

HMRC was created in April 2005. Data are not available for the three years prior to 2007. HMRC does not ask staff whether they were born in the UK.

Information for the Debt Management Office, the Valuation Office Agency, the Office of Government Commerce, OGCbuyingsolutions and the Government Actuary's Department is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221167]

Angela Eagle: Total of reimbursable expenses claimed by press officers in the last three financial years by HMT and its agencies, OGC, DMO, OGCB is as follows.

	Reimbursable expenses claimed (£)
2005-06	6,706.62
2006-07	7,221.03
2007-08	1,967.78

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216101]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to questions answered on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column reference 1478-1479W.

Actual sick pay costs can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Equitable Life

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to publish the advice he has commissioned on the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recent report on Equitable Life; [223439]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the losses incurred by Equitable Life policyholders as a result of the company's collapse; [223440]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recent report on Equitable Life; [223441]

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in respect of Equitable Life. [223252]

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report Equitable Life: A decade of regulatory failure; and what plans he has to respond to the recommendations made in the report. [223375]

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a compensation scheme under an independent tribunal for policyholders in the Equitable Life Assurance Company. [223417]

Kitty Ussher: As I explained in my written statement to the House on 17 July, the ombudsman has looked at matters of considerable factual and technical complexity. I am giving her 2,800 page report very careful consideration and will give my response to the House in the autumn.

Frieght

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many winding-up orders of companies involved in road haulage have been requested by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* each month since April 2007 and *(b)* each financial year between 1990 and 2007. [223385]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1786W, on HM Revenue and Customs, what the estate costs of *(a)* Swinson House, *(b)* Hilary House, *(c)* Cherry Court, Hull and *(d)* Custom House, Hull were in the 12 months before each building was transferred to Mapeley STEPS Contractor Ltd. [221735]

Jane Kennedy: The transfer of properties to Mapeley STEPS Contractor Ltd. took place in April 2001. Expenditure details prior to April 2005 and the creation of HM Revenue and Customs are not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter dated 4 June 2008 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent, Mr. Rawles of Turriff. [218697]

Jane Kennedy: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 10 July 2008 regarding a constituent, reference 1/59111/2008. [223190]

Angela Eagle: I have now done so and regret not being in a position to write to my hon. Friend earlier.

Mortgages

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken on mortgage *(a)* access and *(b)* provision for potential house purchasers. [223442]

Kitty Ussher: On 2 September, the Government announced a series of measures to help first time buyers get on to the housing ladder, help homeowners in difficulty and support the house building industry. Information on these measures is available at H.M. Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2008/press_88_08.cfm

and the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/950558.

Personal Savings

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the maximum monthly sum for investment into a Save As You Earn Sharesave Plan for employees if the £250 limit set in 1991 had been increased in line with the retail prices index. [223261]

Kitty Ussher: No such estimate has been made. The average monthly amount saved by most employees under SAYE is considerably less than the current limit.

Property: Valuation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of private dwelling sales were valued at £175,000 or less in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region and devolved Administration area. [223260]

Kitty Ussher: Data on property transactions up to 2007—the most recent year for which figures are published—can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/index.htm

These data include property transactions by type of property and price as well as the number and value of property transactions broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Revenue and Customs: Labour Turnover

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff turnover rate was in each HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years. [219796]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not hold resignation and other staff wastage data for individual locations for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, or 2006-07. Accurate data for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what realignments have been made to the communities budget for England as a result of the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Exemption of Certain Acquisitions of Residential Property) Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement. [223363]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor will publish a full update on the Government's fiscal plans in the pre-Budget report this autumn, in the usual way.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of a suspension of stamp duty up to £175,000 on house price affordability in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England. [223397]

Kitty Ussher: Stamp duty rates and thresholds apply uniformly throughout the UK. The temporary suspension of stamp duty on purchases of residential property of not more than £175,000 will mean that purchasers will save up to £1,750 on the transaction costs associated with moving.

Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost of distributing tax credit renewal packs was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [223205]

(2) how many tax credit renewal packs were distributed in each of the last four years; [223206]

Jane Kennedy: The cost of posting the annual declaration and renewal packs for 2008 renewals was £2.95 million.

The number of tax credits annual renewal packs issued in each of the last four years is shown in the following table:

	Packs (Around)
2004-05	7.6 million
2005-06	8.2 million
2006-07	8.8 million
2007-08	9.0 million

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from *(a)* airline operators, *(b)* airport operators and *(c)* overseas Governments on the proposed aviation duty; and which of these were (i) in favour and (ii) against the proposals. [223259]

Jane Kennedy: The consultation on the proposed aviation duty closed on 24 April 2008 and considered all aspects of the operation of the duty.

Responses to the consultation were received from airline operators, airport operators and overseas Governments, among others.

A summary of responses will be published in due course.

Taxation: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of monies collected by his Department from local commission areas in Scotland is spent in Scotland; [223360]

(2) what criteria his Department uses to determine the percentage of monies raised in Scotland retained by the Government. [223361]

Jane Kennedy: The funding arrangements for the Scottish Executive are set out in the "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy" published by the Treasury in October 2007.

Taxation: Welsh Language

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Welsh language inquiries have been processed by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [223167]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices will be able to deal with Welsh language enquiries following the planned reorganisation of HMRC; [223168]

(2) what provision he plans to make for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices to deal with Welsh language inquiries as part of the planned reorganisation of HMRC; [223169]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC remains committed to providing services to its Welsh speaking customers, in accordance with its Welsh Language scheme.

The Welsh Language Contact Centre in Porthmadog and the VAT Helpline in Cardiff will continue, as now. Enquiries received by HMRC offices may need to be referred to the dedicated Welsh Language services based in Cardiff and Porthmadog.

The Welsh Language Contact Centre in Porthmadog will continue to provide direct services to Welsh speaking customers who telephone, visit or write.

The current arrangements for handling Welsh speaking callers to other Enquiry Centres will also remain in place.

Tobacco: Smuggling

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make an assessment of *(a)* the track and trace system operated on tobacco and alcohol products in Turkey and *(b)* proposals to introduce a track and trace system for tobacco products in Germany; [223229]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the voluntary anti-smuggling agreement amongst tobacco companies on the amount of illicit tobacco entering the UK in the last year; and if he will make a statement; [223230]

(3) whether all the tobacco companies supplying the UK market are party to the voluntary anti-smuggling agreement amongst tobacco companies. [223231]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has no specific plans to assess the systems introduced in Turkey to track and trace alcohol and tobacco products, nor any proposed system to track and trace tobacco products in Germany. However, HMRC keeps abreast of developments in track and trace technology through its regular contacts with tobacco manufacturers and customs authorities in other EU member states.

The anti-counterfeit voluntary agreement between HMRC and tobacco manufacturers requires the incorporation of a covert security mark on packs of cigarettes and pouches of hand-rolling tobacco. The security mark was successfully incorporated onto packs of cigarettes for the UK market manufactured from October 2007, and it will be extended to cover pouches of hand-rolling tobacco manufactured from October 2008 as agreed. The intention of the security mark is to prevent counterfeit tobacco product from infiltrating the retail sector.

The four largest tobacco manufacturers, representing over 97 per cent. of the UK cigarette market and all brands that are commonly counterfeited, have introduced the anti-counterfeit security technology.

The Government have not made any estimate of the impact the agreement has had on the amount of illicit tobacco entering the UK in the last year.

Valuation Office Agency: Capgemini

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 56 of the Valuation Office Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, HC 583, if he will provide a breakdown of the goods and services provided under the heading of Capgemini service charges. [221279]

Jane Kennedy: The goods and services provided under the heading of Capgemini service charges were:

Management of the Agreement

Charge for managing the Agreement.

Business Applications Support and Maintenance (BASM)

The maintenance and support of the VOA Business Applications.

Data Centre Operations

The service covers the housing, operation, maintenance and monitoring of all the hardware and software components that reside within the Data Centre.

Desktop Services

The service covers the activities related to managing, supporting and developing the VOA distributed computing environment—this covers desktops and laptops.

Wide Area Network

The service covers engineering, planning, provision and installation of all WAN hardware and software together with guidance, design, procurement and implementation of all new technologies and services.

Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

This covers the requirement to have the appropriate level of continuity provision to ensure that the effects of an unexpected loss of services are minimised and that the restoration of the processes takes place within an acceptable and agreed time.

Other costs (including licences)

Valuation Office: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 211W, on Valuation Office: consultants, which each of the four consultancies are; and in which areas each is providing consultancy advice. [218246]

Jane Kennedy: Some of the information requested is commercially confidential. The work covered:

1. Brand Vista: Research in connection with public sector customers and satisfaction levels.

2. Two assignments: Assistance with the World Class delivery programme (set out in the Valuation Office Agency's Forward Plan 2008-11).

3. Nixon Brooke: Advice on development of an internally developed IT work planning and monitoring application.

Valuation Office: Manuals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on Valuation Office: manuals, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* rating support application valuation training support materials, *(b)* district valuer services caseworker support IT training support materials and *(c)* digital mapping user guide. [218411]

Jane Kennedy: These guidance manuals are technical instructions on the use of Valuation Office Agency internal IT applications and it would not be appropriate to make them public.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on IT projects since January 2002, broken down by project. [218260]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of malfunctions in the Libra computer system on the operation of the criminal justice system in the last 12 months. [221685]

Maria Eagle: The implementation of the Libra system has not had a significant impact upon overall performance in the criminal justice system over the last 12 months.

The introduction of any new IT system and standardised business processes for the courts will inevitably have an initial impact on performance as they come to terms with new ways of working. Libra implementation has impacted upon resulting performance in some courts.

Once fully implemented (by December 2008) the Libra system will provide a platform for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the magistrates court with positive benefits for other parts of the criminal justice system.

Criminal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in Britain aged (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 18 and (iii) 18 and over had a criminal record in (A) 1981, (B) 1991, (C) 1997, (D) 2001 and (E) 2007, broken down by police force area. [221665]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on the proportions of the population with a criminal history in England and Wales can be found in 'Criminal careers of those born between 1953 and 1978' at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb401.pdf

The bulletin gives figures for offenders who have had a court conviction for a 'standard list' offence. 'Standard list' offences include all indictable and certain of the more serious summary offences. This publication follows those born in particular years to analyse the percentage of the population with a criminal history. The years followed are 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973 and 1978.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221084]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is taking the Government's sustainability agenda seriously and is actively working to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings which it rents and owns. The Department published its Sustainable Development Action Plan in March 2008 and is working towards the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets:

To increase the energy efficiency per m^2 by:

15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels

30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels, and

To reduce CO_2 emissions from the office estate by:

12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels

30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

As the Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and was previously subject to significant machinery of government changes there would be a disproportionate cost to establish the changes in energy efficiency of buildings over the last five and ten years.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221100]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is taking the Government's sustainability agenda seriously and is actively working to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings which it rents and owns. The Department published its sustainable development action plan in March 2008 and is working towards the sustainable operations on the Government estate targets:

To increase the energy efficiency per m^2 by:

15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels;

30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and

To reduce CO_2 emissions from the office estate by:

12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels;

30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

Energy efficiency is always considered when entering a new lease. However, the main consideration will fall on the location and suitability of the building for the purpose of the operation. Sustainability and energy efficiency measures were a key driver for the landlord refurbishment of 102 Petty France and have been reflected in the design and construction. It accords with the landlord's environmental policy guidelines and the project has received a BREEAM[1] 'Excellent' rating which is a significant achievement for a refurbishment scheme.

[1] For over a decade, BREEAM has been to assess the environmental performance of both new and existing buildings. It is regarded by the UK's construction and property sectors as the measure of best practice in environmental design and management.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department's Open Government Unit has answered within the timescale prescribed by the Act in each of the last three years. [221131]

Mr. Wills: Figures for the proportion of requests which were answered in time, in that they either received a response within the standard deadline or were subject to a permitted deadline extension, in each of the last three years are as follows:

April 2005 to March 2006: 85 per cent;

April 2006 to March 2007: 91 per cent;

April 2007 to March 2008: 83 per cent.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information technology projects initiated by his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221746]

Mr. Wills: The National Enforcement Tracker System (NETS) project was cancelled in August 2007 following a detailed review which highlighted that the cost and scope of the project no longer provided value for money or met current business requirements. Expenditure to closure of the project was £4.328 million and this sum was reported in accordance with HMT accounting rules.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department and its predecessor was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220740]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has contracts in place that provide for the supply of recycled paper. Under these arrangements the percentage breakdown of paper used for photocopying obtained from recycled sources in each of the last two calendar years is set out in the following table:

Calendar year	*Recycled paper percentage*
2006	62.20
2007	64.70

The Ministry of Justice obtains printed publications from a variety of sources. Figures on the percentage breakdown of paper used in printed publications from recycled stock over the past two years have not been held centrally and could be provided only by manually analysing records held locally. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221174]

Mr. Wills: Press Officers are able to claim reasonable expenses where these are essential in doing their job, mainly for travel and essential subsistence. Receipts must be produced and claims approved by senior managers. Any spending of public money is carried out in accordance with strict guidelines governing all Civil Servants.

The Ministry of Justice was formed on 9 May 2007. Therefore the figures in the list also include the former Department for Constitutional Affairs.

2007-08: £1,345.82

2006-07: £1,242.14

2005-06: £2,608.61

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS):

2008-09 (paid to date): £11.90

2007-08: £1,029.33

2006-07: £215.15

Judicial Communications Office:

2007-08: £372.10

2006-07: £297.75

2005-06: £101.55

Tribunal Service:

Before April 2007, the press office budget was part of a wider budget and figures are not attainable. Since April 2007, £367 has been paid.

National Archives:

2008-09 (paid to date): £22.20

2007-08: £219.38

2005-06: £319.60

Land Registry:

2007-08: £387.65

2006-07: £551.05

2005-06: £589.61

The Boundary Commission for England, the Boundary Commission for Wales and the Office of the Public Guardian do not have press officers. The Judicial Appointments Commission has not reimbursed any expenses to press officers.

Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code provides departments and agencies with the authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by their own staff in connection with their employment, subject to the following conditions:

8.1.2 Departments and agencies must:

(a) reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business;

(b) comply with the additional conditions on travel, relocation expenses, compensation for loss or damage to property, and overseas expenses set out in sections 8.2 to 8.6; and

(c) ensure that their rules provide for claiming recompense, including verification and authorisation.

The Civil Service Management Code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220430]

Mr. Wills: In line with good commercial practice, The Ministry of Justice's policy is to pay undisputed invoices within contractual terms, which is generally set at 30 days.

In some circumstances it is practice to provide an opportunity for bidders to offer a discount in return for early settlement of invoices. The Ministry of Justice will consider the wider use of early settlement provisions, where that would provide value for money and be consistent with HM Treasury rules.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many citizens' juries his Department has held in the last 12 months. [220482]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not held any citizens' juries over the last 12 months. We have begun to engage the public in other ways, including through The Governance of Britain website and regional events. We have also produced a discussion document, A national framework for greater citizen engagement, which sets out the circumstances in which citizens' juries should be held and invites views on these proposals.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221372]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is in the following table.

Reviews initiated by Ministry of Justice (MoJ) since 27 June 2007	*Notes*
Review of the use of restraint in juvenile secure settings	Independent joint review commissioned by MoJ and Department for Children, Schools and Families
Lord Goldsmith QC Citizenship Review	Independent review commissioned by the Prime Minister not MoJ; Review staff and funding provided by MoJ (Governance of Britain)
Lord Carter's Review of the Prison System in England and Wales	Independent review initiated in early June 2007. Lord Carter's report was published on 5 December 2007 in 'Securing the future Proposals for the efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales'.
Fulton Review of the Forum For Preventing Deaths in Custody	Robert Fulton was appointed by MoJ to conduct this independent review
Sentencing Commission Working Group	'Sentencing Guidelines in England and Wales: an evolutionary approach' report published
Review of Voting Systems: the experience of the new voting systems in the United Kingdom since 1997	Part of 'Governance of Britain' programme
Review of Prison-Based Drug Treatment Funding	Independent joint review commissioned by Department of Health and MoJ
Data-sharing review	Review of the scope for sharing personal information and the protections that apply when personal information is shared in the public and private sectors. Conducted by Richard Thomas, Information Commissioner and Dr. Mark Walport
Review of the 30 year rule on when government records are made available to the public/opened for inspection in The National Archives	Independent review chaired by Paul Dacre appointed by the Prime Minister
Review of how more offenders with severe mental health problems can be diverted away from prison and into more appropriate facilities	Conducted by Lord Bradley who will report jointly to Department of Health and MoJ
Review of the Law of Homicide	As part of this review, a consultation exercise on proposals for reform on: partial defences to murder of diminished responsibility and provocation; the law on complicity in relation to homicide; and infanticide was published on 28 July 2008

Reviews initiated by Ministry of Justice (MoJ) since 27 June 2007	*Notes*
Review of failure to appear warrants withdrawn at Leeds magistrates court	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Courts Administration and Chief Inspectors for the Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service were asked by MoJ to conduct a thorough inspection and prepare a report to Ministers into the resulting and warrant processes at Leeds magistrates court.
Review of the Civil Justice Council	Independent review conducted by Dr. Jonathan Spencer in accordance with Cabinet Office Guidance for Public Bodies
Claims Management Regulation Annual Review 2007-08	Review of first year of formal regulation of the claims management sector
Review of measures to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs to prisons	David Blakey was commissioned to conduct the review by the Director General of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

Ministry of Justice consultations 27 June 2007 to 2 September 2008

1. Openness in the Family Courts—a new approach
2. Cremation Regulations
3. Referral to coroners
4. Quality Assurance Scheme for publicly funded criminal defence advocates
5. Review of Part 6 of the Civil Procedure Rules: Service of documents
6. Network Access Agreements—Appeal Rules for Adjudicator to Land Registry
7. Conditional Fee Agreements—Fixed Recoverable Success Fees in publication proceedings
8. Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK elections
9. Regulation of Claims Management Services - consultation on fee levels 2008-09
10. Charity Tribunal Draft Rules 2007
11. Criminal Defence Service (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Regulations 2001
12. Changes to the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme—de-prescribing the penalty notice form
13. The debt claim process: helping people in debt to engage with the problem
14. General Commissioners of Income Tax
15. Judicial Appointments: the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary
16. War-making powers and international treaties
17. Freedom of Information Act 2000: Designation of additional public authorities
18. Consumer Credit Appeals Tribunal
19. Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Rules
20. NOMS Strategic Plan on Reducing Re-offending
21. NOMS 3rd sector action plan
22. NOMS: Believing We Can
23. Transforming Tribunals
24. Forced Marriage—Third Party Applicants
25. Public law family fees
26. MoJ Third Sector Strategy
27. Improving the Criminal Trial Process for Young Witnesses (OCJR)

2008 consultations

1. Administration Orders and Enforcement Restriction Orders—setting the parameters
2. Forced Marriage Act—court procedure rules
3. Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act: Eligibility for Judicial Appointment
4. Enhancing procedural rights and judicial co-operation in the EU
5. Rome I—Should the UK opt in?
6. Best Value in Probation
7. Children and Adoption Act 2006 Procedure Rules
8. Certificate of Professional Competence—Amendments to the Transport Tribunal Rules 2008
9. Titan Prisons
10. Bail and murder
11. Reforming the Legal Aid Family Barrister Fee Scheme
12. Election Day—Weekend Voting
13. Pleural Plaques
14. Inspection powers and funding arrangements of the Information Commissioner
15. Pandemic influenza—guidance on the operation of the coroner system
16. Prison, probation and sentencing and reoffending statistics
17. Murder, manslaughter and infanticide: proposals for reform of the law
18. Proposal to close Nelson County Court
19. Claims Management Regulation—fee levels for 2009-10
20. Section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act—draft regulations

Domestic Violence

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations his Department has received relating to the risk of domestic violence arising in cases involving end of custody licence. [220869]

Mr. Straw: The Department has received two representations, both from the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO).

Electoral Commission

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on the transfer of the Commission's responsibilities for electoral boundaries to a separate body; and if he will make a statement. [221417]

Bridget Prentice: My officials and I have regular and frequent meetings with the Electoral Commission where we have discussed a range of issues, including the eleventh report of the Committee on Standards on Public Life in which this appeared as a recommendation.

Electoral Register: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's response is to the recommendations of the Information Commissioner on the sale of electoral roll data. [221267]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are carefully considering Recommendation 19 of the Thomas-Walport Data Sharing Review relating to sale of the edited version of the electoral register, together with the other recommendations made by the review.

Electorate: Overseas Residence

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many British expatriates resident in each country outside the UK were registered to vote in UK elections at the most recent date for which figures are available. [223174]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many British expatriates resident in each country outside the UK were registered to vote in UK elections at the most recent date for which figures are available. (223174)

The number of overseas electors registered to vote in UK parliamentary elections was 14,330 on 1 December 2007, this is the most recent date for which figures are available. We do not have information on which country they are resident in.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred in administering the victims' surcharge in 2006-07. [221684]

Maria Eagle: None. The victims' surcharge has only been levied since 1 April 2007. Furthermore, there is no separately identifiable cost for victims' surcharge receipts.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2023-25W, on fixed penalties, whether additional data are available for subsequent months. [221016]

Maria Eagle: For the most recent information on PNDs issued from 2004 to 2006, I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1287-88W.

Of the categories of fixed penalty notices collected by my Department, information is available for penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for motoring offences.

Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and paid by police force area for each month from 2004 to 2006 are provided in tables, which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The PND scheme began in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004.

Motoring offences fixed penalty notices data are submitted to my Department on a calendar year basis from police forces. The data do not contain a month by month breakdown.

Available annual information on motoring fixed penalty notices can be found in the Ministry of Justice statistical publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables"—tables 20(a) to 20(c) refer. Copies of the publication are available in the Libraries of the House. The publication going back to 1980 can be accessed from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/motoringoffences.htm

Data are collected on the disposal (i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc.) and published in the following year's annual volume covering motoring offences.

Information on PNDs issued by month in 2007 will be available in November 2008. Data on FPNs issued do not contain a month by month breakdown.

George Kelly

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that sufficient staff resources are applied to mediation in the case concerning George Kelly to achieve a resolution in the week commencing 28 July 2008. [220887]

Maria Eagle: Treasury Solicitors continue to liaise with the representative of the estate of the late George Kelly about possible mediation in relation to some of the issues that have been raised.

Governance of Britain White Paper

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the consultation on the Governance of Britain White Paper has been since 3 July 2007. [220492]

Mr. Wills: The Governance of Britain (CM 7170) Green Paper was published on 3 July 2007. Since then five consultation papers have been published. Their production costs were:

Altering the current guidance on flying the Union Flag from UK Government buildings: £1,724.31 (estimate)—published and paid for by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Role of the Attorney General (CM 7192): £2,243—published and paid for by the Attorney General's Office

War Powers and Treaties: Limiting Executive powers (CM 7239): £13,928—A joint publication by Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Publication costs were funded by Ministry of Justice.

Judicial Appointments (CM 7210): £15,837—published and paid for by the Ministry of Justice

Managing Protest Around Parliament (CM 7235): £5,532—published and paid for by the Home Office

The "Governance of Britain"—Constitutional Renewal White Paper (CM 7342-1, 7342-2, 7342-3) was published on 25 March 2008. It was published and paid for by the Ministry of Justice and its total production cost was £76,960.85

In addition a series of events to support the Governance of Britain programme as a whole is currently under way. Final costs will be available once the events are complete.

Information Commissioner

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to reduce the time taken by the Information Commissioner to process complaints; and if he will make a statement. [221399]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner is an independent post created by statute. His responsibilities include handling complaints made under the Data

Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

In response to business cases presented by the Commissioner to deal with his Freedom of Information workload my Department has increased the grant in aid available to his office for this financial year and the previous three.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice is promoting a scheme for staff from central Government Departments to second to the Commissioner's office in response to his request for additional staff.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints were referred to the Information Commissioner in each of the last three years. [221400]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent body created by statute.

Its responsibilities include handling complaints made under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (PECR) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

The following table shows the number of cases received by the ICO in the last three financial years.

April to March each year	*DPA and PECR*	*FOI and EIR*
2005-06	22,059	2,713
2006-07	23,988	2,592
2007-08	24,851	2,646

Information Commissioner: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department gave to the Information Commissioner's Office in each of the last three years. [221401]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's data protection work is funded through notification fees paid to his office by data controllers under section 26 of the Data Protection Act 1998, which his office retains with the agreement of HM Treasury.

The Commissioner's freedom of information work is funded through grant in aid paid by the Ministry of Justice. The amount of grant in aid allocated in the last three financial years has been:

	£
2006-07	5,550,000
2007-08	5,[illegible]9,000
2008-09	5,500,000

Information Commissioner: Freedom of Information

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Information Commissioner on the backlog of Freedom of Information cases being processed by the Information Commissioner's Office. [221403]

Mr. Wills: There are regular discussions between my Department and the Information Commissioner's office about a range of issues, including workload.

In response to business cases presented by the Commissioner to deal with his freedom of information workload, the Ministry of Justice has increased the grant in aid available to his office for this financial year and the previous three.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice is promoting a scheme for staff from central Government Departments to second to the Commissioner's office in response to his request for additional staff.

Information Commissioner: Manpower

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed by the Information Commissioner's Office in each of the last three years. [221402]

Mr. Wills: The number of staff employed by the Information Commissioner's Office as at 31 March in each of the last three years is as follows:

April to March each year	*Total staff (including part-time)*	*Full-time equivalents*
2005-06	261	239
2006-07	256	236
2007-08	275	256

Information Commissioner: Powers

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to increase the powers of the Information Commissioner. [221234]

Mr. Wills: On 17 July 2008, the Government published a consultation paper on the Information Commissioner's inspection powers and funding arrangements under the Data Protection Act 1998, in response to the Data Sharing review published by the Information Commissioner Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport on 11 July 2008.

The consultation paper proposes strengthening the inspection powers of the Information Commissioner's Office. The consultation ended on 27 August 2008. The Government will consider how best to take forward the recommendations of the Data Sharing review and the result of the consultation exercise and respond in detail in autumn 2008.

Legal Services Board: Pay

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of remuneration will be of the members of the new Legal Services Board. [221453]

Bridget Prentice: Members of the Legal Services Board will receive £15,000 per annum for approximately 30 days.

Legal Services Board: Public Appointments

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the political affiliation or trades union experience is of each member of the new Legal Services Board where appropriate. [221451]

Bridget Prentice: We understand from the Legal Services Board that applicants were asked to declare any political activity within the past five years. Michael Napier QC, CBE made a recordable donation to the Labour party. No other members declared any political activity. Applicants were not asked about any trade union experience, as it was not considered relevant to the selection process.

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance the Legal Services Commission has issued to *(a)* its staff and *(b)* the public on its complaints procedures since April 2004; [220885]

(2) what guarantee the Legal Services Commission provides to complainants on the treatment of their complaint; and what arrangements are in place to monitor the application of that guarantee. [220886]

Mr. Wills: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers of my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice the Member for Lewisham East (Bridget Prentice) to him on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, and 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 411-12W.

Mediation

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place in his Department to delegate authority for settling litigation claims by mediation; to what grade of official the authority is delegated; and if he will make a statement. [217295]

Maria Eagle: All Government Departments are covered by the pledge made in 2001 committing Government to the use of alternative dispute resolution in appropriate cases. Treasury Solicitor's Department and MOJ consider on a case by case basis whether mediation is appropriate. The decision to mediate will be taken by whoever within MOJ has responsibility for the litigation in question.

Offences Against Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in England and Wales were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted on charges relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in each of the last two years; what percentage of these cases resulted in a custodial sentence; and what the average length of prison sentence was (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [220548]

Maria Eagle: Information requested on court proceedings data for sexual offences with an underage person in England and Wales, by region, 2005 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts; found guilty, and sentenced at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in England and Wales, by region, 2005 to 2006[1,2,3]

Year/Region	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Immediate custody as a percentage of those proceeded against*	*Immediate custody as a percentage of those found guilty*	*Average sentence (months)*[4]
2005						
North East	82	31	20	24	65	12.3
North West	206	114	96	47	84	16.2
Humberside	159	89	72	45	81	17.1
East Midlands	158	69	50	32	72	11.9
West Midlands	165	82	61	37	74	16.3
East of England	129	60	45	35	75	12.9
London	215	40	37	17	93	7.7
South East	171	89	65	38	73	13.7
South West	112	56	41	37	73	9.8
Wales	89	41	32	36	78	11.7
England and Wales	1,486	671	519	35	77	13.2
2006						
North East	84	54	37	44	69	11.3
North West	218	106	79	36	75	10.4
Humberside	136	100	68	50	68	16.9
East Midlands	124	71	52	42	73	11.4
West Midlands	171	120	84	49	70	11.6
East of England	103	90	75	73	83	13.9
London	204	61	54	26	89	10.3
South East	153	111	83	54	75	13.7
South West	108	84	69	64	82	17.2
Wales	85	51	41	48	80	12.8

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts; found guilty, and sentenced at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in England and Wales, by region, 2005 to 2006[1,2,3]

Year/Region	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody	Immediate custody as a percentage of those proceeded against	Immediate custody as a percentage of those found guilty	Average sentence (months)[4]
England and Wales	1,386	848	642	46	76	12.7

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5
Rape of a female or male child under 13 by a male
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)
Sexual activity with a female or male child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—penetration
Sexual activity with a female or male child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9 (1,a,b,ci)(2) and S.13
Sexual activity with a female or male child under 16—offender under 18
Sexual activity with a female or male child under 16—offender under 18
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4a,6)
Sexual activity with a female or male child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—penetration
Sexual activity with a female or male child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim 13-17—penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S47(1a,b,cii) (2)(3)(6)
Paying for sex with a female or male child under 13—penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1a,b,ci,2,4a,6)
Paying for sex with a male or female child under 16—penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 25(1)(e) (ii), (2), (5) and (6)
Sexual activity with a female or male child family member under 13—offender U.18—penetration of anus, vagina, mouth by penis/part of body
Sexual activity with a female or male child family member 13 to 17—offender U.18—penetration of anus, vagina, mouth by penis/part of body
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes life sentences and indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs).
Source:
CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of theatre and drama participation in improving the behaviour of violent offenders; and if he will make a statement. [223369]

Mr. Hanson: No specific assessment has been made of the effectiveness of theatre and drama participation in improving the behaviour of violent offenders. However, there is anecdotal evidence on the beneficial impact of the arts more generally on offending. The small scale of many arts programmes for offenders can present difficulties for high quality evaluations.

We are supporting the development of an independent Arts Alliance which will provide a representative voice for the arts sector and improve understanding of how arts interventions can be used more effectively. An Arts Forum will be also set up to facilitate discussions between the Arts Alliance and other stakeholders such as Government Departments and the Arts Council, about the role and development of the arts in supporting offender management.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on penalties for those charged with carrying knives. [221454]

Mr. Straw: There is a formal process of consultation in respect of draft Sentencing Guidelines Council guidelines. The Government offer comments to the SGC as part of this process. Oral discussions with the SGC and Ministers do not normally occur.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether proposals in the White Paper on party finance and expenditure on increased transparency will apply to donations to political parties from trade unions; and whether proposals for a higher definition of campaign spending will include funding allocated directly by the trade unions to campaigning; and if he will make a statement. [221398]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill, (Bill 141), puts in place arrangements to improve the transparency of all donations of more than £200 to political parties and other recipients of donations that are subject to the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ('the 2000 Act'). The new arrangements will require all donors giving over £200 to declare whether or not they have received £200 from an individual in connection with the making of the donation. The requirements will apply to all such donations made by permissible donors, including trade unions.

The White Paper proposed

> "making the campaign expenditure limit introduced by PPERA more effective by re-examining the schedule of qualifying expenses"

('Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom' (CM7239) page 40). Those limits apply to spending by registered political parties on matters listed in the relevant schedule (schedule 8) in the 2000 Act. It is anticipated that any revision of the limits will be done in due course through secondary legislation.

The 2000 Act does not directly regulate trade union expenditure on campaigning. There is extensive statutory regulation of such expenditure in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Expenditure

by domestic bodies other than political parties (including trade unions) is capable of being regulated if, through its activities, an entity becomes subject to the rules on third party election campaigning or participation in a referendum campaign. The White Paper also said that consideration would be given to bringing forward proposals to build on the current system for regulation of third party campaigning organisations.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the triggering rules outlined in the White Paper on party finance and expenditure will apply to third party campaign spending by *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* charities; [221416]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on political parties: finance, whether the new proposed trigger rules will apply to members of the devolved Assemblies and European and Scottish Parliaments; [221464]

(3) whether the new proposed trigger rules will apply to parliamentary by-elections. [221466]

Bridget Prentice: As set out in the White Paper, party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom (CM7329), published on 16 June 2008, and in the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141), introduced on 17 July 2008, the proposals to reintroduce triggering will apply only to spending by candidates at a parliamentary general election. That is in line with the original position set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983, under which the original triggering rules only ever applied to Parliamentary candidates.

The triggering proposals will not apply to third parties, whose campaign spending is regulated over a period of 365 days up to the date of the election.

The triggering proposals will not apply to candidates at parliamentary by-elections, for which existing rules will remain in place. This is made clear on the face of the Bill.

The triggering proposals will not apply to members of the devolved Assemblies and Scottish Parliament. As set out in the White Paper, it is intended that the regulated period for candidate expenses for elections to the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly will be set at four months. The Government intend to bring forward secondary legislation to give effect to this proposal in due course.

The triggering proposals will not apply to candidates for election to the European Parliament. Party candidates are not subject to individual election expenses limits at European Parliament elections. Expenditure incurred to promote party list candidates is treated as party campaign expenditure and is therefore regulated by the relevant provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce a compliance grant to assist with the costs of moving procedure and practice into compliance with the provisions of any Act resulting from the White Paper on party finance and expenditure. [221418]

Bridget Prentice: Sir Hayden Phillips' draft agreement, which he put to the inter-party talks in August 2007, proposed public funding to assist the parties with compliance with the new regulations. He proposed that this scheme be capped at a maximum of £1.5 million in total. Sir Hayden's proposed scheme was a more radical departure from current arrangements than the proposals set out in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. In particular he recommended a cap on donations and a significant enhancement of public funding. We have no current proposals for compliance grant but we are open to representations on this.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on political parties: finance, (1) what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of introducing the new trigger rules in the middle of a Parliament with Article 7 of the European Convention on Human Rights; [221463]

(2) if he will make it his policy for any new triggering rules to commence at the start of the next Parliament; [221469]

(3) how the new triggering rules will affect parliamentary candidates who have already declared their candidature or incurred local campaign expenditure. [221470]

Bridget Prentice: The Government intend that the measures to re-introduce triggering set out in the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141), introduced on 17 July 2008, would come into force on the day on which the Bill received Royal Assent. The provision in the Bill on candidate spending will apply to all expenses for electoral purposes which are incurred after that date.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has made a statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998 that, in his view, the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on political parties: finance, whether the new proposed trigger rules will apply to hon. Members who are re-adopted as parliamentary candidates by their constituency association prior to the dissolution of Parliament. [221465]

Bridget Prentice: The Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141), introduced on 17 July 2008, includes measures to reintroduce the 'trigger' for candidate spending limits. This is intended to ensure that all spending which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election will be regulated. Any spending used for such purposes by a readopted parliamentary candidate will therefore be regulated by the limit in the same way as other candidates, regardless of whether such expenditure occurs before or after the date of dissolution of Parliament.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on political parties: finance, what the timetable is for the publication of the impact assessments referred to. [221467]

Bridget Prentice: Impact assessments for the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141) were published alongside its introduction to the House on 17 July 2008. The five impact assessments can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/political-parties-elections-bill.htm

or in the Vote Office.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on political parties: finance, whether the impact assessments will include a privacy impact assessment. [221468]

Bridget Prentice: The Government made their commitment to carrying out privacy impact assessments at the planning stage of policy development from July 2008 onwards. The policies set out in the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill were beyond the planning stage at that time: the White Paper, Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom, which sets out the proposals given effect in the Bill, was published on 16 June 2008; and at the start of July the Bill was in near-final form. The impact assessments for the Political Parties and Elections Bill therefore do not include a full privacy impact assessment.

Privacy impact assessment guidance indicates that for some projects all that may be needed is a check on their compliance with privacy laws. Having reviewed the Bill's provisions I am satisfied that they are consistent with the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and with the common law of confidentiality.

Polling Stations: Disabled

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government have taken to facilitate access to polling stations for those with disabilities. [221677]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are keen to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to all electors. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 extends the duty placed on local authorities to review polling places to ensure that as far as is reasonable and practicable they are accessible for electors with disabilities. Under the Act, local authorities must carry out a full review of polling places at least every four years, and representations can be made to the Electoral Commission in respect of reviews carried out by local authorities. Further, the returning officer for an election must now provide at every polling station an enlarged hand-held sample copy of the ballot paper for the assistance of voters who are partially sighted. The Government also provide grant assistance to local authorities of up to 50 per cent. of the cost of temporary ramps to improve access to buildings which may need them for the purpose of elections.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the relationship between the length of custodial sentence and the re-offending rate. [220810]

Mr. Hanson: It is not appropriate to compare actual re-offending rates between custodial sentences of different lengths as both the sentence and the likelihood of re-offending are influenced by the criminal history of the offender and his or her offence.

For example, offenders sentenced to longer custodial sentences (over one year) have on average committed a more serious offence and have fewer previous offences. Thus, their re-offending rate is likely to be lower, but this does not mean that the sentence is more effective.

The re-offending rates for offenders released from custody, broken down by length of sentence are shown in the following table.

Frequency and actual (yes/no) re-offending rates with progress rates from 2000 by custodial sentence length

		Frequency			Binary (yes/no)	
		Number of offenders	*Number of re-offences per 100 offenders*	*Unadjusted progress from 2000*	*Actual re-offending rate*	*Adjusted progress from 2000[1]*
Custody	2000 Q1	15,727	245.5	0.0	51.4	0.0
	2002 Q1	15,578	288.2	17.4	55.0	2.1
	2003 Q1	14,358	279.1	13.7	53.9	-0.3
	2004 Q1	15,761	253.1	3.1	51.9	-4.8
	2005 Q1	14,595	228.5	-6.9	49.1	-9.3
	2006 Q1	14,380	208.4	-15.1	46.5	-12.5
Less than 12 months	2000 Q1	10,334	296.8	0.0	58.0	0.0
	2002 Q1	10,633	356.0	19.9	63.6	3.5
	2003 Q1	9,146	362.5	22.1	64.7	2.1
	2004 Q1	10,578	319.8	7.7	61.9	-1.9
	2005 Q1	9,688	294.3	-0.8	59.7	-5.0
	2006 Q1	9,103	282.7	-4.8	58.8	-6.7
12 months to less than two years	2000 Q1	2,480	179.2	0.0	43.6	0.0
	2002 Q1	2,271	180.7	0.8	43.4	1.6
	2003 Q1	2,280	179.7	0.3	43.4	0.8

Frequency and actual (yes/no) re-offending rates with progress rates from 2000 by custodial sentence length

		Frequency			Binary (yes/no)	
		Number of offenders	*Number of re-offences per 100 offenders*	*Unadjusted progress from 2000*	*Actual re-offending rate*	*Adjusted progress from 2000*[1]
	2004 Q1	2,130	154.1	-14.0	38.9	-8.5
	2005 Q1	2,046	133.7	-25.4	34.3	-15.8
	2006 Q1	2,028	101.9	-43.1	29.6	-25.3
Two years to less than four years	2000 Q1	1,941	142.3	0.0	40.1	0.0
	2002 Q1	1,763	129.4	-9.1	36.0	-9.9
	2003 Q1	1,889	108.0	-24.1	32.3	-15.3
	2004 Q1	1,993	109.8	-22.9	31.3	-20.3
	2005 Q1	1,863	82.0	-42.4	26.9	-32.2
	2006 Q1	2,013	80.5	-43.5	25.9	-32.9
Four years and over	2000 Q1	972	75.3	0.0	23.4	0.0
	2002 Q1	911	71.8	-4.7	21.3	-6.9
	2003 Q1	1,043	75.3	-0.1	21.2	-10.6
	2004 Q1	1,060	55.0	-27.0	17.9	-24.7
	2005 Q1	998	57.6	-23.5	17.9	-26.9
	2006 Q1	1,236	45.0	-40.3	17.3	-28.8

[1] Adjusted to take offender characteristics into account.

More work will be carried out in 2009 to test the feasibility of using more complex statistical techniques to enable comparison between custodial sentences of different lengths.

For more information on the latest adult re-offending statistics please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-adults-2006.pdf

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection do not have *(a)* an offender assessment or equivalent and *(b)* a sentence plan. [220909]

Mr. Straw: In August, the data base created to support management of offenders serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) indicated that, for those IPP prisoners with recorded tariff dates, where tariffs expired on or before 31 March 2008, *(a)* 4 - less than 1 per cent. of the total were recorded as not having an assessment; and *(b)* 29 - just over 4 per cent. of the total were recorded as not having a sentence plan. For those offenders serving an IPP sentence with a tariff expiry date between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2008, the data base indicated that *(a)* 3 - less than 1 per cent. of the total—did not have an assessment and *(b)* 34 - just over 7 per cent. of the total did not have a sentence plan.

The data base is necessarily a large administrative system tracking a changing and moving population and it therefore may not be 100 per cent. complete on any one day. It is updated at intervals rather than being a real time record.

Prison Service: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of prison officers and prison staff from an ethnic minority background. [220870]

Mr. Hanson: The attraction of people with suitable competencies from ethnic minority backgrounds is a key element in all recruitment campaigns for prison staff. In particular, for operational staff, including prison officers and senior managers, the National Offender Management Service is using a range of methods for attracting ethnic minority staff such as targeted advertising, outreach and other recruitment procedures. The recent prison officer recruitment campaign has been successful in attracting 13 per cent. of applicants from a non-white background.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prison officers in England and Wales were from an ethnic minority background in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [220871]

Mr. Hanson: Information in the following table shows the total figures for public and contracted establishments.

The number and proportion of prison officers from an ethnic minority background[1, 2, 3]

As at 31 December each year	*Number of BME prison officers*	*Proportion prison officers recorded as BME (Percentage)*
1997	525	2.27
2007	1269	5.19

[1] Prison officers: Includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and custody officers and senior custody officers within contracted establishments, where available.

[2] Ethnic minority background has been classified as those staff from a black and ethnic minority background (BME).

[3] Per cent. as a proportion of those with known ethnicity.

Information is provided for four of the eleven contracted establishments as at the time of the request data were not available from three separate providers. In 1997 only four contracted prisons Altcourse, Doncaster, Parc and Wolds were open.

Prison Service: Females

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of prison officers in England and Wales are women. [220872]

Mr. Hanson: Information in the following table shows the total figures for public and contracted establishments.

The data are provided as a snapshot at the end of June 2008[1].

[1] Data for seven of the contracted establishments are provided as at the end of January 2008, as updated information was not available at the time of the request

	Number and proportion of female prison officers [1]
Number of female prison officers	6,557
Proportion prison officers recorded as Female (Percentage)	23.73

[1] Prison Officers. Includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and custody officers and senior custody officers within contracted establishments, where available.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the 110 prisoners who remain unlawfully at large have been recalled to custody while on end of custody licence. [223351]

Mr. Straw: 1,153 offenders had been recalled from the end of custody licence scheme during the period since the scheme began and until 31 July 2008. As of 15 August, 1,043 such offenders had been successfully apprehended and returned to custody. A subsequent check has confirmed that there were 109 offenders who were still unlawfully at large as of 15 August (not 110 as previously reported). A breakdown of the reasons for which these offenders were recalled is outlined in the following table.

Offenders may be recalled for more than one reason. A total of 123 reasons for recall have been recorded in respect of the 109 offenders reported as unlawfully at large.

Reasons for recall from ECL	*Number of offenders*
Alleged reoffending	22
Failure to live at an approved address	34
Out of touch with the probation service	58
Poor behaviour	9

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who will be released early under the end of custody licence scheme between the commencement of the scheme in June 2007 and January 2009; and what proportion of the prison population this figure represents. [223352]

Mr. Straw: The ECL bulletin published on 29 August showed that between 29 June 2007 and 31 July 2008 34,175 prisoners were released under the ECL scheme. Around 2,500 prisoners are released each month on ECL. This figure is not expected to vary appreciably between now and January 2009. If the type of prisoner received into prison and the eligibility of those prisoners remains constant, we would expect around 15,000 prisoners to be released in the six months to the end of January 2009. This would bring the cumulative total since the scheme began to around 49, 000 releases.

The average ECL caseload is 1,350. This represents 2 per cent. of those in prison based on a population of 84,139 at the end of July 2008.

Information on numbers released under the scheme is published monthly in the statistics bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been released on end of custody licence from prison in *(a)* St. Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year for which figures are available. [221413]

Mr. Hanson: The available information on numbers released by establishment is published monthly, in Table 2 of the statistical bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The end of custody licence scheme was introduced on 29 June 2007. From 29 June 2007 to 31 July 2008 there were 17 prisoners released from The Mount prison, Hertfordshire, under the scheme. There are no prisons in the St. Albans constituency.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in England and Wales were of an ethnic minority background in (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997. [220873]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the size of the prison population, by sex, ethnic group, and nationality, is published in the annual volume Offender Management Caseload Statistics (Table 8.4), available from the Library of the House and from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

and (2007 data) in the publication Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System—2006-07 at the following link:

http://www.iustice.gov.uk/docs/stats-race-criminal-iustice.pdf.

At the end of June 2007, the latest published information, there were *(a)* 19,658 male ethnic minority prisoners held in all prisons in England and Wales, or 26 per cent. of the total male prisoner population (based on those with known ethnic group); and *(b)* 1,250 female ethnic minority prisoners or 29 per cent. of the total female prisoner population. The corresponding figures at the end of June 1997 were *(a)* 10,587 male ethnic minority prisoners, or 18 per cent. and *(b)* 659 female ethnic minority prisoners, or 25 per cent.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Prior to 2004 the 1991 census codes were used.

Prisoners: Food

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the amount allocated to the daily cost of food for a prisoner in a *(a)* prison cell and *(b)* police station cell was last increased. [220924]

Mr. Straw: The public sector Prison Service does not set a daily food allowance. Each Governor sets a food budget based on the establishment's requirements. The average daily food cost per prisoner in public sector prisons is around £2.

Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO there is an upper limit to the amount the police may charge for the provision of meals for prisoners held overnight in police cells under Operation Safeguard. From 1997 to June 2006 the daily charge remained at £10. Since June 2006, when the figure was last increased to take account of rising costs, the police have been able to charge up to £12 for the provision of meals for a twenty-four hour period or part twenty-four hour period. This may be exceeded under exceptional circumstances.

The difference between costs under Operation Safeguard and in prison arises because the provision of food in prison can be planned with much greater certainty and prison establishments are able to make use of bulk purchasing.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the Council of Europe and *(b)* EU institutions following the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Hirst v. UK on voting rights for prisoners; [223436]

(2) what plans he has to launch a consultation on extending voting rights to prisoners in England and Wales. [223437]

Mr. Straw: The judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Hirst *v.* UK requires the Government to reconsider their policy of a blanket ban on the voting rights of convicted prisoners. That requirement is a consequence of a judgment in the European Court of Human Rights and is something that would need to be implemented in the UK even if the Human Rights Act was not in place.

In response, the Government undertook a first stage consultation which concluded in March 2007. However, since that point the context for the debate about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and in particular the exercise of the franchise, in the United Kingdom has changed significantly following the launch of the Governance of Britain Green Paper and publication of the Goldsmith review.

The Government remain committed to carrying out a second, more detailed public consultation on how voting rights might be granted to serving prisoners.

Since the judgment we have kept the Committee of Ministers updated on progress towards implementing the 'Hirst No. 2' judgment. During April 2008 we provided the Committee's Secretariat with a detailed note about implementation of the judgment and we have undertaken to submit further information in due course on the form and timing of a further consultation.

Prisons: Discipline

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to facilitate the transfer of enhanced status points awarded in recognition of good behaviour in young offender institutions and prisons between establishments. [223244]

Mr. Hanson: It is a requirement of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme that young offenders and adult prisoners retain their enhanced status on transfer between prison establishments so that their good behaviour continues to be recognised. Paragraph 2.23 of Prison Service Order (PSO) 4000 (Incentives and Earned Privileges), explains this in greater detail. A copy of the full PSO has been placed in the Libraries of the House and at:

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSO_4000_incentives_and_earned_privileges.doc

Prisons: Drugs

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the level of use of illegal drugs by prisoners in each of the last 10 years. [223430]

Mr. Hanson: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is the random mandatory drug testing programme. The percentage of prisoners testing positive under the programme in each of the last 10 financial years is detailed in the following table. The data illustrate the success of the National Offender Management Service's drug strategy for prisons. This strategy has three key elements:

reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;

reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and

establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

The Government have recently commissioned a report on drug use in prisons and accepted the recommendations.

Percentage of prisoners testing positive under the random mandatory drug testing programme in each of the last 10 financial years

	Positive rate (percentage)
1998-99	18.1
1999-2000	14.4
2000-01	12.2
2001-02	11.5
2002-03	11.7

Percentage of prisoners testing positive under the random mandatory drug testing programme in each of the last 10 financial years

	Positive rate (percentage)
2003-04	12.5
2004-05	11.8
2005-06	10.3
2006-07	8.8
2007-08	9.1
2008-09 year to date (April to July 2008)	8.3

Prisons: Racial Violence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents involving violence or the threat of violence by prisoners have been recorded as motivated by racial or religious prejudice in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what the nature of the incident was in each case; and what measures he has put in place to reduce such occurrences. [223350]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of incidents involving violence or the threat of violence by prisoners which have been recorded as motivated by racial or religious prejudice is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ministers and the National Offender Management Service are committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. This policy has recently been revised and from mid 2007 applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

The national Cell Sharing Risk Assessment measure was introduced in June 2002 in response to the death of Zahid Mubarek who was murdered by his cell-mate. The measure assists staff in assessing the risk a prisoner could pose to another prisoner in shared accommodation, based on the information that accompanies the prisoner and through a prisoner interview. The initial assessment will trigger a risk minimisation plan for those identified as high or medium risk followed by a review process.

Recovery of Costs

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department's accounting office issues on the amount of costs that can be recovered by a litigant from an opponent ordered to pay costs in litigation; and what the duties of the accounting officer are in respect of cost recovery on his Department's behalf. [217294]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice's debt management policy states that the Department must ensure that income owed to the Government is collected properly, and that outstanding claims are followed up at frequent and regular intervals. The role of the principal accounting officer is to ensure that the public funds for which he is responsible are properly and well managed and safeguarded.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* original and *(b)* most recent estimated capital cost for the Supreme Court was. [223234]

Mr. Straw: As announced on 14 June 2007 the estimated capital cost for the construction of the UK Supreme Court is £36.7 million. The capital construction costs will be met over a 30-year period through rental payments of £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent. per annum. In addition to this figure, we have undertaken £2 million of repair work (as announced on 3 July 2008). This cost will be paid separately (not part of the rental payments). We will update the House on final costs at the completion of the programme.

Terrorism: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the time taken to award sums to those injured in the London bombings of 2005; how many claims for such compensation have been submitted; how many have been paid; what the average payment has been; what the average time taken for a payment to be made has been; whether he plans to make a further contribution to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund; and if he will make a statement. [223255]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has offered or paid a full or interim payment to over 96 per cent. of eligible people who have applied for compensation for the 7/7 bombings. As at 4 September 2008, over £7.5 million has been paid out to those injured, with an average payment of £14,200, and an average time of 153 days to resolve the cases. The final total is expected to exceed £10 million.

CICA has received 647 applications for compensation and 585 cases have been resolved. The remaining 62 cases are awaiting full settlement. However, CICA has made a final offer in 16 of these cases and is waiting to see if the offers will be accepted. Of the remaining 46 cases, 31 applicants have either received, or been offered, an interim payment, and 15 cases require further information before a decision can be made.

CICA is aware that it has taken some time for all applications to be settled, but the decisions are among other factors dependent on the receipt of evidence from third parties, which can take time to provide as medical assessments are invariably required. CICA is striving to obtain the information and medical evidence needed to ensure that each applicant receives the full award to which he/she is entitled.

Victims of the London bombings also received substantial sums of money totalling £12 million from the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund. The Government contributed £3.5 million. The fund has now closed, having completed the job for which it was set up: to distribute the money that was raised by others as quickly as possible to the victims of the 7 July attacks.

Valuation Office: Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice further to page 26 of the Valuation Office Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, HC 583, if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement with the Land Registry on using information they hold on land transactions. [221268]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The VOA do not have a separate agreement with Land Registry. The VOA are registered users of HM Land Registry's Land Registry Direct website 'Land Registry Direct Service', available at:

www.landregistry.gov.uk/direct/.

This is a secure site set up by the HM Land Registry for the public to have access to copies of registers of title.

Young Offenders

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* qualified social workers, *(b)* primary teachers, *(c)* secondary teachers and *(d)* child psychologists are employed in (i) each young offender institution, (ii) each secure training centre, (iii) each local authority secure children's home and (iv) each immigration removal centre. [221574]

Mr. Hanson: The information is as follows:

Social workers

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) report that there are currently 15 social workers employed in the 17 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and dedicated Prison Service units for young women. There are 33 social workers employed across the four Secure Training Centres (STCs). Information is not held centrally on the number of social workers in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs). Children who are placed in SCHs on welfare grounds will have their own social workers who will visit them at the home.

There are three Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) where families with children are detained. These are Tinsley House, Dungavel (Scotland) and Yarl's Wood. The main centre for the detention of families is Yarl's Wood. At Yarl's Wood there are two qualified social workers. For all three centres, the UK Border Agency works very closely with the local authorities. Where there is no full-time social worker presence, social workers visit detainees if this is required.

Primary and secondary teachers

Information on the numbers of primary teachers and secondary teachers employed in all juvenile custodial establishments is not collected centrally. However, the YJB report that across the four STCs, there are seven primary teachers, 64 secondary teachers and also 13 post 16 further education lecturers. In addition, Hassockfield STC employs 10 vocational teachers.

In IRCs where families with children are detained at Yarl's Wood there are two primary teachers and one secondary teacher. At Dungavel there is one teacher who covers primary and secondary curricula. At Tinsley House there is none of the above.

Child psychologists

Information is not collected centrally on the numbers of child psychologists employed in all juvenile custodial establishments. The responsibility for commissioning health services in YOIs in England has been fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) since April 2006. PCTs work with establishments to develop comprehensive health needs assessments of their populations and then commission on the basis of that need. Provision of treatment by child psychologists will therefore differ depending on the locality and on the specific needs of the individual concerned.

The YJB report the following information for the 4STCs:

Medway STC—receive the consultation services from a clinical child psychologist. In addition there are also clinics from a consultant psychiatrist and two full-time psychology assistants.

Rainsbrook STC—have one child psychologist along with three psychology assistants.

Oakhill STC—have one full-time forensic psychologist. In addition they have one full-time assistant forensic psychologist, one session counselling psychologist, one session consulting psychiatrist and, one full day mental health specialist nurse from the local CAMHS unit.

Hassockfield STC—receive sessional work from a consulting psychologist. In addition, they have two full-time assistant psychologists, two full-time assistant psychologists, two sessional counselling psychologists, one session consulting psychiatrist one sessional educational psychologist, and one half day mental health specialist nurse from the local CAMHS unit.

There are no child psychologists in the three IRCs which hold families with children. However, each IRC must ensure that arrangements are in place for detainees to have a physical and mental examination by the medical practitioner within 24-hours of their arrival at the removal centre.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children *(a)* in secure accommodation and *(b)* who left secure accommodation in the last 12 months were interviewed as part of the review of restraint commissioned by his Department; [220925]

(2) how many children *(a)* currently in young offender institutions, secure training centres and local authority secure accommodation and *(b)* who left young offender institutions, secure training centres and local authority secure accommodation in the last 12 months were interviewed as part of the review of restraint commissioned by his Department; [221073]

(3) how many members of staff, at what level of employment, working in young offender institutions, secure training centres or local authority secure accommodation were interviewed as part of his Department's review of restraint in secure juvenile accommodation. [221074]

Mr. Hanson: We intend to publish the review's methodology when we publish the report of the review. We plan to do this by the end of October.

Young Offenders: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside to reduce the number of offenders imprisoned under the age of 14 years; and if he will make a statement. [220703]

Mr. Hanson: Steps are being taken across the country to reduce the number of young people in custody. We have greatly strengthened and expanded the range of pre-court diversions and community sentences available for the police and courts, including those in Leeds and Yorkshire and Humberside, to use when dealing with young people who have offended. The Government's Youth Crime Action Plan, which was published on 15 July, builds on this by setting out cross-Government arrangements for tackling offending and re-offending by young people.

For a small minority of young people who commit serious offences, custody is the only appropriate response to what has occurred and the only means of protecting the public.

Any offender aged 14 or under who is sentenced to custody is accommodated in a secure training centre or secure children's home. These have high staffing ratios, a child-centred approach and a particular emphasis on education.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to visit the London Borough of Bexley. [223122]

John Healey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no current plans to visit the London borough of Bexley.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the practicality of establishing additional council tax bands in England in the absence of a revaluation exercise; and what advice she has received from *(a)* the Lyons inquiry team and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency on the matter in the last two years. [223139]

John Healey: The report of the Lyons inquiry "Place-shaping: a shared ambition for the future of local government", discusses at Chapter 7 the practicality of establishing additional council tax bands in the absence of a revaluation exercise. A copy of the chapter is available at:

http://www.webarchive.org.uk/pan/15454/20070428/www.lyonsinquiry.org.uk/docs/final-07.pdf

No separate advice has been received from the Valuation Office Agency.

The Government made their position clear on this issue in their press notice of 21 March 2007, which responded to the Lyons inquiry report. A copy of the press notice is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/government-welcomes-lyons

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers of entry local authorities have to ascertain the validity of claims for council tax *(a)* exemptions and *(b)* discounts. [223140]

John Healey: The legislative framework governing the council tax system does not provide local authorities with powers of entry in order to validate claims for council tax exemptions or discounts.

Eco-towns: Leicestershire

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of green wedge designated land will be developed through *(a)* housing and *(b)* non-housing development in the proposed Pennbury eco-town site. [223414]

Caroline Flint: Information that has been provided to us by the promoter in relation to the Pennbury proposal does not set out how many hectares of green wedge designated land will be developed for housing and non-housing development. We have therefore written to the promoter to seek this information based on their current plans, and I will write to the hon. Member with this information when we have obtained it.

Empty Property: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of commercial premises likely to be demolished in Kent as a result of the changes in empty property rates in 2008. [223250]

John Healey: An impact assessment detailing the likely effects of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on the 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Empty Property: Regeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department and its agencies have received from urban regeneration companies on the effect of increases in empty property business rates on regeneration. [223316]

John Healey: The Department is not aware of receiving any recent representations from the Urban Regeneration Companies regarding empty property rates.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the new empty property business rates tax on regeneration schemes. [223317]

John Healey: An impact assessment detailing the likely impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on the 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review the operation and effectiveness of the home information pack scheme. [223112]

Caroline Flint: We continue to keep the implementation of Home Information Packs (HIPs) under review in light of market conditions. An evaluation of the HIPs programme is currently planned for 2010 by updating "The HIPs Baseline Research Report", published in January 2007 and which is available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hipbaselineresearch

We will keep the timing of this evaluation under review in order that it should take place after the housing market has returned to more normal conditions and to enable the identification of the impacts of HIPs separately from wider housing market effects.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of households presenting as homeless were accepted as such in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London local authority in each of the last five years. [217138]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Under the legislation, authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (or take steps to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available if the applicant is likely to become homeless within 28 days). CLG's quarterly homelessness Statistical Release refers to these duties as "the main homelessness duties" and relevant applicants are recorded as "homeless acceptances".

Two tables have been placed in the Library. Table A shows the number of eligible applicants for whom a decision was taken, and the number and proportion where the applicant was found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty, between 2003-04 and 2007-08, by local authority. Note that the decision figures exclude applications by households not eligible for assistance under the legislation.

Table B shows the same data for each Government office region and for England.

The following table contains extracts from these two tables and shows the proportion of applicants for whom a decision was taken where the outcome was that the applicant was accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty, between 2003-04 and 2007-08, by Government office region and London local authority:

Percentage

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England	45	45	44	46	48
Regions					
North-east	44	43	46	51	55
North-west	42	44	42	45	45
Yorkshire and the Humber	42	37	34	36	40
East midlands	48	50	52	56	59
West midlands	44	44	41	46	52
East of England	49	51	49	50	53
London	45	46	45	46	48
South-east	48	50	51	52	50
South-west	51	49	47	44	46
London local authority					
Barking and Dagenham	46	51	67	[—]	49
Barnet	19	16	[—]	63	50
Bexley	32	36	27	30	36
Brent	36	31	41	46	48
Bromley	45	[—]	56	60	72
Camden	64	63	71	64	62
City of London	48	70	58	60	50
Croydon	27	28	25	32	24
Ealing	42	36	32	26	27
Enfield	62	[—]	64	62	63
Greenwich	40	40	37	46	52
Hackney	[—]	63	[—]	48	49
Hammersmith and Fulham	51	53	56	33	60
Haringey	[—]	72	72	64	89
Harrow	40	18	20	29	38
Havering	61	43	[—]	53	43

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Percentage 2007-08
Hillingdon	52	65	57	57	59
Hounslow	61	68	64	68	63
Islington	[1]	47	[1]	41	42
Kensington and Chelsea	48	48	27	[1]	24
Kingston upon Thames	33	[1]	[1]	24	24
Lambeth	57	63	59	54	70
Lewisham	54	58	55	58	82
Merton	24	41	63	70	69
Newham	72	[1]	55	46	44
Redbridge	77	[1]	69	52	66
Richmond upon Thames	41	58	57	46	48
Southwark	71	65	53	47	49
Sutton	30	30	37	40	40
Tower Hamlets	70	63	55	66	[1]
Waltham Forest	31	29	31	32	24
Wandsworth	46	46	44	45	38
Westminster	29	34	49	58	[1]

[1] Data not reported
Source:
CLG PIE data

Regional and local authority level data on the outcomes of all decisions are published quarterly in the Supplementary Tables which accompany the quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. These are published on our website and placed in the Library. The latest release was published on 12 June 2008.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology her Department uses to estimate the number of *(a)* homeless people and *(b)* rough sleepers. [223376]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is as follows.

Statutory Homelessness

The Quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness is a National Statistics product. National Statistics is a quality marker applied to official statistics that meet the highest statistical standards, and means that statistics have been produced in accordance with the arrangements and professional standards set out in the Code of Practice and associated Protocols.

Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected by Communities and Local Government, on the quarterly PIE housing return submitted by local housing authorities.

Data submitted include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and the data submitted include 'snapshot' information on the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter. The PIE return does not include information on other forms of homelessness, for example rough sleeping.

All PIE returns submitted by local housing authorities undergo thorough validation, and late returns are pursued to ensure that overall response is as complete and accurate as possible. Anomalous data are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority.

The data validation process typically takes around six weeks, after which estimates for missing data are calculated. The most recent published figures (January to March 2008) were based on full or partial returns from all 354 local authorities.

Published national and regional figures may include estimates for a small amount of missing data from individual local authorities. These estimates are calculated using a procedure based on changes observed in similar authorities.

Statutory homelessness statistics are published around 51 working days after the end of each quarter, on a pre-announced date in accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice. The latest (12 June 2008) release and previous editions are available both in the Library and via the CLG website. The next Release is due to be published on 11 September 2008.

Rough Sleepers

Local authorities evaluate the extent of rough sleeping within their area in accordance with the methodology on street counts set out CLG's 'Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping—2007 revision'. Street counts are used to establish a robust annual estimate of the number of people sleeping rough on any given night, based on the sum of counts in areas where a known or suspected rough sleeping problems has been identified.

Housing: Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home condition reports (HCRs) and *(b)* energy performance certificates (EPCs) for domestic dwellings are entered on the (i) HCR Register and (ii) EPC Register respectively. [223410]

Caroline Flint: The number of home condition reports which have been entered on the Home Condition Report Register up to 4 September 2008 is 1,806.

The number of energy performance certificates, for domestic dwellings, which have been entered on the Energy Performance Certificate Register up to 4 September 2008 is 1,113,626.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals were on social housing waiting lists in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in England in each year since 1997. [212904]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, split by urban and rural local authorities in England in each year from 1997 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

Number of households

	Urban local authorities	*Rural local authorities*	*England total*
1997	719,050	302,620	1,021,660
1998	720,290	299,940	1,020,230
1999	727,880	308,880	1,036,750
2000	737,780	300,940	1,038,720
2001	746,170	293,090	1,039,270
2002	792,970	300,370	1,093,340
2003	927,170	343,510	1,270,680
2004	1,053,860	383,880	1,437,740
2005	1,119,230	428,050	1,547,280
2006	1,173,300	461,000	1,634,300
2007	1,208,120	466,300	1,674,420

Note:
As reported by local authorities. Excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Information on local authority waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals.

Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. These data are not collected centrally.

A table has been deposited in the Library showing the number of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists and indicates whether each local authority is urban or rural.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average sale price was of the homes built in the former Deputy Prime Minister's Design for Manufacture £60,000 home competition. [223411]

Caroline Flint: Construction of the homes on the 10 sites included in the Design for Manufacture competition is ongoing. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W, the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 628-29W, and the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 851-52W.

Local Authorities: Housing

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes she estimates will be bought by local authorities under the Ensuring a fair housing market for all programme; and how much money will be made available for such purchases in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England. [223398]

Caroline Flint: On 2 September, we announced a major cross Government package of new measures to respond to current conditions in the housing market. This includes offering up to 10,000 first-time buyers currently frozen out of the mortgage market the chance to get onto the property ladder through a new shared equity scheme worth £300 million; supporting up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home through a mortgage rescue scheme of £200 million; and bringing forward £400 million in order to deliver up to 5,500 new social homes over the next 18 months on top of current assumptions.

Funding will be through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2008-11. Our intention is that it will be allocated broadly in line with existing allocations. The corporation will assess fit with regional and local strategies and will continue to work closely with regional assemblies.

We have opened up competition for Social Housing Grant to ALMOs and other wholly owned local authority special purpose vehicles pre-qualified to bid through the Affordable Housing Programme. We will invite local authorities who continue to directly manage their stock to compete for grant on the same terms as those with special purpose vehicles.

Local Government

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* White and *(b)* Green Papers on reforming the structure of local government have been published by her Department and its predecessors since 1997. [223095]

John Healey: Two such White Papers have included proposals for reforming the structure of local government. In 2002 "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions" proposed that where a regional assembly was established local government throughout that region should become unitary. In 2006 "Strong and Prosperous Communities: The Local Government White Paper" recognised the weakness of the traditional two tier structure and announced that the Government would invite councils to make proposals for unitary local government.

There have been no such Green Papers.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place

in the Library copies of the independent financial reports her Department has received on the most recent round of unitary local government restructuring. [223141]

John Healey: I have no plans to publish the independent financial reports we received relating to the current round of unitary local government restructuring. As I told the First Delegated Legislation Committee of the House on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 5, this is advice to Ministers which is not generally released, although I have been quite clear about its conclusions on any restructuring when seeking the House's approval to it.

Mayor of London: Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has held with the Mayor of London on regeneration in the Thames Gateway area. [223121]

Caroline Flint: There have been no discussions with the Mayor of London on regeneration in the Thames Gateway since the Mayoral elections in May.

Mayor of London: Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her officials have had with the Mayor of London on the Thames Gateway Bridge in the last 12 months. [223120]

Caroline Flint: There have been no meetings between Ministers or officials from Communities and Local Government Department with the current Mayor of London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1637W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, what the addresses were of the properties where the four possible incidents took place; who the owner of each of the properties was; and whether her Department has been notified of any further cases since 20 June. [223381]

John Healey: The Government have asked local authorities to provide information about how reforms to the empty property rate are working. The information provided on evasion of empty property rates will be based on the informed judgment of individual officers and is being gathered as a broad indicator of the scale of possible avoidance activity and there is no suggestion the activity in question is unlawful. This is not a detailed survey. The Department has not collected the information requested. The Department has had further notifications and we will set out our general findings in due course.

Property Information Questionnaires

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public sector bodies will have access to the information contained in property information questionnaires. [223412]

Caroline Flint: None. As set out in our consultation paper, the property information questionnaire would be completed by individual sellers and provided to prospective buyers as part of the HIP.

Religious Buildings

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* churches and *(b)* other places of worship were recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's 2005 Rating List in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; [223138]

(2) how many *(a)* churches and *(b)* other places of worship were on the Valuation Office Agency's 1995 rating list in (i) each government office region in England and (ii) Wales in 1997 or the closest periods to that for which figures are available. [223315]

John Healey: It is not possible to provide the number of churches and places of worship entered into the non-domestic rating lists for England and Wales.

Generally places of worship are exempt from rates and do not appear in rating lists providing they are places not just of religious worship but of public religious worship. Places of worship also exist in schools, hospitals, colleges etc. and these properties will appear in rating lists but no record is kept of the number of such properties that contain places of religious worship.

Right to Buy Scheme: Discounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average right to buy discount *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the market value of the property was in (i) England and (ii) each Government Office region in England in each year since 1996-97. [223413]

Caroline Flint: Average Right to Buy discounts, and Right to Buy discounts as a proportion of market value of the property, for England and in each of the nine Government office regions for 1998-99 to 2007-08 are given in the following table. Information on the amount of discount and market value was not collected before 1998-99.

	1998-99	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Average Right to Buy discount per dwelling (£)										
North-east	14,490	10,670	12,590	11,680	13,240	14,850	18,800	21,100	21,010	21,470
North-west	16,510	16,670	16,700	17,230	18,200	19,460	21,370	23,670	24,580	25,210
Yorks and Humber	15,650	15,650	15,630	16,260	16,270	18,110	20,250	22,550	23,030	23,750

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
East midlands	18,260	16,740	17,100	17,830	21,390	21,820	22,420	22,920	23,590	23,850
West midlands	18,230	18,470	19,960	19,840	20,330	22,580	23,930	25,180	25,050	25,620
Eastern	25,020	27,350	27,300	27,830	30,360	31,360	32,580	33,380	33,010	35,770
London	34,070	36,150	37,140	36,990	35,960	37,190	35,490	30,180	21,150	20,700
South-east	29,780	30,760	31,060	32,640	34,510	36,200	36,640	36,610	36,500	36,890
South-west	21,230	21,670	23,090	24,880	26,460	28,430	28,870	29,340	29,300	29,680
England	22,880	23,630	23,880	23,380	23,790	24,640	25,650	25,550	24,970	25,340
Average Right to Buy discount as percentage of market value										
North-east	48	47	47	46	45	42	34	34	31	28
North-west	48	48	47	46	45	43	41	37	34	32
Yorks and Humber	47	47	46	46	44	43	40	35	31	28
East midlands	50	46	45	43	41	38	35	31	28	27
West midlands	49	48	49	47	44	40	34	33	30	30
Eastern	49	47	45	43	39	35	33	30	27	25
London	53	51	48	42	37	32	28	22	14	13
South-east	50	47	44	42	39	35	32	30	28	26
South-west	50	48	46	44	40	36	34	31	28	27
England	50	48	47	44	41	37	33	31	27	24

Source:
Statistical Returns from Local Authorities (P1B)

Safeguarding Authorities Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will re-examine the appropriateness of the level of registration fee charged under the independent Safeguarding Authorities scheme; and on what basis the present fee was calculated. [221540]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme is a new mandatory work force vetting scheme set up under the auspices of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to improve protection for children and vulnerable adults.

This scheme, which replaces some existing work force checking procedures, will come into operation in October 2009.

The application fees referred to are additional to the existing Disclosure Service fees charged by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). It is envisaged that the total fee will be charged to users of the service by CRB, with a pass through of this element to ISA.

As a self-funding service, the proposed additional fee chargeable to users of the scheme has been calculated to recover the full economic costs of the service over the first 54 months of operation, based on the estimate of paying users. Fee levels have been calculated to fully fund the scheme but not to return a profit.

All employed applicants, whether in part-time or full-time employment and regardless of salary level, will be expected to pay to be checked to ensure that they do not pose a risk to vulnerable groups.

Applicants will be required to pay a one-off fee of £64 at point of initial application to join the scheme. This fee will cover the applicant's life within the scheme and they will not be required to pay for further or repeat checks.

However, applicants who work exclusively in unpaid voluntary capacities will not pay for the service but will be subsidised by the fees from paying users.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to projects funded by her Department have been made as a result of implementation of the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Exemption of Certain Acquisitions of Residential Property) Regulations 2008. [223362]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury today. (PQ 223363).

Water Supply

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 392-3W, on water supply, what the evidential basis is for the establishment of *(a)* the benchmark in the Code for Sustainable Homes of 80 litres of water per person per day at Level 5 and *(b)* the proposed building regulation design performance standard of 125 litres per person per day; what estimate she has made of the number of homes expected to achieve each target by 2021; and if she will make a statement. [217141]

Mr. Iain Wright: Average water consumption levels, which provide the basis for the two efficiency levels, were developed from a series of studies by Government, the Environment Agency and Industry which indicated

a current UK average water consumption of 153 litres per person per day. The three levels set in the code of 120, 105 and 80 litres per person per day were developed after various scenarios were tested by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to illustrate the levels which should be achievable using various different combinations of technologies and approaches. The calculation for the scenarios is based upon usage assumptions within the Code Water Calculator, developed by the Water Research Council (WRC). The exemplary Code level 5/6 standard is demanding and requires significant change to specifications of fixtures and fittings.

The basis for the establishment of the 125 litres per person per day standard was the consultation undertaken by the Government in 2007 on water efficiency in new dwellings. Respondents strongly supported the introduction of a whole building performance standard within Building Regulations, which would allow flexibility in the choice of appliances, while still reducing water consumption. The 125 litres standard, which will be introduced through an amendment to Part G of the building regulation (Water Efficiency) in 2009, is in line with the Code Level 1/2 (120 litres per head per day) and uses a simplified version of the Code Water Calculator but includes a small allowance (five litres) for external water use.

Building to the Code for Sustainable Homes is not mandatory and the Government have made no assessment of the likely water efficiency levels of homes in 2021 as a result of its use. All new homes will need to meet the Part G water efficiency standard following its coming into force in 2009, subject to the relevant transitional arrangements.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet representatives of airline operators to discuss the likely effects of airport ownership by airline operators. [223115]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State meets regularly with aviation industry representatives to discuss a range of issues.

The Competition Commission is currently undertaking an independent inquiry into the provision of airport services by BAA in the UK. This inquiry, due to conclude no later than March 2009, will consider airport ownership among other issues. The Secretary of State and I look forward to seeing its final conclusions in due course.

Airports: Luggage

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which UK airports restrict passengers to one item of carry-on baggage; [218844]

(2) which UK airports will not scan more than one item of carry-on baggage per passenger. [218845]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In November 2007, the Secretary of State announced that the Department for Transport would consider lifting the one-bag restriction from 7 January 2008 at UK airports where they were able to demonstrate to our satisfaction their ability to maintain security standards in the absence of the Government imposed restriction.

At present there are only two airports—Luton and Liverpool John Lennon—where the Department has to date been unable to grant permission to lift the restriction. Officials are working closely with those airports with a view to being in a position to lift the restriction soon. Where the restriction has been lifted airports and their airlines may however continue to apply their own commercial policies on the number of bags that may be permitted.

Aviation: Flight Cancellation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many flight cancellations there have been by airlines in respect of departures from UK airports in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* airline and *(b)* airport of departure; and what percentage of all such flights these figures represent; [223132]

(2) how many flight cancellations by each airline there were at each airport in Scotland between 1 January and 30 June 2008. [223133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not hold this information.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints her Department has received regarding non-compliance with regulations on compensation to passengers for delayed or cancelled flights since 17 February 2005. [223136]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Transport Users Council (AUC) has been designated as the complaints handling body for the UK under EC regulation 261/2004 on compensation and assistance to air passengers in the event of denied boarding, cancellation or long delays (EC 261/2004).

From 17 February 2005 until 31 August 2008, the AUC dealt with 11,920 written complaints and 7,508 phone inquiries in relation to this regulation. A written complaint or phone inquiry does not necessarily mean that the regulation has not been complied with.

Further details of AUC's activity in this area is in their annual reports, available through the following website:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=306&pagetype=90&pageid=917.

Aviation: Data Protection

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements her Department has put in place to monitor the purposes to which end users apply data provided by the UK on airline passengers travelling to the US. [220193]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of the agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of passenger name record (PNR) data by air carriers to the United States Department for Homeland Security (DHS), the Department for Homeland Security and the EU will periodically review the implementation of the agreement with a view to mutually assuring the effective operation and privacy protection of their systems.

Bus Services: Fares

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet bus operators' representatives to discuss return fare ticketing. [223114]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since deregulation of the bus industry in the 1980s, the majority of services outside London are provided on a commercial basis by private operators. As such, decisions such as the ticketing options available to passengers and the level of fares charged are mainly a matter for the commercial judgment of the operator concerned.

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* non-seriously injured while riding a bicycle in each of the last five years. [223155]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of child pedal cyclist (aged 0-15) casualties reported in personal injury road accidents in Great Britain between 2003 and 2007 are given in the table:

Number of child pedal cyclist (aged 0-15) casualties: 2003-07

Number of casualties

Severity of casualty	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Killed	18	25	20	31	13
Serious	577	552	507	472	509
Slight	4,174	4,105	3,759	3,262	3,111
Total	4,769	4,682	4,286	3,765	3,633

Cycling: Safety Measures

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to promote the wearing of helmets by children whilst cycling; and if she will make a statement. [223156]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our road safety communications aimed at adults and children are taken forward through the THINK! road safety campaign. Our approach is informed by research evidence and casualty statistics, which have led us to focus the majority of our communications activity aimed at children on pedestrian safety.

This has been delivered primarily through our "Hedgehogs" campaign (see—www.hedgehogs.gov.uk) and "Arrive Alive" (a Highway Code for young road users).

Our most recent cycling helmet promotion has been with the music channel MTV where we launched an innovative "Ad Idol" competition focusing specifically on road safety. Here, we ran a competition to engage teenagers giving them the opportunity to create road safety adverts. The winning advert was aired on MTV channels to help build wider awareness of cycling safety.

Currently we are developing a series of on-line films for a site called Videojug to provide best practice advice for parents on how to keep their children safe on the road, including a film about safety safe cycling which advises the wearing of cycling helmets. These films are due to appear in September and October 2008.

We shall continue to review our approaches going forward. Our aim is to continue to innovate and engage with children.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will support the Helmet Watch Initiative. [223157]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are happy to support initiatives such as Helmet Watch which aim to increase cycle helmet wearing by children. I wrote to Angela Lee, Chief Executive of the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust, on 12 August, to advise her accordingly.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on children wearing helmets when cycling to school; and if she will make a statement. [223158]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State for Transport discussed a number of child road safety matters with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families late last year, but not specifically wearing helmets while cycling to school.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in its review of the wearing of cycle helmets by children; and if she will make a statement. [223159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has developed a new research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. This will examine the following topics:

- Road user safety and cycling data
- Cycling infrastructure
- Attitudes and behaviours
- Bicycle helmets

The project has been commissioned from a consortium led by TRL.

The contract began on 21 August 2008 and will run for 24 months. Interim reports are due in March 2009 and the Department expects to publish the final reports in autumn 2010.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether cyclists are required by her Department to have a bell or audible warning on their bicycles. [223347]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Bells are currently required to be fitted at the point of sale of a bicycle, but there is no legal obligation to retain the bell when the cycle is in use. However, Rule 66 of the Highway Code recommends the fitting and use of cycle bells.

DVLA: Databases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedure is undertaken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to record each document received when multiple documents are received in a single envelope. [223273]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no single procedure that can be applied to all the variations of the contents of envelopes that DVLA receives. The common thread through all is that the letter, application or supporting document is sent to the right person to deal with it as quickly as possible. There are also stringent procedures in place to ensure that sensitive identity documents are returned securely to the applicant.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the proportion of records on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's road vehicle database which were accurate in each of the last five years. [223309]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DVLA records have been calculated as having the following levels of accuracy in the last five years:

	Percentage
2003-04	90
2004-05	92
2005-06	97.4
2006-07	97.5
2007-08	96.9

The improving accuracy of the database is the result of DVLA continuing to improve its systems and make them easier for the public to use, while also tackling non-compliance.

DVLA: Personal Records

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances have been reported of customers' paperwork being lost by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in each of the last five years; and how many complaints have been made to the DVLA about fines being imposed following such losses. [223274]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested for the entire period. However, following the introduction of an improved complaints monitoring database, it is possible to provide the number of complaints received regarding fines being imposed as a result of the alleged loss/non-receipt of customer paperwork for the period July 2007 to September 2008. During this period a total of 820 complaints were received concerning customers paperwork, of which 568 resulted in a fine being imposed. This number of cases represents 0.0015 per cent. of the total paperwork handled by the DVLA during the period. The DVLA continues to investigate ways of improving the service it provides to its customers.

East London Line

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on the completion of Phase 2 of the East London Line extension. [223416]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State meets regularly with the Mayor of London. Recent discussions have included an undertaking that any genuine savings to the Department that were generated by the East London Line extension would be made available to Transport for London (TfL) to offset its costs. It is now for the Mayor and TfL to decide whether the scheme is a sufficient priority to proceed.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to publish all the responses to the consultation Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport at the same time as the Government's official response. [223307]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When decisions are announced on the future of Heathrow we will publish a summary of the consultation responses and place a copy in the Library. All responses will also be made available for inspection at the same time unless confidentially has been specifically requested.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many weigh in motion sensors have been deployed; and what plans there are for further deployments. [223386]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) currently has four sites where weigh in motion sensors (WIMS) have been deployed. There are currently a further five sites in the process of having WIMS installed. In addition to this VOSA is currently planning another further site.

M25: Lighting

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of overhead lighting on road safety on the M25; and if she will make a statement. [223424]

Ms Rosie Winterton: When the M25 was originally constructed each section was assessed in accordance with the policy at that time and overhead lighting was implemented where it could be demonstrated to offer a cost effective safety feature.

As sections of M25 are widened an assessment is made in accordance with current Highways Agency standards. New lighting may be installed if the detailed analysis indicates a high number of night time accidents. Current Agency standards assume that the introduction of overhead lighting should result in a reduction of night time accidents in the order of 10 per cent. A recent example of the installation of lighting is the widening of the M25 between junctions 1b and 3 which followed the assessment process in the standard at that time. Other recent assessments have been carried out for the proposed widening schemes on the M25 16-23 and 27-30.

Audits are carried out 12 months after the installation of lighting and again after 36 months to review accident data and compare them against the data that supported the introduction of the scheme.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were issued penalties due to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency not receiving a vehicle disposal notice in the last 12 months. [223272]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency issued 49,952 penalties to people who did not notify vehicle disposal in the last 12 months.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost of issuing a notification to individuals when the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency had not received a disposal notice was in the last five years. [223275]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded instances there have been of individuals not receiving an acknowledgement letter in regards to a vehicle disposal notification when the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received the notification in each of the last five years. [223276]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish her Department's further work on the Government's proposals regarding the challenges to be addressed in the 2012 transport plan. [223306]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that was laid before this House on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 50WS.

Parking: Disabled

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people had a Blue Badge disabled driver's permit in each year from 2002. [223094]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of Blue Badges on issue in England, to the nearest 1,000, in the years from 2002 were as follows:

	Number
2002	2,019,000
2003	2,030,000
2004	2,054,000
2005	2,092,000
2006	2,224,000
2007	2,318,000

Public Transport: Access

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking on access to public transport for parents and carers of infants and young children in prams; and if she will make a statement. [223137]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Many parents and carers with infants or young children now find it much easier to use public transport. This is largely due to the accessibility improvements introduced by the Department to help people with disabilities.

The introduction, for example, of the new generation of low floor buses has improved access not only to wheelchair users, but also to people with other mobility difficulties, people with small children in buggies, and people carrying heavy shopping or luggage.

However, the provision of public transport—in particular local bus services—is a matter for commercial bus operators and local authorities. Commercial operators have the freedom to decide on their operational systems and practices. For commercial operators, addressing these and other concerns are key factors to their potential for increased patronage and revenue.

Roads: Stonehenge

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that roads around Stonehenge are both adequate to deal with the level of visitor traffic and appropriate for the special nature of the location. [223254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The performance of roads around Stonehenge is being considered as part of the review of the World Heritage Site Management Plan and consideration of alternative options for new visitor facilities currently being carried out by English Heritage. A Public Consultation is currently underway which will help to inform our decisions on the way forward.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what railway rolling stock was off-lease as of 15 July 2008. [223256]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport does not maintain records of off-lease vehicles as this is a matter for the Rolling Stock Companies. However, indications are that there is a very little usable rolling stock which is not either already on lease or due to come back on lease in the coming months.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, on rolling stock, how many train operating companies have had discussions with her Department on the provision of additional rolling stock since 2005. [223257]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has had discussions since 2005 with all train operating companies. Those discussions typically cover a wide range of issues and it is likely that all operators will have raised existing and proposed rolling stock provision on one or more occasions.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to change her Department's role in rolling stock procurement; and if she will make a statement. [223308]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We expect that train operators will continue to take the lead in procuring new rolling stock in most cases. This includes the 1,300 new carriages promised in the rail White Paper.

Exceptions will be the Intercity Express and Thameslink programmes, both of which are major strategic projects which have necessitated the Department for Transport taking the lead. The industry, and train operators and Network Rail in particular, will nevertheless continue to be closely involved.

Sea Rescue: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for refusing permission for the Hope Cove inshore lifeboat to launch in response to the recent incident which involved two teenagers in difficulty in the sea. [223444]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The decision to remove the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) general purpose boat at Hope Cove from the water was taken before the incident in question and was made on the strength of the information collated from recent surveys of the boat, which highlighted concerns about the state of its hull and interior space. At the time of the incident concerned, the crew of the MCA's Hope Cove general purpose boat crew took the decision to launch the boat, before they had managed to establish contact with Brixham Coastguard.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been assisted by the Hope Cove inshore lifeboat since 2000; how many boats have been towed by the lifeboat in that period; how many animals have been rescued by the lifeboat in that period; and how many times the boat has been launched in that period. [223445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The incident data involving the Hope Cove general purpose boat from 2004 to present day is detailed as follows:

	People rescued	*People assisted*	*Boats towed*	*Animals rescued*	*Total callouts*
2004	2	5	2	2	5
2005	2	8	1	0	8
2006	0	1	0	0	7
2007	2	3	2	0	6
2008	0	1	0	0	2

The MCA changed the basis on which it collects incident information in 2004, when work began on setting up a more robust statistical database. Officials are currently interrogating the older data sets from a pre-2004 database and I will write to the hon. Member with this further information as soon as it is available.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Chief Coastguard and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the *(a)* role and *(b)* operational area of the Hope Cove inshore lifeboat. [223446]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers have regular discussions with the chief executive and other senior managers from the MCA about all aspects of the Agency's business.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the responsibilities and duties of the Hope Cove inshore lifeboat were until 2007; what they are now; and for what reasons they have been changed. [223447]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The MCA's Hope Cove general purpose boat was introduced in 1993 to provide a search and rescue asset covering Hope Cove and neighbouring Bigbury Bay areas. The role of the boat was to support first line assets in a waterborne rescue capacity. However, since the Salcombe RNLI lifeboat was installed in 2003, that role has changed. The Salcombe lifeboat operates extensively in the Hope Cove and Bigbury Bay areas and the need for the Hope Cove boat to fulfil a rescue support role has subsequently diminished. This is especially true now that the RNLI have upgraded their boat at Bantham to carry out rescues in the Hope Cove area. The Bantham boat is capable of reaching Hope Cove in less time (under six minutes) than the MCA's general purpose boat.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220823]

Paul Goggins: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221587]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217874]

Paul Goggins: All Northern Ireland Office staff have been issued with guidance on shutdown procedures for personal computers when they are not in use. From figures that are held we estimate that an average of 280 are left on at night. The cost analysis requested has not been completed. This work is, however, within the scope

of the green issues which will be incorporated in the ICT strategy update and green IT action plan to follow in September.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221287]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the amount of overtime incurred by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, in 2007-08, which is the latest audit approved 12 month period:

£

	Senior Management	*Middle Management*	*Executive Grades*	*Administrative/ Support Grades*
2007				
April	995	1,828	5,250	5,224
May	857	8,476	15,642	26,669
June	1,166	8,141	11,688	27,380
July	1,395	8,378	20,068	25,684
August	2,651	9,794	16,138	32,707
September	1,545	8,130	11,892	19,915
October	1,003	9,239	16,625	30,843
November	1,685	7,263	18,049	23,248
December	803	6,797	14,382	23,388
2008				
January	769	8,652	15,995	33,507
February	2,530	8,080	18,837	22,767
March	2,353	18,444	40,899	52,154
Total	17,752	103,222	205,465	323,486

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220730]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not recorded and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office policy is to use paper for photocopying, printing and publications which is derived from at least 70 per cent. post-consumer waste. Currently we purchase office paper for printing and photocopying that is derived from 100 per cent. post-consumer waste, in line with the mandatory 'Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins' minimum environmental product standards developed by DEFRA.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221188]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the total reimbursable expenses paid to press officers in the Northern Ireland Office in the last three financial years:

	Amount paid (£)
2005-06	8,606
2006-07	9,515
2007-08	6,105

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221487]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office uses both internal and external (predominantly Royal Mail) services to distribute mail. The internal mail distribution service is structured to deliver protectively marked material in an appropriate manner and, while costs are largely fixed, they represent good value for money.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220428]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's policy is that all suppliers should be paid within 30 days of receipt of a valid, undisputed invoice, as specified in the Department's model terms and conditions of contract or as agreed by both parties at the outset of each contract. The Department is also bound by the 'Late Payment of Commercial Debts Act'.

The Northern Ireland Office does not request discounts for early payment as part of the procurement process, however, if individual suppliers offer discounts for early payment, the Department will ensure that the discounted invoices are paid within the required timeframe if this offers value for money.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221367]

Mr. Woodward: The following reviews and public consultations have been initiated by my Department since 27 June 2007:

Reviews

Review into Data Security Procedures in Public Inquiries

Public consultations

Proposed Draft Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2008;

Test Purchase of Alcohol: Equality Impact Assessment and Guideline Principles;

Proposed Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009;

Improving Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly;

Anonymous Registration: Protecting Voters at Risk in Northern Ireland;

Mentally Disordered Offenders Victim Information Scheme;

Search Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002;

Investigation Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002;

Proposed Draft Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2007;

Policy Discussion Paper on Alternatives to Prosecution;

Draft Guidance Establishing New Public Protection Arrangements in NI;

Draft Sexual Offences (NI) Order;

Modernising Police Powers—Your PACE, Your Say;

Government's Proposals for the Safety of Older People.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221618]

Mr. Woodward: In each of the last two years the Northern Ireland Office did not commission any projects from think tanks. The following table indicates the projects which were commissioned from charities.

	Project	*Charity commissioned*	*Amount paid (£)*
2006-07	Handyvan scheme—to provide safety locks for older people in Belfast.	Help the Aged	39,996.00
	To provide education, counselling and support to adjudicated offenders.	NI Community Addiction Service (NICAS)	35,000.00
2007-08	Facilitation of consultation on the 'Government's Proposal for the Safety of Older People'.	Age Concern and Help the Aged	3,578.37

Offensive Weapons

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were charged with offences relating to knife crime in each of the last three years. [219862]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer.

The number of people in Northern Ireland cleared by means of Charge or Summons in Northern Ireland with offences relating to knife[1] crime in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Cleared by means of charge/ summons[2]
2005-06	321
2006-/07[3]	330
2007-/08[4]	397

[1] The figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident; the system does not record the detail of how the knife was used.

[2] It is not possible to disaggregate the figures between charged and summons

[3] It is not possible to compare figures year on year, as PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non-sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed) in April 2006, with farther changes made to the definition of "clearance "from 1 April 2007.

[4] A new crime record system, NICHE, was introduced on 1 April 2007. Under the old system, ISIS, the Modus Operandi would have been recorded as 'knife', with NICHE the MO would show 'instrument - knife/bladed'. Furthermore, within the new recording system, the instrument used is linked to an occurrence which may contain one or more crimes. This may lead to some inflation of offence levels from the NICHE system.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offences were committed in each police command unit in Northern Ireland in which a knife was employed by the perpetrator in each of the last three years. [219863]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following table details the number of offences committed in each police command unit in Northern Ireland in which a knife was employed by the perpetrator in each of the last three years:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Antrim	31	16	35
Ards	39	24	41
Armagh	17	13	20
Banbridge	8	8	14
East Belfast	38	49	50
North Belfast	173	127	122
South Belfast	112	122	61
West Belfast	112	75	69
Ballymena	43	41	47
Ballymoney	5	8	2
Carrickfergus	13	8	34
Coleraine	56	38	46
Cookstown	2	4	9
Craigavon	61	48	90
Castlereagh	27	20	11
Dungannon and South Tyrone	10	3	18
Down	27	30	18
Fermanagh	22	15	23
Foyle	68	63	70
Lame	14	16	17
Limavady	22	12	45
Lisburn	29	23	53
Magherafelt	1	4	9
Moyle	5	3	2
Newtownabbey	67	55	88
North Down	43	50	20
Newry and Mourne	58	63	21
Omagh	19	21	11

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Strabane	8	9	15
Total	1130	968	1061

The figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident; the system does not record the detail of how the knife was used.

A new crime record system, NICHE, was introduced on 1 April 2007. Under the old system, ISIS, the Modus Operandi would have been recorded as 'knife', with NICHE the MO would show 'instrument-knife/bladed'. Furthermore, within the new recording system, the instrument used is linked to an occurrence which may contain one or more crimes. This may lead to some inflation of offence levels from the NICHE system.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many knife crimes were recorded in Northern Ireland in *(a)* April 2007, *(b)* May 2007, *(c)* June 2007, *(d)* April 2008, *(e)* May 2008 and *(f)* June 2008. [220157]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following table details the number of knife crimes that were recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in April, May and June 2007 and April, May and June 2008:

	2007	2008
April	67	83
May	110	62
June	63	98
Total	240	243

The figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident; the system does not record the detail of how the knife was used.

Offensive Weapons: Detection Rates

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the police clear-up rate for knife crime in Northern Ireland was in each command unit in the last 12 months. [219859]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

Clearance rates for recorded crimes where a knife was involved in an incident in Northern Ireland in each command unit from 1 July 2007 to 301 June 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Clearance rate (percentage)
Antrim	47.4
Ards	40.5
Armagh	59.1
Banbridge	40.0
East Belfast	38.6
North Belfast	43.4
South Belfast	33.3
West Belfast	29.2
Ballymena	58.3
Ballymoney	0.0
Carrickfergus	50.0
Coleraine	53.8
Cookstown	57.1
Craigavon	38.8
Castlereagh	100.0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	83.3
Down	44.4
Fermanagh	52.0
Foyle	34.8
Lame	26.7
Limavady	20.8
Lisburn	37.2
Magherafelt	71.4
Moyle	0.0
Newtownabbey	38.0
North Down	66.7
Newry And Mourne	50.0
Omagh	21.4
Strabane	46.7
Total	42.1

Note:
The figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident; the system does not record the detail of how the knife was used.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average number of police officers was in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [213604]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide the figures for the last two years as the new District structure only commenced on 1 April 2007. The following table provides average actual police strengths for each District Command Unit for financial year 2007-08:

District	Regular	Full-time reserve	Part-time reserve
A District	543.5	87.25	52.25
B District	567.25	58.75	146.75
C District	548.38	55.75	134
D District	625	71.75	195
E District	629.5	106	89.5
F District	495.5	46	44.25
G District	544.56	67.25	63.75
H District	486.75	32.75	115.25

Theft: Metals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences of theft of metals were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland District Command Unit area in each of the last 12 months; how many successful prosecutions have been brought as a result; and what penalty was imposed in each case. [220389]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The number of incidences of theft of metals which have been recorded in each of the PSNI district command unit areas for the period July 2007 to June 2008 is shown in the following table:

	2007					
	July	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Antrim	0	1	1	1	0	0
Ards	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	3	0	1	1	1	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Belfast	0	0	1	3	0	1
South Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	1
West Belfast	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ballymena	2	0	0	2	1	2
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	1	0	2	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cookstown	1	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	1	0	0	1	1	0
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	2	0	1	2	0	0
Down	0	2	0	0	1	0
Fermanagh	1	5	2	9	9	10
Foyle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lame	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lisburn	0	1	1	3	2	1
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	0	1	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	1	1	0
North Down	0	0	0	1	0	1
Newry and Mourne	0	0	0	0	0	1
Omagh	0	0	0	1	1	1
Strabane	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	11	11	10	26	19	20

	2008						
	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Total*
Antrim	0	3	1	2	0	6	15
Ards	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Armagh	2	1	2	1	2	8	22
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Belfast	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
North Belfast	2	3	5	0	4	6	25
South Belfast	1	2	4	0	3	1	12
West Belfast	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Ballymena	1	0	1	2	3	0	14
Ballymoney	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Carrickfergus	0	1	0	0	0	2	6
Coleraine	2	0	1	1	0	1	6
Cookstown	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Craigavon	0	3	4	4	1	3	18
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	1	1	1	1	2	11
Down	0	0	0	1	3	2	9
Fermanagh	3	4	3	1	5	3	55
Foyle	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Lame	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Limavady	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Lisburn	2	3	6	6	0	7	32
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Newtownabbey	0	1	1	3	1	6	14
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

	2008						
	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Total*
Newry and Mourne	0	1	3	1	0	2	8
Omagh	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total	18	25	35	25	25	55	280

Notes:
1. Metals include aluminium, brass, copper, ferrous, lead non-ferrous and scrap.
2. As there is not a specific offence of theft of a metal, it is not possible to provide an answer to the other parts of this question

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Wednesday 10 September and Friday 12 September 2008

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Working Conditions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster further to page 52 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007-08, how many new reflection rooms have been established in *(a)* Downing Street and *(b)* the Cabinet Office in the last 24 months; and whether strategies to reduce workplace stress in these locations have been put in place. [223372]

Edward Miliband: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office is committed to the health and well-being of its staff, and has policies and support in place to manage and reduce workplace stress.

Within the last 24 months one multi-faith and reflection room has been established in the Cabinet Office building on Great Smith street to support our continuing efforts to introduce accommodation and working practices better-suited to the needs of a diverse work force.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Camelot: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much additional income he expects *(a)* UK Sport and *(b)* each of the other national lottery distributors to receive as a result of cost savings identified by Camelot. [223384]

Andy Burnham: Camelot, as lottery operator, always seeks efficiency and to maximise returns to good causes. However no specific exercise of this kind has been carried out by the operator. The National Lottery Commission has indicated that under the third licence recently awarded to Camelot, which will run from 2009, returns to good causes are likely to increase by between £600 million and £1 billion over the 10-year period of the licence, based on constant levels of sales at £5 billion per annum and comparing the third licence increase with the terms applicable to the remainder of the second licence.

Digital Broadcasting: Borders Region

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been made available by Digital UK to the digital outreach scheme in the Scottish Borders area; and if he will make a statement. [223268]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for Digital UK as the independent operator of the outreach scheme. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Digital UK to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Borders Region

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are eligible for assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme in the area covered by the Selkirk television transmitter and its related relays on the grounds that they are *(a)* over 75 years, *(b)* in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) attendance allowance and (iii) constant attendance allowance and *(c)* registered blind or partially sighted; what the overall percentage take-up of eligible people is to date; and how many have opted for (A) the default option of Sky, (B) a Freeview digital box, (C) a Freeview playback digital television recorder, (D) a new television with digital built-in, (E) Freesat and (F) Top Up TV. [223267]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Work and Pensions has so far identified 17,692 people in the Selkirk transmitter area who are eligible for assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme, 11,747 of whom are aged 75 or over. The remainder are eligible because they are in receipt of disability living allowance, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance or mobility supplement, but a breakdown of numbers in receipt of each allowance is not available as this information is not needed for the purposes of the scheme. A further 233 people in the Scottish Borders local authority area (which broadly covers the Selkirk transmitter area) are eligible by virtue of being registered blind or partially sighted.

The Digital Switchover Help Scheme advise that the overall take-up of eligible people to date is 8.6 per cent. By the beginning of September, the scheme had received responses from about a quarter of those people who have received an application pack. About half of those eligible had opted to receive help and about half responded to opt out. Of those who have opted in (i.e. said they want help) 1,150 have made a choice and 375 have yet to choose. Of those who have made a choice:

About 60 per cent. have chosen the standard offer of a Sky satellite system, about 33 per cent. have chosen to have a simple Freeview digital box, and the remainder have chosen from a Freeview digital television recorder, integrated television, Top Up enabled digital recorder or Freesat from BBC and ITV.

It should be noted that this is early in the Help Scheme campaign, with two months still to go to switchover in Selkirk and some consumers yet to make up their minds, so the final picture will change.

Fast Track

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid to Fast Track for services related to the raising of £100 million in private sector sponsorship for elite sport; on what date a contract with Fast Track was signed; what the terms of the contract are; and what changes have been made to his Department's arrangements with Fast Track following the decision to reduce the target for private sector support for elite sport to £79 million. [223383]

Andy Burnham: The Department appointed Fast Track Sales Ltd. on 21 July 2008 to advise on ways to raise funds from the private sector to support the preparation of Britain's elite sporting talent. The Department has made no payment to Fast Track who are working on a commission only basis. The release of further information relating to the terms of the contract at this time would prejudice commercial interests. No changes have been made to this agreement in light of recent announcements.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Miners' Institutes

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many former miners' institutes applied for Heritage Lottery Fund grants in each year since 1997; and what percentage of such applications were successful in each of those years. [223324]

Andy Burnham: Information provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding its awards made to miners' institutes, welfare clubs, social clubs and lodges is set out in the following table.

	Number of applications	*Value of awards (£)*	*Number successful*	*Number rejected*	*Success rate (percentage)*
1997-98	0	0	0	0	0
1998-99	1	0	0	1	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01	2	10,426	2	0	100
2001-02	0	0	0	0	0
2002-03	2	0	0	2	0
2003-04	1	17,200	1	0	100
2004-05	0	0	0	0	0
2005-06	2	4,300	1	1	50
2006-07	2	150,000	1	1	50
2007-08	2	0	0	2	0
2008-09	1	0	1	0	100

Since its creation, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded more than £87 million to over 300 projects related to the heritage of mining and miners.

Historic Buildings

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provides for the upkeep of buildings relating to 20th century industrial heritage. [223320]

Andy Burnham: Funding for the upkeep of historic buildings in England is provided by English Heritage. English Heritage operates a number of grant schemes that can provide funding for the repair of buildings related to 20th century industrial heritage where such sites are scheduled monuments, or buildings listed at Grade I or II*, or situated in conservation areas or London boroughs.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to improve and preserve buildings relating to working-class history. [223323]

Andy Burnham: Through its role as the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, English Heritage has recommended for listing many buildings associated with working-class life and work. English Heritage's grant schemes have ensured futures for many buildings relating to working-class history.

Horse Racing: Bookmakers

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings there have been between his Department and the Racecourse Association on racecourse bookmakers since December 2007; and if he will place a copy of the minutes of each such meeting in the Library. [223408]

Andy Burnham: The Existing Betting Areas Working Party, chaired by an independent Chairman, Sholto Douglas-Home and containing representatives from the Racecourse Association (RCA) and the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers (FRB) met seven times on 14 January, 22 January, 5 February, 18 February, 27 February, 27 March and 18 April 2008. DCMS officials provided secretariat for these meetings.

On 30 April, the Department published a table containing a final position statement summarising the agreed positions of the FRB and RCA on all the key issues discussed during the Working Party meetings. I am placing further copies of this position statement in the House Library. It can also be viewed on the DCMS website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Existingbettingareasworkingpartyfinal.pdf

It is intended that the position statement will be used to guide individual discussions that are taking place between racecourses and on-course bookmakers. I, therefore, do not believe it is necessary to place the full Working Party minutes in the House Library.

Leisure: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* swimming pools and *(b)* other leisure facilities in Blackpool since 2005. [223130]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not fund swimming pools or leisure facilities directly, which are primarily a matter for local authorities. Lottery funding

to promote and invest in community sport facilities is allocated via Sport England. Sport England has advised that their total investment in grassroots and community sport in the Blackpool local authority since 2005 is £387,410. The majority of this funding was for revenue projects, such as coaching, but it includes £68,695 which was spent on facilities or capital expenditure. None of this capital funding was spent on swimming pools.

National Lottery Promotions Unit: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the running costs of the National Lottery Promotions Unit have been in each year since its establishment; and how much and what proportion of such costs were met by *(a)* the national lottery and *(b)* the Government in each such year. [223110]

Andy Burnham: The National Lottery Promotions Unit (NLPU) was established in 2003-04 to promote the National Lottery Good Causes. It is not a grant giver and it is not possible to disaggregate its running costs from campaign costs. The total funding received by NLPU in each year since establishment is as follows:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	389,720
2000-05	4,088,406
2005-06	3,061,866
2006-07	2,173,109
2007-08	2,719,622

Until the end of 2005-06, contributions in respect of the national lottery distributors met 50 per cent. of NLPU's costs. With effect from 2006-07, the contributions in respect of the national lottery distributors have met 66.66 per cent. of NLPU's costs. The remainder is funded by Camelot. The Government do not contribute financially to NLPU.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the *(a)* National Lottery Distribution Fund and *(b)* Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund has paid to the National Lottery Promotions Unit in each year since its establishment. [223111]

Andy Burnham: The National Lottery Distribution Fund and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund have not made any direct payments to the National Lottery Promotions Unit (NLPU). Under the terms of the licence to operate the national lottery, the NLPU receives a contribution to its funding on behalf of distributors by means of deductions from the operator's payments into the lottery distribution funds. The amounts received by the NLPU in respect of the distribution funds in each year were as follows:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	194,860
2004-05	2,044,203
2005-06	1,530,933
2006-07	1,448,594
2007-08	1,812,900

National Lottery: Historic Buildings

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used to assess applications for Lottery funding for renovations to historical buildings. [223321]

Andy Burnham: The Heritage Lottery Fund assesses all applications against its strategic aims. In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund considers project planning and delivery, project costs and partnership funding, long-term viability and value for money.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding was awarded to preserve historical buildings built *(a)* before 1900 and *(b)* after 1900 in the last 12 months. [223322]

Andy Burnham: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sports

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to encourage people to undertake sporting activity for at least 30 minutes a day. [223097]

Andy Burnham: As part of our policy to create a world leading sporting nation, the Government want to engage a million more people in regular sport participation—a 30 minute session of sport three times a week—which represents a crucial plank of our legacy commitment to get 2 million people more active by 2012. On 10 June 2008, Sport England launched its new strategy which will create a world leading community sports system across England.

Departmental and lottery funding to promote and invest in community and grassroots sports is allocated via Sport England. Since the creation of the lottery over £2 billion has been invested by Sport England into community sport. In addition over the last six financial years (ending 2007-08) Sport England has also invested over £338 million exchequer funding directly into community sport.

Swimming Pools: Repairs and Maintenance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of works associated with providing all municipal swimming pools with a 30-year life. [223366]

Andy Burnham: I have made no assessment of the cost of works associated with providing all municipal swimming pools with a 30-year life. Decisions on the provision and maintenance of local leisure services, including pool facilities, are primarily for local authorities.

As part of the recent free swimming initiative, capital funding will be available to help modernise pool infrastructure in support of the free swimming offer. Sport England published a prospectus for bids for funding from financial year 2009-10 which includes further information and can be found at:

www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/swimming_capital_modernisation_programme.htm

<http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/swimming_capital_modernisation_programme.htm>.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent funding decisions and levels of staffing at VisitBritain on his Department's progress towards the target of creating a £100 billion tourism industry by 2010. [223478]

Andy Burnham: The funding decisions which affected VisitBritain following last year's comprehensive spending review were intended to better focus the Government's investment in areas which impact on inbound and domestic tourism. This included funding from my Department to ensure continued free entry to national museums.

Following those decisions, my Department commissioned an ambitious framework review of public sector tourism support from VisitBritain. That review will report shortly. In advance of the end of that process, VisitBritain has made its own decisions about its future levels of staffing, and is now in discussion with representatives of its work force with a view to implementing them.

My Department is confident that the results of the framework review will produce significant improvements in the service which VisitBritain and its public sector partners provide to the British tourism industry. These improvements will assist greatly in work towards the £100 billion target, and in making the most of the opportunities of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games for tourism.

World Heritage Sites

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to put forward sites to UNESCO for designation as world heritage sites. [223105]

Andy Burnham: The Government have announced their intention to nominate the following sites to UNESCO for World Heritage Site status for the next two years: Darwin at Downe in 2009, and the twin Monastery of Wearmouth and Jarrow in 2010.

PRIME MINISTER

Banks

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what matters were discussed at his meeting with bank representatives in April 2008; what undertakings were made by *(a)* him and *(b)* the bank representatives at the meeting; what decisions were made at the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [223488]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the press briefing given by my spokesman on 14 April 2008, this meeting was a wide-ranging breakfast with representatives from the City, prior to my trip to Wall Street later that week. It focused on the issues surrounding global finance and the financial services sector. A transcript of this press briefing is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page15265

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much the most recent redesign of the No. 10 website cost. [223563]

The Prime Minister: The No. 10 website has been updated to include more news content, videos and in-depth features. The costs associated with the redesign will be included in the overall running costs of the website. Figures for the financial year 2008-09 will be available when the Cabinet Office annual resource accounts have been audited.

JUSTICE

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many private contractors have been granted access to personal data held by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [223604]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has identified 77 contracts with external organisations which involve the processing of personal data.

These contracts involve 52 different organisations (private companies and public and other organisations).

The Ministry of Justice expects that all personal information handled on its behalf is managed in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Government's Manual of Protective Security.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think-tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think-tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221612]

Mr. Wills: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Elections

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the Electoral Commission's recommendation that changes to electoral law and regulation should not be introduced or commenced within the six months prior to an election. [223621]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Commission's report "Electoral administration in the United Kingdom", published in August 2008, said (paragraph 6.34):

"Both the UK and Scottish governments should ensure that changes to legislation that has an impact on the administration of elections are not applied to any election or electoral registration event held within six months of the new provision coming into force, other than in limited circumstances in which changes may be beneficial, including instances where electors' interests are clearly at issue or where minor technical amendments are required."

This recommendation supports that made by Sir Ron Gould following his examination of the administration of the 2007 Scottish Parliament and local elections. The Government agree with the principle that legislation affecting the administration of elections should be in force in good time, but recognise the Commission's suggestion that there may be instances where legislation supporting the administration of elections may be necessary within the months preceding a poll.

Electoral Administration in the United Kingdom

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the Electoral Commission's recent report "Electoral Administration in the United Kingdom". [223485]

Mr. Wills: We welcome the Electoral Commission's report and will give careful consideration to its recommendations.

Magistrates Courts: ICT

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts have access to full Libra functionality; and when he expects all magistrates courts to have such access. [220771]

Maria Eagle: 243 out of approximately 370 magistrates courts are now operating with full Libra functionality. Libra will be deployed to all magistrates courts in England and Wales by the end of December 2008.

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to require trade unions to inform members and putative members of their right to opt out of the political levy prior to joining or renewing membership. [221419]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The establishment and operation of trade union political funds are tightly regulated. We have no plans at present to extend the regulatory requirements further.

Political Parties and Elections Bill 2007-08

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he proposes for the *(a)* parliamentary passage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill and *(b)* the (i) commencement and (ii) implementation of the Bill's provisions once enacted. [223622]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill, which the Justice Secretary introduced to this House on 17 July, will progress through Parliament in the usual way. The commencement arrangements for the provisions are set out in clause 19 of the Bill. The provisions listed in subsection (4) will come into force on Royal Assent; all other clauses will be commenced by order. The timetable for implementation will depend upon the nature of the clause.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that the proposed new trigger rules on election candidates spending will not come into force until final guidance on the application and operation of the rules has been issued by the Electoral Commission. [223623]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141), introduced to the House of Commons on 17 July 2008, includes provision for the reintroduction of triggering in relation to a candidate's expenditure limit at a parliamentary general election. The Bill provides that the rules on triggering will come into force on the date of Royal Assent.

Schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA), as inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA), sets out in detail the matters which are and are not to be regarded as counting towards a candidate's expenditure limit. The schedule also states that the Electoral Commission may issue a code of practice giving guidance on candidate spending. Such a code must be laid in draft before both Houses and is regarded as having been approved by Parliament provided that neither House resolves not to approve it within 40 days. It may then be published. Schedule 4A of the RPA has been in effect since 11 June 2006 without a code of practice having been produced (though the Commission has published other documents providing guidance for parties, candidates and agents on election spending).

The Bill provides that in addition to the existing power to issue a code of practice, the Commission may also include in any code of practice guidance on when expenditure will be for election purposes (i.e. the circumstances in which the candidate spending limits are triggered). This is not a prerequisite to the legislation coming into force.

Prison Service: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many senior staff in the Prison Service are from an ethnic minority background. [220874]

Mr. Hanson: Information in the following table shows the total figures for public and contracted establishments.

Number and proportion of BME senior staff[1,2,3] public sector only

	Number/proportion
Number of senior BME staff	242
Proportion of senior staff recorded as BME (Percentage)	6.36

[1] Ethnic minority background has been classified as those staff from a black and ethnic minority background (BME).
[2] Senior staff has been classified as senior civil servants, senior managers, managers, medical officer and senior medical officers in operational and non-operational posts.
[3] Percentage as a proportion of those with known ethnicity.

As the 11 contracted prisons do not use the same grading structure as the public sector and as each individual provider has their own variations, it is not possible to provide an exact comparison. However, of the directors, deputy director and those on the senior management teams at eight of the eleven contracted establishments a total of five staff are from an ethnic minority background.

Information from one provider was not available at the time of the request.

Prisons: Crime

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* a sexual nature other than sexual assault, *(b)* sexual assault, *(c)* violence, *(d)* theft and *(e)* other offences occurred in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many of these incidents were (i) prisoner on prisoner, (ii) prisoner on staff and (iii) staff on prisoner. [223349]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Incidents of a sexual nature other than sexual assault

Data are only available centrally in the category 'sexual assaults'. No further breakdown is available.

Incidents of sexual assault

The following table summarises the numbers of sexual assault incidents. These will include some unproven allegations. A small number refer to incidents that may have occurred before prison custody.

	Prisoner on prisoner	*Prisoner on officer*	*Prisoner on other*	*Other*	*Total*
1998[1]	62	13	0	4	79
1999[1]	76	15	4	1	96
2000[1]	82	15	9	9	115
2001[1]	69	11	13	7	100
2002	112	14	10	6	142
2003	92	18	15	6	131
2004	102	20	15	6	143
2005	87	22	12	18	139
2006	93	27	9	18	147
2007	103	17	10	5	135

[1] Due to improved recording over the years, figures from 1998 to 2001 are not directly comparable with those from later years.

Notes:

1. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other and Other (i.e. non-prisoner perpetrators).
2. The 'Prisoner on Officer' and 'Prisoner on Other' categories mostly refer to sexual assaults on staff; however the latter category may include some non staff victims for example visitors.
3. The 'Other' category includes assaults or allegations of assault by non prisoners including any by staff, visitors etc.

Incidents of violence

Central data do not use the collective term 'violence' therefore assault data have been provided. Assault data are complex and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids, other non-contact incidents and allegations. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The information is set out as follows but is subject to important qualifications. The Prison Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Other (i.e. non-prisoner perpetrators) and Prisoner on Other. The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff, i.e. non-uniform staff in this category.

	Prisoner on prisoner	*Prisoner on officer*	*Prisoner on other*	*Other*	*Total*
1998[1]	3,814	1,589	108	89	5,600
1999[1]	5,459	1,867	133	93	7,552
2000[1]	7,192	1,929	147	149	9,417
2001[1]	7,941	2,378	199	151	10,669
2002	8,701	2,503	170	133	11,507
2003	8,957	2,522	187	151	11,817
2004	9,417	2,763	215	149	12,544
2005	10,887	3,091	201	217	14,396
2006	11,526	3,125	197	199	15,047
2007	11,991	2,870	208	156	15,225

[1] Due to improved recording over the years, particularly for fighting, figures from 1998 to 2001 are not directly comparable with those from later years.

Note:

A small number of unclassified assault incidents have been excluded from this table.

Separate data on staff on prisoner assaults are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Incidents of theft and other offences occurring in prisons in England and Wales

There is no disciplinary offence of "theft" under the Prison Rules, but the following table shows the number of offences by prisoners under Prison Rule 51(5) "takes improperly any article belonging to another person or to a prison" punished at adjudications in prisons in England and Wales from 1999 to 2006 (the latest year available).

These figures, based on adjudication data, have been extracted from Prison Statistics, England and Wales

1999-2002, and the Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS) 2003-2006. The OMCS for 2006 and supplementary tables are available on the Ministry of Justice website at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

where links to earlier publications may also be found. The OMCS do not include information on whether articles were taken from other prisoners or from staff, nor on the number of cases that may have been dealt with by the police (which would normally include those where the theft was accompanied by the use or threat of serious violence, or a weapon), nor those where the disciplinary charge was not proven.

The table also shows the number of "other" offences punished at adjudication, which has been calculated by subtracting the total number of violent offences (including all assaults, detaining another person, and fighting) and offences of "taking improperly" from the total of all offences for each year.

	Taking improperly	*Other offences*
1999	942	88,214
2000	811	88,464
2001	903	90,559
2002	829	87,822
2003	633	88,470
2004	565	90,784
2005	604	91,913
2006	648	87,381
Total	5,935	713,607

Staff on prisoner

Information on theft and other offences committed by staff on prisoner is not collected centrally.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on prisons: mental health services, what the weekly cost is of commissioning treatment for an individual through a therapeutic community at *(a)* HMP Blundeston, *(b)* HMP Dovegate, *(c)* HMP Gartree, *(d)* HMP Grendon and *(e)* HMP Send; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the treatment of people in prisons with severe personality disorder. [223463]

Maria Eagle: Information on the weekly cost of commissioning treatment within therapeutic communities is not collected separately nor reported centrally. A number of factors affect the costs of prisons and so comparisons must be made with caution. These factors include: the size of prison, its age, design, the occupancy level, the prison security level, the type of prisoner and the activities carried out in the prison. All of the therapeutic communities operating within prisons are part of a larger establishment or grouping and although the accommodation of each community is separate and distinct, costs are reported as part of the whole. The establishment costs per prison place are listed as shown, alongside the number of therapeutic community places provided in each institution.

Establishment	*TC places*	*CNA of prison*	*Cost per place (£)*
HMP Blundeston	40	421	27,765
HMP Dovegate	200	860	30,850
HMP Gartree	23	666	25,495
HMP Grendon	235	587	25,910
HMP Send	40	221	36,085

The Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health have over the past seven years, worked together to establish a range of pilot services for dangerous offenders with severe personality disorder. As part of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme, a total of 150 places are available in prisons and 191 plus in secure hospitals. These treatment programmes are in the process of being independently evaluated, to help inform decisions about the future shape and direction of such services.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take in response to the recent child restraint rules court judgment; and if he will make a statement. [223486]

Mr. Hanson: The Court of Appeal has reversed the earlier decision of the divisional court that the Secure Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007 should not be quashed.

The effect of the Court's decision is to remove the legal authority for custody officers to remove trainees at secure training centres from association with other trainees, or to use physical restraint, for the purpose of ensuring good order and discipline at the centre. The Youth Justice Board has advised secure training centres on the immediate implications of the Court's ruling.

Maintaining good order and discipline at a secure establishment is essential if those who live and work there are to be kept safe. The Ministry of Justice and Department for Children, Schools and Families, who share joint responsibility for youth justice, have examined the Court's judgment with great care. We are applying to the House of Lords for permission to appeal.

Witnesses: Pilot Schemes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Witness Charter pilots in the 10 beacon areas. [223554]

Mr. Wills: The Witness Charter is one of a number of criminal justice reform projects delivered by Local Criminal Justice Boards. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) is currently conducting an assessment of the benefits the charter will have for witnesses, drawing on the experience of areas in delivering it. In addition, OCJR has also collated good practice from these areas in implementing the charter.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bromine

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to make a decision on the appeal relating to the Sandridge bromate contamination in Hertfordshire. [220456]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is considering a Planning Inspector's report on this matter, which relates to appeals made under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Secretary of State expects to make a decision by October 2008.

Carbon

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the carbon price on page seven of the Financial Impact Assessment, if set at the optimal level, differs from the Shadow price of carbon set out on page 20. [221445]

Mr. Woolas: The Shadow Price of Carbon (SPC) set out on page 20 of the Climate Change Bill: Final Impact Assessment is taken from DEFRA's cross-departmental guidance (published December 2007) on how to value the impact of Government policies on greenhouse gas emissions. The SPC captures the costs of climate change that are associated with each additional tonne of emissions, and is consistent with the carbon price referred to on page 7—at the highest stabilisation level within the Stern Review's recommended range.

The guidance adopting the SPC as the basis for valuing these impacts was fully informed by the Stern Review's estimates of the cost of climate change. Under this approach, the SPC depends upon the expected costs of climate change, and consequently upon the emissions trajectory that the world is expected to move onto and the eventual stabilisation level that is expected. The value of the SPC used reflects the highest potential costs of climate change under the Stern Review's recommended stabilisation range of 450-550 parts per million carbon dioxide equivalent, in order to ensure that the UK is taking sufficient action to help us to achieve this stabilisation range.

DEFRA is currently reviewing the SPC, as committed to in the December 2007 publication. The scope of this review is to consider the case for moving to an SPC that is consistent with the marginal abatement cost that would be required to reach the UK's targets, rather than the current damage cost based approach. This review is ongoing.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219952]

Jonathan Shaw: Hospitality is intended to cover occasions where there is a need to provide hospitality for others. Hospitality may therefore be provided only if it is in the public interest and necessary for the conduct of departmental business to do so. As a general rule, expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is not allowed. The core-Department's catering services provider does not hold a licence to serve alcohol. Were alcohol to be purchased for hospitality purposes it should be acquired through formal purchase order, or through the Government Procurement Card, both of which methods are subject to formal authorisation procedures.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221087]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is committed to improving the energy efficiency of all buildings that it owns and to work with landlords to improve the energy efficiency of those buildings which it rents.

The Department has signed up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and in 2007, became the first Department to gain the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme award for its core Department and executive agencies. This standard measures improvement in energy efficiency in 19 specific areas and is widely recognised as an industry standard in measuring efficiency gains.

DEFRA is currently producing benchmarks for its sites using the CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers) TM22 Energy Assessment and Reporting Methodology. This supports the roll out of display energy certificates which is required for all public buildings over 1000m^2.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221103]

Jonathan Shaw: Where the acquisition of new premises involves new build or substantial refurbishment the Department will insist on the building attaining the BREEAM Excellent construction standard or above. Design at this level seeks to optimise the energy efficiency performance the building can deliver.

The Department is also keen to support sustainability around the re-use of existing premises either forming part of its own estate or the wider Government estate. The Department will always seek to identify the property with the best overall sustainability score to minimise our environmental impact. In seeking re-use of existing premises, especially older premises on the civil estate, it is not always possible to secure the highest environmental or energy performance standards. As a consequence, where appropriate, planned investment will be employed to improve environmental and energy efficiency of older buildings acquired.

While the Department looks for sustainability and energy efficiency, the identification and acquisition of premises is often market dependent. The supply of

greener buildings can be limited outside the major towns and cities, especially for specialist buildings and locations. In such circumstances, the Department seeks the best sustainability performance available and encourages potential landlords to invest in sustainability and sustainable technologies.

This approach is employed whether the buildings are acquired freehold or leasehold.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221584]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the 10 highest payments made by his Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216707]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had not made any payments under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215157]

Jonathan Shaw: The IT contracts entered into by DEFRA and its agencies in the last two years are listed as follows.

DEFRA

Atos (Application Development Services)

Vizuri Ltd. (Strategic Consultancy, and Security Testing and Verification Services)

Central Science Laboratory

2e2 UK Ltd. Server and Hardware (maintenance agreement).

Adept Scientific plc (software agreement—site licences).

Adept Scientific plc (software maintenance).

Anatune (Scientific software support contract).

Applied Network Solutions (Support for software).

AppSense (software support contract).

Armadillo Managed Services (Support contract).

Barclays Bank (BACS Software maintenance—supplier payments).

Becrypt Ltd. (Encryption software maintenance).

Big Fish Internet (domain name renewal).

CESG Commercial Services (supply of key material).

Cetus Solutions (technical support agreement).

Cetus Solutions (customer support Programme and Technical support) Cetus Solutions (Software Licences).

CMP Information Ltd (Health and Safety Software licence)
COA Solutions (support and maintenance for finance software)
COA Solutions P3E (support and maintenance for project software).

COA Solutions (support and maintenance for e-Marketplace to Finance system software).

COA Solutions (support and maintenance for finance software).

COA Solutions (support and maintenance for finance software).

COA Solutions (licences for Business Objects reporting—finance software).

Customer Focus Software (UK) Ltd. (Customer Relationship management software support and maintenance).

Eduserve—Subscription to Map Data to support science projects
Hearne Scientific Software (Scientific software—Suite Single user standalone licence).

Ideagen (annual support for Workbench Quality Assurance Software).

ItChannel International (Support for remote access to network PCs).

ItChannel International (hardware support).

Keystone Computer Group (Sun Server Hardware Support Agreement).

Lintel Software Consultancy Ltd. (Software Support).

Matrix Communications Group (Software Support).

Minitab (software support)

Network Disaster Recovery Ltd. (disaster recovery service).

Phoenix Software Ltd. (licences and software support).

S Store Ltd. (software support)

SAS Software Ltd. (software support).

Science Warehouse Ltd.—Membership Fee—Electronic Marketplace (price comparison site).

SirsiDynix—Software Support

Software Box Ltd.—(licence and support).

Software Box Ltd. (software support).

Software Box Ltd. (Encryption software support).

SPSS UK Ltd. (licences for continued use of Windows applications).

Systat Software (software support).

The Mathworks Ltd. (Statisics Software support).

Thermo Electron (system support for Laboratory Information Management System software).

Tower Software UK (software support for Electronic Records Management).

VSN International Ltd. (software maintenance and support).

Wolters Kluwer (Scientific Software, annual licence)

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

ACT (maintenance and support).

Avanquest (Rightfax) (maintenance and support).

Boxing Orange (service, maintenance and support).

BT iNet/TNS (maintenance and support).

CSTL (maintenance and support).

Foursys (maintenance and support).

Gradian Systems Ltd. (maintenance and support).

Webroot (Softcat) (maintenance and support).

Westgate (maintenance and support).

Sapphire Systems (maintenance and support).

Requisoft (maintenance and support).

Rural Payments Agency

Xansa (UK) Ltd. (application support and maintenance).

SunGard Ltd. (development and maintenance of RADX applications).

DSGi Business, a trading division of DSG Retail Ltd. (supply of ICT Goods and Associated Services).

Software AG (UK) Ltd. (provision of e-channel goods and services).

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Insight Consulting (support for ISO 27001 security accreditation).

SGS (ISO 27001 Auditors) (auditor).

VLA Security (maintenance).

Intercept (network support and maintenance).

Solutions 8 (annual clean of IT hardware).

MJM Solutions (document management support and maintenance).

Sunrise (helpdesk support and maintenance).

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

SfW Ltd.

The following were negotiated under the Scat/Catalist framework:

Amtec Consulting (security advice)

Business Objects (data analysis reporting systems)

Fujitsu Service (security advice)

NCC Group (security penetration testing)

OpenText (Document management systems)

IDBS (Laboratory notebook evaluation)

Hornbill (IT Helpdesk and asset systems).

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211119]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has commissioned a number of inquiries in the last five years. The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217071]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff in DEFRA and its agencies (in full-time equivalents) has reduced from on 12,650 on 31 July 2006 to 10,375 on 31 May 2008.

During this period, 1,160 DEFRA staff transferred to the newly-created Natural England on 1 October 2006 and 175 staff in the Pesticide Safety Directorate transferred to the Health and Safety Executive on 1 April 2008.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220436]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's payment policy is to pay its suppliers within 30 days or less of receipt of a valid, undisputed invoice. Decisions on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for earlier payment of valid and undisputed invoices would be taken on a case by case basis subject to value for money considerations and be consistent with HM Treasury Accounting Rules (Managing Public Money).

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221378]

Jonathan Shaw: A full list of public consultations published by DEFRA since 27 June 2007 to 18 July 2008 (a total of 86) is set out as follows. All public consultations published by the Department since January 2006 are available on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp.

My Department does not hold information centrally on the reviews that it undertakes. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Date	*Consultation*
28 June 2007	Consultation on the interpretation of the definition of municipal waste used in the Landfill Allowance Trading scheme
3 July 2007	Consultation on implementation of part 1 of the Commons Act 2006
11 July 2007	Wildlife health strategy
18 July 2007	Consultation on the Fourth Environmental Permitting Programme
18 July 2007	Consultation on Salmonella in laying flocks
19 July 2007	Consultation on DEFRA's Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases
25 July 2007	Consultation on the implementation options for the transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies
27 July 2007	Consultation on the Soil Framework Directive
1 August 2007	Consultation on the implementation of the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, and the establishment of a UK Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
3 August 2007	Consultation on energy services directive
13 August 2007	Consultation on "Recycle on the GO"
15 August 2007	Consultation on UK report regarding plans and programmes to meet EU air quality limit values (reporting year 2005)
17 August 2007	Consultation on Commission Proposal to recast Directive 92/34 on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and plants
21 August 2007	Consultation on Catchment Sensitive farming/nitrates and diffuse water pollution—three consultations to be launched
7 September 2007	Consultation on statutory measures to protect areas of Lyme Bay
10 September 2007	Consultation on a draft second edition of IPPC SG6 for A2 activities in the Solvents sector
19 September 2007	Consultation on a licensing scheme for the sale and purchase of non-compliant paints for use on historic buildings and vintage vehicles
5 October 2007	Consultation on LA Environmental Regulation of Industrial Plant: 2008-09 Fees and Charges

Date	*Consultation*
8 October 2007	Consultation on packaging targets
10 October 2007	Consultation on Home Energy Conservation Act 1995
7 November 2007	Consultation on double tagging of sheep and goat
8 November 2007	Consultations on amendment to Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Orders to ban the sale of certain non-native species
12 November 2007	Consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive
12 October 2007	Consultation on amendments to mutilations regulations (England) 2007
12 October 2007	Consultation on a system of Administrative penalties for fisheries offences
13 October 2007	Consultation on possible changes of use of personal data held on the GB Poultry register
16 October 2007	Consultation on Third Sector
19 November 2007	Consultation on the merger of PSD into HSE
6 December 2007	Consultation on recreational sea angling
11 December 2007	Consultation on Cost Sharing and Responsibility Sharing
13 December 2007	Consultation on energy services directive Article 5
19 December 2007	Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Directive transposition
19 December 2007	Consultation on the recommendations of the Climate Change Simplification project
20 December 2007	Consultation on Options for Implementing the Batteries Directive
21 December 2007	Consultation on auction design for Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme
31 December 2007	Consultation on Spirits regulations
31 December 2007	Consultation on Scotch Whisky regulations
9 January 2008	Consultation on proposal of 2 per cent. milk quotas
14 January 2008	Consultation on national listing and plant breeders' Right fees
7 February 2008	Consultation on Surface Water Management
7 February 2008	Consultation on guidance to Ofwat
7 February 2008	Consultation on Phosphates in detergents—laundry
17 January 2008	Consultation on mining waste Directive (CLG led)
21 January 2008	Consultation on Sustainable products
4 February 2008	Consultation on charging for CITES licences
30 January 2008	Consultation on the future of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability fund April 2008 to March 2011
25 February 2008	Consultation on river basin planning (volume)
27 February 2008	Consultation on the transposition of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom
29 February 2008	Consultation on Implementation of Fruit and Vegetable Reforms
29 February 2008	Consultation on Environmental Liability Directive: 2nd consultation
7 March 2008	Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (1st phase)
7 March 2008	Consultation on measures to protect the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from the impacts of fishing with dredges and other towed gear
7 March 2008	Consultation on Statutory Notification Requirements for Potatoes Introduced into England and Wales from other EU member states
17 March 2008	Consultation on joint Waste Authorities
18 March 2008	Consultation on Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007; Directive 2004/12/EC (amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste)
20 March 2008	Consultation on the remaking of the Drinking Milk Regulations
31 March 2008	Consultation on Soil Strategy for England
3 April 2008	Consultation on TSE Regulations 2007
3 April 2008	Consultation draft Marine Bill
8 April 2008	Consultation on the strategy of health of honey bees
2 May 2008	Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (2nd phase)
7 May 2008	Consultation on the EU Commission's proposals to amend the EU ETS from 2013
9 May 2008	Consultation on the remaking of Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2008
14 May 2008	Consultation on draft AQEG report: Ozone in the United Kingdom
14 May 2008	Consultation on EPAQS report: guidelines for metals and metalloids in ambient air for the protection of human health
14 May 2008	Consultation on EPAQS report: Addendum to Guidelines for halogen and hydrogen halides in ambient air for protecting human health against acute irritancy effects
28 May 2008	Consultation on Groundwater Regulations
29 May 2008	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)—Intensive livestock
29 May 2008	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)
29 May 2008	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)—Combustion Plants
2 June 2008	Consultation on REACH Enforcement
2 June 2008	Consultation on Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976—reform order
6 June 2008	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)(Recast)—emissions
9 June 2008	Consultation on CAP Health checks
13 June 2008	Consultation on Wine SI 2008
16 June 2008	Consultation on Sector Guidance Note SG8: Rendering
12 June 2008	Consultation on White Paper—Radioactive waste

Date	Consultation
13 June 2008	Consultation on the 2nd consultation on Waste crime
18 June 2008	Consultation on revised UK Strategy for Radioactive waste discharge limits 2006-30
23 June 2008	Consultation on Revised Membership Arrangements for Northumberland National Park Authority
30 June 2008	Consultation on Wildlife Management strategy
30 June 2008	Consultation on Our Seas: A Shared Resource
1 July 2008	Consultation on Beef and Veal Labelling
4 July 2008	Consultation on Air Quality guidance
11 July 2008	Consultation on proposed Regulations—further implementation measures—fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances
15 July 2008	Consultation on Phytophthora Ramorum and Phytophthora kemoviae

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216089]

(2) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement; [216152]

(3) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [216154]

(4) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216155]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on sickness absences in 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for DEFRA and its agencies can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

All three illnesses are grouped together as 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders'.

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available but will be published later in the year.

Data for years prior to 2004 are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data on sickness absence in DEFRA's NDPBs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218724]

Jonathan Shaw: The following number of DEFRA staff took more than two periods of sickness of fewer than five days in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Information for 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number	Percentage
2006-07	834	14
2007-08	821	21

The percentages are calculated from the number of staff in post at the beginning of the financial year, not the total number of staff employed over the financial year.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218966]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy Efficiency: Low Incomes

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to help domestic consumers on low and middle incomes to improve the energy efficiency of their homes; and if he will make a statement. [223668]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have announced a comprehensive Home Energy Saving Programme, worth £1 billion, to help domestic consumers cut their energy bills permanently.

Further details can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to increase the proportion of allowances auctioned under Phase II of the Emissions Trading Scheme to 10 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [223561]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have given careful consideration to whether the level of auctioned allowances in the current phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme should be raised from the 7 per cent. set out in

the UK's National Allocation Plan to the maximum 10 per cent. permitted under the Directive. They have concluded that it would be better to maintain certainty for business about the UK's previously published National Allocation Plan and not seek to reopen allocation issues consulted on and determined in 2006.

As part of the Government's climate change strategy, we are aiming in the longer term to move towards more auctioning of allowances, and Budget 2008 announced the Government's intention to auction 100 per cent. of all allowances in the large electricity producers' sector.

Flood Control: Fees and Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with OFWAT on the imposition of surface drainage charges on churches, schools and hospitals. [223536]

Mr. Woolas: While my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State holds regular meetings with Ofwat to discuss a range of issues, there have been no discussions about this issue specifically.

I have had a number of meetings with stakeholders but not with Ofwat.

Flood Control: Rural Areas

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures have been put in place to ensure that rural areas affected by floods in 2007 will receive resources and assistance to establish effective flood resilience. [223480]

Mr. Woolas: The Government take a risk based approach to the management of flood risk, prioritising investments on the basis of the risk faced by the community and not whether it has recently experienced a flooding event. This is an approach which was supported by Sir Michael Pitt's independent review of the 2007 summer floods.

DEFRA has been working continuously, in conjunction with other Government Departments and agencies, to reduce the risk of flooding throughout England.

Flood Control: Somerset

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much internal drainage boards in the Somerset Levels and Moors have spent on infrastructure projects for the maintenance and enhancement of sites of scientific interest and special protection areas since 1987. [219927]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the risk of flooding in the Somerset Levels and Moors was assessed as *(a)* in 1987 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [219929]

Mr. Woolas: In 1987 there was no flood map information for the Somerset Levels and Moors and dependent urban areas.

The Environment Agency has undertaken a number of flood management schemes since 1987 to improve flood risk on the Somerset Levels and Moors. This includes work undertaken in Bridgwater, where protection is currently to a 1:200 year event standard (tidal), and work undertaken at Taunton where the protection is approximately up to a 1:100 year event standard (fluvial).

Floods: River Derwent

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 465-70W, on floods: River Derwent, what progress has been made on hydraulic modelling for Derby; and if he will make a statement. [221734]

Mr. Woolas: The hydraulic modelling is now complete. The public consultation for the Lower Derwent Strategy is planned to be launched on 10 September 2008 and will run for a period of three months.

The Environment Agency has been working closely with Derby city council, which has used some of the information to develop a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment hydraulic model to help guide decision making. No further modelling is planned to inform the strategy.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [219009]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department, including its executive agencies, has commissioned four home information packs in respect of surplus residential property disposal. Of the principal property holding non-departmental public bodies, only one information pack has been procured in connection with a the Forestry Commission disposal.

In each case, on advice from our retained property advisors, home condition surveys were not purchased as part of the home information pack.

The details on commissioning body, location and cost are set out in the following table.

Home information packs procured by the Department, including executive agencies, and principal property holding non-departmental public bodies for surplus residential properties marketed by the Department and its significant property holding arms length bodies

Property holding body	*Property*	*Gross cost (£)*	*Home condition survey*
DEFRA	1 Sampsons Cottage Boxworth Cambridgeshire	293.75	No
DEFRA	3 Sampsons Cottage, Boxworth, Cambridgeshire	264.38	No
DEFRA	4 High Barns Cottages, Boxworth, Cambridgeshire	293.75	No
DEFRA	11 Rosemaund Drive, Rosemaund, Worcestershire	351.33	No

Home information packs procured by the Department, including executive agencies, and principal property holding non-departmental public bodies for surplus residential properties marketed by the Department and its significant property holding arms length bodies

Property holding body	Property	Gross cost (£)	Home condition survey
Forestry Commission	1 Forestry Houses, Dalton, Burton, Carnforth, Lancashire	339.99	No

Source:
DEFRA Estates Division

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215660]

Jonathan Shaw: Neither DEFRA or its agencies subscribe to the *Morning Star.*

Pets Travel Scheme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many spot checks were carried out under the Pets Travel Scheme at ports of entry into the UK in each year since 2000; and in what proportion of such checks a problem was detected. [223640]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Rural Areas: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will develop policies to assist rural motorists who have no alternative to car transport in areas where petrol prices are particularly high. [219136]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 1 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 1478W.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what vessel monitoring systems data have been used in assessing the levels of fishing in proposed offshore Special Areas of Conservation sites; when that assessment took place; and if he will publish the data. [221636]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of public consultation the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in their draft Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operations considered the levels of fishing in possible offshore SACs using VMS data from 2004 for England and Wales published in:

Eastwood, P. D., Mills, C. M., Aldridge, J. N., Houghton, C. A., and Rogers, S. I. 2007. "Human activities in UK offshore waters: an assessment of direct, physical pressure on the seabed". ICES Journal of Marine Science, 64: 453-463

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether steps to prevent fishing activity in offshore sites designated as being of UK importance must be taken under the auspices of the Common Fisheries Policy or under environmental legislation. [221647]

Jonathan Shaw: In the offshore zone the European Commission has exclusive competence for fisheries management. Where a need is identified for controls to be placed on fisheries activities in order to protect an area, habitat or species of national importance, the UK will approach the Commission and other member states to seek adoption of appropriate measures through the common fisheries policy.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults took part in publicly-financed education courses in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside in each of the last five years. [218028]

Bill Rammell: Our planned and continuing strategy is to realign funding from a high number of very short and low quality courses to qualifications such as Skills for Life, full level 2 and full level 3 that offer the greatest opportunity for adults to gain the skills for employability and further progression in learning. But we understand that as well as increasing skills, education is also about meeting the basic human desire for intellectual stimulation. That is why we have safeguarded £210 million each year through to 2010/11 to support informal adult learning. Through our recent consultation we have led discussion on a new vision for informal adult learning for the 21st century.

The following table sets out the total number of LSC-funded adult learners aged 19 or over resident in Leeds, West constituency, Leeds metropolitan district and Yorkshire and Humberside from 2002/03. The figures cover learners enrolled in further education, work based learning and train to gain provision. These figures replace earlier information provided in response to PQ209210.

Number of LSC funded learners aged 19 or over 2002/03 to 2006/07

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Leeds West constituency	5,870	6,570	6,350	6,360	6,210
Leeds metropolitan district	48,600	51,780	49,900	44,790	35,730
Yorkshire and Humberside	379,980	390,900	401,100	335,650	265,370

Notes:
1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Includes learners in FE, work-based learning and train to gain provision, but excludes adult safeguarded learning due to the reliability of the data.

Source:
Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221483]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007 and currently monitors the cost of mail services according to the policies put in place by its predecessor Departments—the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families—DCSF) and Department for Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—BERR). DIUS is a relatively small volume sender of mail and sends second class unless there is a business need for first class delivery

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215687]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007; it comprises higher and further education (from the former Department for Education and Skills, now the Department for Children Schools and Families-DCSF) and science and innovation (from the former Department for Trade and Industry, now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—BERR).

To date, DIUS has been split between BERR and DCSF. DIUS therefore currently rely on the Euro changeover plan of BERR and DCSF. The DCSF Euro changeover plan is currently being reviewed and updated to take account of the machinery of government change in June 2007 and changes in the delivery of corporate systems over the next nine to 12 months. A copy of the completed document will be placed in the Library when this work is completed.

DIUS agency, NWML provided information to the former DTI in October 2004 and this formed part of their Euro preparations, A more detailed plan was performed in March 2000 which formed part of HM Treasury Euro changeover plan.

DIUS agency, UK-IPO last updated its Euro conversion plan in September 2004 and it formed part of the DTI overall plan. The plan has not been published, given the time that has lapsed, while the principles are still relevant the legislation, IT systems and costs referred to are significantly out of date and publication would be of trifle value.

With the advent of a shared service arrangement, a single system will be in place.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of 16 year olds who achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics who did not apply to university within two years of receiving their results in the most recent period for which figures are available. [216895]

Bill Rammell: Comprehensive information on university applications including GCSE attainment is not available.

Information is available, from matched administrative datasets, about those who have entered HE courses. Around 41 per cent. of those in maintained schools achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics at age 15 to 16 in 2001/02 did not enter a higher level course in a UK Higher Education Institution at age 18 in 2004/05 nor at age 19 in 2005/06. Around 2 per cent. entered higher level courses at English Further Education Colleges in the same years.

Lip Reading: Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of lip-reading classes were provided free to learners in each year since 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [223242]

Mr. Lammy: In 2004-05, 473 adult learners undertook a further education (FE) lip-reading course funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). 81 per cent. of these learners paid no fee due either to national policy or by having their fees waived at the discretion of the provider.

Information on the number of lip-reading learners receiving fee remission for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not available centrally. I have therefore asked Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council to write with this information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Full fee remission is provided to learners on LSC funded FE courses where they are in receipt of income based benefits or are studying on a Skills for Life, full level 2 or full level 3 course (if they are aged 19-25). In addition to this some FE colleges and providers can use their discretion to waive fees. They may choose to do so where a learner is undertaking a lip-reading course and has declared themselves as having a learning difficulty and/or disabilities for example where a learner is hearing impaired.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targeted information and advice his Department has given to people who drink at harmful levels, as referred to in paragraph 2.36 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [221150]

Dawn Primarolo: "Safe.Sensible.Social.—The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy" committed the Government to developing a range of new kinds of

information and advice targeting people whose drinking places them at harmful levels, and their families/friends, from August 2008 onwards.

Since September 2006 a social marketing programme has been under way to meet this commitment and research has been undertaken to understand what motivates those drinking at increasing or higher risk levels and how their behaviour can be influenced. Key outputs of this programme formed part of the Units campaign launch in May 2008, including:

Reframing public-facing language on levels of drinking from "sensible", "hazardous" and "harmful" to the risk-based "lower", "increasing" and "higher";

Promoting delivery of "Identification and Brief Advice" (IBA) through front-line services including the provision of materials and support to general practitioners (GPs), such as a surgery wall-chart, fact sheets and fact cards to hand out to patients. From September 2008 an E-learning module on delivering IBA will be available for GPs and other primary care staff;

Launching DrinkCheck at nhs.uk/units where users are able to calculate what level of risk their drinking places them in and if necessary signpost them to information either on-line, by post or through the telephone helpline;

Publishing a printed self-help manual "Your drinking and you", available by post or download, which has been designed by alcohol health specialists to help people reduce their drinking. Approximately 2,000 copies have been ordered to date via DrinkCheck and the telephone helpline, even though the Units campaign did not include any call to action. We are expecting this to be boosted further by the national launch of print advertising focusing on health consequences between mid-July-August; and

Expanding the Drinkline telephone helpline to provide advice to drinkers and signpost them to the self-help material.

We are now ready to move on to the next, direct marketing phase, which will help us to begin "acquiring" drinkers to receive the "Your drinking and you" booklet and agree to participate in follow up research and testing.

This next "acquisition phase" is designed to drive responses to the website, helpline or to order the self-help booklet directly and is similar in structure to the smoking campaign which has a direct response campaign running alongside a more general awareness campaign.

The first phase of the campaign will be tested in the North West of England, which has the greatest concentration of our target group of higher risk drinkers, and will be rolled out from the beginning of September.

Drugs: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Pooled Drug Treatment budget for England was in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [223600]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer to the hon. and learned Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 997-98W.

Eculizumab

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to refer the use of Eculizumab to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for assessment. [223638]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans for Ministers to refer the use of Eculizumab to treat the condition Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many additional *(a)* GPs and *(b)* other staff, broken down by type of staff, he estimates will be required to staff the new GP-led health centres. [220998]

Mr. Bradshaw: The exact staffing levels at each general practitioner-led health centre will vary depending on the range and extent of additional services each centre provides, to reflect local health needs.

Health Professions: Pay

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to require the strategic health authorities to reinstate the practice of awarding return to practice bursaries for midwifery, radiography and healthcare science. [223637]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strategic health authorities are responsible for allocating resources from education and training funding to support local initiatives such as return to practice programmes for professional staff. The Department is providing support and funding to strategic health authorities for a programme of work, to deliver expansion in midwifery capacity, as I announced in February. This includes supporting midwives through return to practice, where this is part of the local recruitment programme.

Health Services: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received on the appropriateness of the incremental cost effectiveness ratio; and if he will make a statement. [223639]

Dawn Primarolo: The methodology used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to calculate a technology's incremental cost effectiveness ratio is determined by NICE itself. NICE publishes details of its appraisal methodology in its "Guide to Methods of Technology Appraisal". NICE last updated this document in June 2008 following a public consultation, and the current version is available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/B52/A7/TAMethodsGuideUpdatedJune2008.pdf

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to abolish car parking charges at hospitals in England. [223627]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to abolish car parking charges at hospitals in England. These charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running and maintaining a car park. If no charges were made for car parking then these funds

would have to be found from elsewhere within that trust's budget, thereby reducing the amount of funds available for patient care.

All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

Hypothermia: Elderly

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist elderly people to avoid hypothermia during winter months. [223585]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department runs an annual Keep Warm Keep Well (KWKW) campaign to reduce the harm to health associated by cold weather, including preventing hypothermia in elderly people. This year, the KWKW campaign has piloted and developed materials that specifically target high-risk groups, and includes a booklet designed for elderly people. This includes information on how to ensure elderly people are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to, how to access grants to help keep their homes warmer and advice about how to keep warm and reduce the risk to health during a cold period. This booklet will be distributed to a wide range of venues that elderly people frequent, including general practitioner surgeries and pharmacies. Last year over two million copies were distributed.

Additionally, the Department is working closely with Warmfront to ensure better targeting of older people with information to access grants to improve insulation and heating and to maximise benefits that they are entitled to.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has given to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in each of the last five years. [223597]

Mr. Bradshaw: Independent Reconfiguration Panel expenditure is not separately identified within departmental costs.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of his decisions on healthcare reconfiguration that have *(a)* reflected and *(b)* rejected the view of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel; and if he will make a statement. [223598]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no occasions where the Secretary of State has chosen to reject the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's recommendations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue a direction to the transport co-ordinator of the South West Thames Retrieval Service to reply to the letters sent to her by the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on *(a)* 19 May and *(b)* 1 August 2008 on the death of a child in his constituency. [223473]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are sorry to learn of the death of the child of the right hon. Member's constituents, and we offer our condolences to the family. The South Thames Retrieval Service is provided by Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and this is therefore a matter for the Foundation Trust. We have written to Patricia Moberly, chair of Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the right hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly, and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists per head of population there were in *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* England at the latest date for which figures are available. [223583]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of dentists with national health service activity in England, per 100,000 population, during the year ending 31 March 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is available by primary care trust and strategic health authority. This is the latest information available.

This report, published on 21 August 2008 by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

NHS: Personnel

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the extent to which NHS trusts employ staff on short term contracts who have left other NHS employers with substantial severance packages; and if he will make a statement. [223499]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information relating to individual contracts of employment is not collected centrally.

The Department would expect NHS employers to adhere to relevant employment law and departmental guidance and to follow good human resources practice when dealing with contracts of employment.

Pharmacy: Rural Areas

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are being used in reviewing the operation of dispensaries in doctors' surgeries in rural areas; and what safeguards are being put in place for the access of the elderly and vulnerable to such dispensing services. [223479]

Dawn Primarolo: The factors for consideration are set out in the consultation paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future, proposals for legislative change", published on 27 August 2008. The consultation has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324

As part of this consultation, we have put forward a range of options, including doing nothing in respect of general practitioner dispensing arrangements, on which

we are seeking views. The impact assessments, which have been published as part of the consultation, consider the likely effects of each of the options available.

Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration is being given to the role of track and trace systems for tobacco products in the current consultation on the future of tobacco controls; and if he will make a statement. [223590]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's consultation on the future of tobacco control closed for responses on 8 September 2008. Responses received are now under consideration.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sources of public funding bus operators can access to support their provision of services; and against what criteria applications for payments from such sources are determined. [223584]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All operators of local bus services are eligible to receive Bus Service Operators Grant from my Department. The main criterion, other than being a local service, is that the service is one which is normally available to, and regularly used by, members of the general public.

Bus operators are reimbursed by local authorities for provision of mandatory free travel on local buses for those aged 60 or over and disabled people.

Local authorities have powers to provide financial support for the provision of a bus service where transport needs would not otherwise be met. The criteria for deciding which services should be supported are a matter for the local authority concerned.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which contractors her Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in the Department. [223278]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The requested information is provided in the following table:

	Contractor	*Hourly rate*
DfT Central—London HQ	Operon	[illegible]
DfT Central—Air Accident Investigation Branch	Network Cleaning Services	[illegible]
DfT Central—Marine Accident Investigation Branch	Alistair Donaldson & Co	[illegible]
DfT Central—Rail Accident Investigation Branch	Clean Slate (UK) Ltd.	[illegible]
	ClientCare Cleaning Ltd.	[illegible]
Driving Standards Agency—Axis Building, Nottingham	Sodexo	£7.50 (supervisor)
		£5.85 (cleaner)
Driving Standards Agency—Cardington Centre, Bedford	Sodexo	£8.97 (supervisor)
		£6.40 (cleaner)
Driving Standards Agency—Eastgate House, Newcastle	Consultant Cleaners	£8.11 (supervisor)
		£5.73 (cleaner)
Driving Standards Agency—Regional Test Centres	[illegible]	[illegible]
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	DVLA entered into a private finance initiative contract with Land Securities Trillium (LST) in 2005 for the provision of cleaning and a wide range of facilities managed services. LST work with three cleaning service partners across the DVLA portfolio and these are: OCS—One Complete Solution; MITIE Managed Services; and ISS	[illegible]
Government Car and Despatch Agency	Lancaster Office Cleaning	£6.00

	Contractor	Hourly rate
Highways Agency	Strand Cleaning	[1]
	OCS	
	ICM	
	Shield Service Group	
	Wrightway Office Cleaners	
	Associated Cleaning Contractors	
	Initial	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	[1]	[1]
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	[1]	[1]
Vehicle Certification Agency	ISS/Medicare Ltd.	[2]

[1] The information requested is commercially confidential.
[2] Service is contracted out.
[3] The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity of fuel used by her Department's road vehicles was in the last 12 months. [223450]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The requested information where available is as follows:

	Cost (£)	Quantity (litres)
DfT Central—London HQ[1]	—	—
DfT Central—Air Accidents Investigation Branch[2]	11,450	9,954
DfT Central—Marine Accident Investigation Branch[3]	1,530	1,321
DfT Central—Rail Accident Investigation Branch[3]	1,511	1,461
Driving Standards Agency[4]	274,286	[5]272,000
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[6]	[6]
Government Car and Despatch Agency[3]	957,633	812,063
Highways Agency—Traffic Officer Fleet	2,585,308	2,273,599
Highways Agency—Winter Service Vehicles	[6]	[5]918,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	[6]	[6]
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[3]	401,636	[6]
Vehicle Certification Agency	[6]	[6]

[1] Included within Government Car and Despatch Agency.
[2] Includes fuel purchased for hire cars, used when all Air Accidents Investigation Branch vehicles are committed. Hire cars were used heavily during late January and February this year during the major Heathrow accident.
[3] Data relate to financial year 2007-08.
[4] This includes fuel purchased using company fuel cards and hire car refills. Fuel purchased through employees' travel and subsistence claims cannot be identified separately. The Driving Standards Agency fleet of vehicles is comprised of cars, motorcycles, PCVs and LGVs.
[5] Per annum estimate.
[6] The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many offences of vehicle overloading by *(a)* overseas and *(b)* UK hauliers have been detected by weigh in motion sensors each quarter since their initial deployment. [223387]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not record the total number of overloading offences by overseas or UK hauliers detected by Weigh In Motion Sensors (WIMS). A new system is being investigated to enable VOSA to record this information nationally in future.

However, the following prohibition figures are from sites since WIMS has been installed and while they have been manned by enforcement officers:

Location: Dartford tunnel approach A282 Dartford Kent

Financial year	Nationality	Weighed	Weighing prohibitions	Prohibition rate (percentage)
Q1 2008-09	Non UK	0	0	0.00
	UK	3	2	100.00

Location: Dartford tunnel approach A282 Dartford Kent

Financial year	*Nationality*	*Weighed*	*Weighing prohibitions*	*Prohibition rate (percentage)*
Q2 2008-09	Non UK	9	6	66.67
	UK	56	42	75.00
Grand total		67	50	74.63

Location: Portsmouth docks dynamic WB M275/A3 Portsmouth Hampshire

Financial year	*Nationality*	*Weighed*	*Weighing prohibitions*	*Prohibition rate (percentage)*
2006-07	Non UK	271	253	93.36
	UK	90	87	96.67
2007-08	Non UK	193	190	98.45
	UK	47	44	93.62
2008-09 to date	Non UK	63	63	100.00
	UK	10	9	90.00
Grand total		674	646	95.85

Location: J9 M25 Leatherhead Weighbridge A243 Leatherhead Surrey

Financial year	*Nationality*	*Weighed*	*Weighing prohibitions*	*Prohibition rate (percentage)*
2007-08	Non UK	1,003	623	62.11
	UK	487	311	63.86
2008-09 to date	Non UK	1,778	323	18.17
	UK	333	134	40.24
Grand total		3,601	1,391	38.63

Location: Perry Barr Weighbridge M6 Birmingham West Midlands

Financial year	*Nationality*	*Weighed*	*Weighing prohibitions*	*Prohibition rate (percentage)*
2006-07	Non UK	181	127	70.17
	UK	413	260	62.95
2007-08	Non UK	526	324	61.60
	UK	1,201	757	63.03
2008-09 to date	Non UK	192	69	35.94
	UK	308	144	46.75
Grand total		2,821	1,681	59.59

Official Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the Government's fleet of ministerial cars; and what steps she plans to take in the future. [223492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing ministerial cars. Each year since 2005-06, the Agency have been set a target to reduce the average tailpipe emissions of CO_2 from its fleet. In April 2005, the ministerial fleet average was 204.92 grams per kilometre (g/km). In March 2008, the fleet average was 145.2 g/km, a reduction of over 29 per cent. The Agency is exploring ways of getting the whole of the ministerial fleet to an average of 130 g/km in line with the Government's target for the whole Government fleet of 130 g/km by 2012.

Official Cars: Taxation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the ministerial car fleet is subject to the standard road tax regime. [223491]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In line with all other Crown vehicles, the entire fleet of vehicles operated by the Government Car and Despatch Agency is exempt from paying vehicle and excise duty.

Public Transport: Access

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the accessibility of public transport to people with macular degeneration; what steps her Department is taking to improve such accessibility; and if she will make a statement. [223552]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 contains provisions which allow for regulations to be made setting out how the accessibility needs of disabled people must be met. This includes the needs of visually impaired people, such as those with macular degeneration.

The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 were introduced under powers granted to Government under part 5 of the DDA 1995. From 31 December 2000, the regulations have required that new full size buses used on scheduled or local services be accessible to disabled people. The regulations include facilities such as visual contrast on step edges for the visually impaired.

The Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations came into force on 1 November 1998 and applied to all new rail vehicles entering service after 31 December 1998. The regulations specify features including audible destination announcements, audible door closure warnings and control buttons identifiable by touch.

Railways: Contracts

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the response by Passenger Focus to her Department's South Central Franchise Consultation document of May 2008. [223610]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Copies of the Passenger Focus response to the South Central Franchise Consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of electrifying one mile of railway. [223649]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of electrifying the railway network is currently estimated at around £800,000 per single track mile (£500,000 per single track kilometre) dependent on the complexity and constraints of the particular line.

Roads

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of using lane space for *(a)* hard shoulder running, *(b)* car share lanes and *(c)* tolled lanes. [223497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In March, a report was made to the Secretary of State on the feasibility, costs and benefits of extending advanced signalling and traffic management techniques more widely across the motorway network. This looked at hard shoulder running and also considered the potential that a more managed motorway environment would offer for other traffic management approaches, for example car share lanes and tolled lanes. Car share and tolled lanes have worked well in other countries and we are exploring how well they could work on our motorways.

The Feasibility Study can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/mtorsign trafmanagement/.

Following that the Secretary of State commissioned a more detailed study to appraise the various options for managing our motorways more effectively in locations identified across the network. This work is due to be complete by the end of the year.

Roads: Litter

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by the Highways Agency on litter collection from land for which it is the responsible authority in each of the last 10 years. [223665]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Highways Agency to remove litter from motorways in England. Responsibility for removing litter from the all purpose trunk road network, with the exception of DBFO managed roads, lies with local authorities.

Litter collection on motorways is one of the numerous duties carried out as part of the Highway's Agency's routine maintenance function and costs for individual activities are not recorded separately. It is therefore not possible to provide costs for litter collection.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the proposed congestion charge in the Greater Manchester area from organisations and residents *(a)* in Bolton, *(b)* in Greater Manchester and *(c)* elsewhere. [223378]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Greater Manchester's Transport Innovation Fund bid has been discussed in a number of meetings at which Ministers and officials of the Department for Transport have been present. We have also received correspondence on the subject from individuals and organisations within and outside Greater Manchester.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with the Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership on proposals to introduce unmarked speed cameras. [223498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department understands that Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership has recently used an unmarked vehicle to deploy mobile speed camera enforcement to target speeding motorcyclists. The county has suffered from a high number of motorcyclists being killed and seriously injured, currently accounting for 30 per cent. of all people killed and seriously injured on the roads. The unmarked vehicle is used on some of Derbyshire's most dangerous roads and is one of the many tools the partnership use to try to reduce motorcycle casualties. Initial feedback suggests that there has been a considerable reduction in speeding as a result of this covert enforcement.

Since 1 April 2007, the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The Department's guidance provides best practice advice on the deployment of speed cameras and recommends highly visible enforcement. However, the guidance explicitly states that it does not restrict or fetter the police's discretion to enforce the speed limit covertly anywhere, at any time. A similar statement was previously included in the Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales.

Stations: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if her Department will make an assessment of the effects on *(a)* the local community and *(b)* regeneration in the King's Cross area of Network Rail's plans to close permanently pedestrian access routes to King's Cross and St Pancras rail stations from the north-east of the station complex; and if she will make a statement. [223472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Network Rail applied for and received planning consent from the local planning authority (London borough of Camden) for the redevelopment of King's Cross station. Consultation was undertaken as part of this process, which resulted in Network Rail commissioning a study to consider ways to maintain access to the station from York Way. Network Rail has advised me that the study concluded that from an operational safety perspective the access to York Way in this location could not be maintained.

Trains: York

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times trains have been forced to wait for platform availability at York station in each of the last 52 weeks; what steps she is taking to provide more platform capacity at York station; and what steps she is taking to provide more car parking capacity at York station. [223599]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Platform availability is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

The Government and the rail industry are committed to improving the performance of the railways and have developed the concept of the Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) to examine the appropriateness of train services and railway infrastructure to meet current and forecast demand. RUSs seek to balance capacity (including station capacity), passenger and freight demand, operational performance and cost, to address the requirements of funders and stakeholders. The East Coast Main Line RUS, published by Network Rail in February 2008, examined capacity at York station. It identified the need for improvements to the track layout at the southern end of the station. This proposal is being taken into account by the Office of Rail Regulation in its consideration of Network Rail's funding for the period 2009-14.

National Express East Coast is working with the Department for Transport to fulfil its obligation to provide additional car parking spaces at York station.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* road transport and *(b)* domestic aviation in each year since 1997. [223650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) compiles estimates of emissions to the atmosphere from UK sources. The most recent NAEI data published by DEFRA can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/download/xls/gatb04.xls

The following table contains the estimates of carbon dioxide emissions from road transport and domestic aviation for each year from 1997 until 2006 which is the latest year for which official figures have been published.

Mt CO_2

	Road transport	*Domestic aviation*
1997	116.6	1.4
1998	115.9	1.5
1999	116.8	1.7
2000	116.0	1.9
2001	116.0	2.0
2002	118.4	2.0
2003	118.2	2.1
2004	119.4	2.2
2005	119.9	2.4
2006	120.3	2.3

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Carbon Emissions

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families wnat steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* measure and *(b)* offset the carbon dioxide emissions caused by producing departmental documents. [223596]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not currently measure or offset the carbon dioxide emissions caused by producing departmental documents across the Department, although it does offset carbon dioxide

emissions from air travel. Some contracts have their own arrangements for carbon offsetting, e.g. documents produced in relation to the sustainable schools strategy.

The Department has always encouraged adoption of sustainable practices through its print and publications supply chains, for example using recycled paper and, where possible, environmentally friendly alternative products. However, the Department's new, broader, Publication, Production, Management and Delivery tender includes requirements to be measured against the Department's Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) in its specification. This will rate suppliers' impacts against the SDAP, and provide measurements against it, specifically by encouraging greater use of e channels; encouraging supply chains to implement low carbon emission printing equipment; and minimising unnecessary transportation of materials through the supply chain. The tender will be completed next year and operational around early summer 2009.

Children in Care: Health

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what ways he expects revised statutory guidance on looked-after children to affect the provision of healthcare assessments and reviews. [223098]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The existing guidance on promoting the health of looked-after children published in 2002 sets out what health assessments should cover and the nature of the services which should be provided to meet the child's physical, emotional and mental health needs. The guidance is statutory for local authorities but not on health bodies. Revised guidance will be on a statutory footing for primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, NHS trusts, and NHS foundation trusts as well as local authorities. This will ensure the importance of the active co-operation of health services in the health assessments of looked-after children under the general duty in section 10 of the Children Act 2004, which requires primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to co-operate with local authorities and other agencies to improve the well-being of children in their area.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effects of new joint strategic needs assessments on the health and well-being of looked-after children; and what steps his Department plans to take to monitor those effects. [223100]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* All local authorities, from 1 April 2008, are required to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is the means by which primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities identify future health and well-being needs of local populations, including looked-after children, to inform the priorities and targets of Local Area Agreements and local commissioning priorities.

Improvements in the health of looked-after children will be monitored through existing data collections, in particular, the new indicator on the emotional health of looked-after children and through the Ofsted led programme of inspection of services and outcomes for looked-after children.

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to issue revised guidance on the implementation of sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004; what plans he has to provide funding for implementation of such guidance; and what steps his Department will take to monitor health agencies' compliance with such guidance. [223099]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As set out in the Children's Plan launched by the Secretary of State in December 2007, the Government are committed to publishing revised statutory guidance under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 on inter-agency co-operation to improve the well-being of children, young people and families later this year. A revised version of the statutory guidance under Section 11 on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, originally issued in 2005, was published in April 2007. The Government have no plans to issue further revised guidance at this stage.

The Government have no plans to provide specific additional funding for implementing these guidance documents, which are intended to clarify the statutory responsibilities of local authorities and other bodies, including health agencies, for which they receive mainstream funding. The Government have however commissioned an audit of the extent to which public organisations have been complying with their duties under Section 11. The results of the survey will be made public in spring 2009.

From April 2009, the performance of local authorities and their partners will be assessed under the new, multi-inspectorate Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This will focus on the delivery of key outcomes in an area, and the contribution of statutory and non-statutory partners, including health agencies, will be in scope. Inspectorates are currently consulting on CAA, and intend to publish their framework in February 2009.

Children: Disabled

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for funding for disabled children in schools in the next three years. [223103]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. Each local authority in consultation with their schools forum has a funding formula that they have designed and agreed to cater for the needs of their own area including children with disabilities. Local authorities planned expenditure on special educational needs—which includes but is not limited to disabled children—has increased by over £2.3 billion from £2.8 billion in 2000-01 to £5.1 billion in 2008-09. This represents a cash terms increase of 84 per cent. between the 2000-01 and the 2008-09 financial years.

The local authority is best placed to meet the need of its schools in their area and to work with schools to ensure that resources are applied and managed effectively to deliver the highest possible standards of education.

The Schools Access Initiative has £288 million over the three years 2008-11 (£96 million per year) as capital funding to assist local authorities in making schools accessible to disabled pupils and those with SEN.

The DCSF has committed £430 million in this CSR period through the joint DCSF—Department of Health "Aiming High for Disabled Children" programme to support transformation of services for disabled children, young people and their families. This will focus on improvements to services such as short breaks, transition to adulthood, accessible child care and support for parental engagement.

Children's Centres: Parents

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Sure Start Children's Centres run positive parenting programmes. [223101]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* All Sure Start Children's Centres are expected to offer parenting and family support services, including parenting programmes, based on consultation with families and identified local need. Information on exactly which services are provided in each Sure Start Children's Centre is not collected centrally.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211696]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210461]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is committed to ensuring that children of all ages and stages of development receive the appropriate education and services. The Government recently published their response to the consultation on the proposals for the Equality Bill, "A Framework for Fairness". The response made clear that, after careful consideration, it has been decided not to extend legal protection from age discrimination to children. This is because a child's age is closely related to his or her levels of development and need, something which is not generally true of an adult's age. Children need to be treated in ways that are appropriate to their different ages, and age-related treatment of children in schools and in the delivery of children's services is not the same as age discrimination.

Head Teachers: Stress

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers have left their post as a result of a stress-related illness in each of the last five years. [223520]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Personal Records: ContractPoint Database

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether police forces will have access to the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [223504]

Kevin Brennan: Members of police forces and authorities in England are named in The Children Act 2004 (Information Database) England Regulations 2007 as one of the groups of people who may be given access to the database by a local authority.

Youth justice services are an important part of the support provided to children and young people. Access to ContactPoint will help to inform their decisions about the most appropriate way to support a child and ensure that work is not duplicated.

Access will be granted only to those individuals who need to use it as part of their work supporting children and young people. For police forces this will include those who regularly work with young people in areas such as victim units, domestic violence, safeguarding, child abuse investigation, and youth offending teams. All users will have been through mandatory training and security clearance before being granted access to ContactPoint.

ContactPoint will hold basic information only. It will not hold details of arrest or criminal activity; it will not provide a record of whether or not a child or a member of their family is an offender; and it will not hold subjective observations or case information.

In addition to supporting children's services, the regulations permit the Secretary of State or a local authority to disclose data held on ContactPoint in very limited, prescribed circumstances, including where:

disclosure is required by court order or by law; or

disclosure is required for the purposes of:

the prevention or detection of crime or .

the prosecution of offenders

an investigation under section 47 of the Children Act 1989

a local safeguarding children board in exercising its functions under 5(1)(e) of the local safeguarding children board regulations 2006.

For these purposes, police would have to make a special request, on a case by case basis, directly to the Secretary of State or local authority and make a clear and exceptional case for disclosure. The Secretary of State or local authority will then consider each case on its merits when deciding whether to disclose the data.

Schools: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the real change in spending per school child has been *(a)* since 1997, *(b)* in the last 10 years and *(c)* in the last five years (i) in Waltham Forest, (ii) in Redbridge and (iii) nationally. [223659]

Jim Knight: The available information on spending per school child since 1997-98 to 2006-07 is contained within the following tables:

School based expenditure[1, 2, 3] per pupil[4] in cash terms since 1997-98

	£ per pupil in cash terms[5]									
	1997-98[6]	*1998-99*[6]	*1999-2000*[2,7]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[2,3,8]	*2003-04*	*2004-5*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Redbridge	2,260	2,320	2,530	2,780	3,230	3,080	3,340	3,530	3,790	4,030
Waltham Forest	2,510	2,580	2,970	3,130	3,740	3,590	3,940	4,100	4,360	4,610
England	2,080	2,190	2,390	2,620	2,940	2,950	3,230	3,450	3,720	3,960

School based expenditure[1, 2, 3] per pupil[4] in real terms since 1997-98

	£ per pupil in real terms[5]									
	1997-98[6]	*1998-99*[6]	*1999-2000*[2,7]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[2,3,8]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Redbridge	2,890	2,900	3,090	3,350	3,810	3,510	3,710	3,810	4,010	4,150
Waltham Forest	3,210	3,220	3,630	3,780	4,410	4,100	4,370	4,420	4,610	4,740
England	2,650	2,740	2,920	3,160	3,460	3,370	3,580	3,730	3,930	4,070

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

[2] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DCSF (formally) DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the dotted line. Comparable figures are not available prior to 1992-93.

[3]. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[4] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF (formally DfES) Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[5] Figures are as reported by local authorities as at 9th September 2008 and are rounded to the nearest £10.

[6] Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

[7] The 1999-00 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[8] School based expenditure in nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and are therefore not included in the figures for that year.

Note:

Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.

Schools: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of head teachers who have left their post within six months of the completion of an Ofsted inspection of their school in each of the last five years. [223519]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Biometrics: Fingerprints

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the capability of external suppliers to provide for the secure collection of fingerprint biometrics; and if she will make a statement. [219754]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service has appointed five suppliers to act as the 'Strategic Supplier Group' for the National Identity Scheme. This group (CSC, EDS, IBM, Fujitsu and Thales) signed framework agreements with IPS in June 2008 and will compete in procurement exercises for contracts to deliver National Identity Scheme capabilities.

As part of the framework procurement assessments were made of each firm's capability and capacity in a number of areas related to the scheme including those related to biometrics. As part of the process for awarding specific contracts assessments will be made of the proposed approaches and technology. In addition all technology deployed will be subject to thorough and robust testing and trialling prior to deployment.

Closed Circuit Television: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much public funding has been spent on CCTV security cameras in Bolton North East since 1997. [223671]

Mr. Coaker: Bolton metropolitan borough council (information is not available on a constituency-by-constituency basis) received a total of £729,441 as part of the Home Office Crime and Disorder Reduction Programme, between 1997 and 2003. No other central Government funding for CCTV has been provided since then.

Criminal Records: International Cooperation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the discussions between the Criminal Records Bureau and the Association of Chief Police Officers on seeking access to *(a)* European Union and *(b)* other foreign criminal conviction data to produce an outcome; and if she will make a statement. [219161]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau contacted all member states in 2007 to establish whether there was an opportunity to enter into agreements to exchange data for employment vetting purposes where national laws allowed. To date there have been positive responses from some member states—the Republic of Ireland, France, Estonia and Poland. Australia has also indicated a willingness to share information.

A Home Office chaired Steering Group has been established to oversee this project and representatives include the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Even when another jurisdiction is willing to exchange such information, detailed work will still be needed with each overseas jurisdiction on a range of issues, including any legislative and data protection considerations in each country, forming an understanding of offence descriptions which may differ from those used in UK jurisdictions and establishing exchange arrangements where criminal records data are not held centrally in the overseas jurisdiction, or are not held electronically.

Essex Police Authority: Data Protection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people employed by Essex Police Authority of each grade have *(a)* partial and *(b)* full access to data held by her Department; what guidance her Department issues to persons seeking access to this data; and if she will make a statement. [218500]

Mr. McNulty: Eight people employed by the Essex police authority have regular partial access to data held by the Home Office for performance management purposes. The access to those data is subject to terms and conditions of use. More general ad-hoc access to data would be subject to the Home Office Information Charter.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the number of DNA samples taken and loaded onto the national DNA database since the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 came into force, which would not previously have been taken; and if she will make a statement. [197315]

Meg Hillier: Before 2001, the police could take DNA samples from anyone charged but had to destroy them (and the profiles on the DNA database derived from them) if charges were dropped or the person was found not guilty. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 changed this so that DNA could be kept from those who had been charged even if they were acquitted. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (which came into force in 2004) extended the power further so that DNA could be kept from anyone arrested for a recordable offence and held in a police station.

This question therefore relates to the number of people with a record on the national DNA database now, who would not have had a record retained permanently on it under pre-2001 legislation, because they had not been convicted.

It is not possible to say how many people on the NDNAD have not been convicted. This is because the NDNAD itself does not contain any information about criminal records, as this is not necessary for its function of matching DNA from crime scenes with DNA from individuals. To determine whether someone on the NDNAD has been convicted, it is necessary to refer to their record on the police national computer (PNC) which holds criminal record information.

However, before the introduction of the ACPO Criminal Record Retention Guidelines in April 2006, police forces deleted PNC records from some of those convicted of lesser offences after five to 10 years. If the PNC record of someone on the NDNAD no longer exists, it is not possible to determine whether the person has or has not been convicted.

Data obtained from the PNC on 31 March 2008 indicate that 3,832,986 (of the 4,116,713) people had a record retained on the PNC. Of these, 3,259,347 had a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the estimated one million people whose records are held on the national DNA database who have not been convicted of any crime are domiciled in Scotland. [212898]

Meg Hillier: Information is not collected by my Department on the number of people domiciled Scotland who have not been convicted of any crime, with records on the national DNA database (NDNAD). Police powers to take and retain DNA are a devolved matter and differ between Scotland, and England and Wales. Also, the NDNAD does not hold information on where people with records on it live; information is categorised on the basis of the police force which added the record.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults resident in Bexley had their DNA recorded on police records in each of the last five years. [213813]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the national DNA database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the address of the person sampled. Information is not therefore available on the number of residents of Bexley who have had a DNA profile loaded. Information is

however available on the number of profiles loaded by the Metropolitan police in the last five years as shown in Table 1.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles from the SGM to the SGM Plus profiling system. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular forces.

Table 1: Metropolitan police

	Profiles loaded taken from:		
	All ages	*Aged under 18 at time profile loaded*	*Aged 18 and over at time profile loaded*
2003-04	59,810	10,663	49,147
2004-05	74,389	13,838	60,551
2005-06	111,575	18,644	92,931
2006-07	154,674	25,246	129,428
2007-08	86,032	15,299	70,733

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 999W, on the national identity register, how many contacts for verification and amendment of records she estimates the Identity and Passport Service will receive in the identity card scheme's first 12 months of operation; and what estimate she has made of this cost. [219785]

Meg Hillier: Act from the second half of 2009, will involve cards issued in limited numbers and so there is likely to be only a small number of subsequent amendments to records required in the first year of operation the cost of which will be incorporated in the overall cost of the initial phase of the scheme.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under activity-based costing analysis, what the average *(a)* total direct staff cost, *(b)* total operational support cost, *(c)* total business support cost and *(d)* total cost excluding sustaining overheads was for providing police assistance for a (i) road traffic accident, (ii) public disorder incident, (iii) missing person case, (iv) sudden or suspicious death incident and (v) other non crime incident in each financial year since 2004. [223521]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2345W.

Police: Sirens

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the guidance on police siren usage *(a)* in urban areas and *(b)* at night. [223496]

Mr. McNulty: The police use of sirens is governed by the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. These permit the use of sirens only when an emergency service vehicle has to alert other road users that it is present and responding to an urgent incident. Subject to that requirement, the use of sirens is an operational matter for the police.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* paedophiles were resident in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [223523]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) This information is published in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, which are available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

These data were not collated before 2004-05.

(b) Information on the number of registered sex offenders within each police force area who have committed sexual offences against children is not centrally collated.

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the reasons for black people to be two and a half times more likely than white people to be stopped by police under stop and account powers. [219843]

Mr. McNulty: The police have been required to record the details of those people who have been stopped and required to account for their presence, behaviour or articles in their possession since April 2005. The first data sets relating to stop and account were formally released this year. The National Policing Improvement Agency is currently engaged in work to reduce disproportionality in both the 'Stop and Search' and 'Stop and Account' procedures.

UK Border Agency: Patrol Craft

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cutters, *(b)* inflatable craft and *(c)* other boats have been in use with (i) the UK Border Agency and (ii) other agencies undertaking border patrols in each year since 1997. [220118]

Mr. Byrne: As of April 2008, the maritime border patrols and operations became the responsibility of the UK Border Agency. These were previously undertaken by either (a) HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) (from April 2005 until April 2008) or (b) HM Customs and Excise (HMC and E) (prior to April 2005).

Since 2001, a Cutter fleet comprised of five deep sea cutters has been available for operation. Each of the five cutters is further equipped to deploy one rigid hull inflatable boat (RIB).

Additionally, the UKBA has various craft which are on loan to other agencies which are involved in border activity. There are currently a total of 13 craft on loan to colleagues in other border agencies. This figure can be broken down as follows:

One inflatable craft with Dorset Police

One small craft with Isle of Man Customs

One small craft with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

One small craft with Essex Police

One small craft with Dover Port Police.

Eight small craft with the Maritime Volunteer Service

Prior to 2001, these vessels were operated by HM Customs and Excise, and were not on loan. No vessels other than those listed above were operated. The main cutter fleet has consistently run with five operational vessels during the period 1997 to date.

UKBA Maritime assets work regularly in support of operations by both the Police and SOCA in order to provide the earliest possible interdiction of importation attempts and suspected attempts.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of the armed forces recruited in the last five years from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland were killed in service in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; [223201]

(2) how many members of the armed forces recruited in the last five years from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland received debilitating wounds whilst on active service in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [223202]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Officials are collating the information requested. When this work is complete, I will write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of receipts from assets sales his Department has allocated to expenditure on armed forces personnel accommodation in each of the last five years. [223181]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As part of the periodic Spending Reviews, the Department agrees with HM Treasury annual targets for receipts from the disposal of surplus assets. Net expenditure budgets are agreed accordingly with receipts contributing to capital investment in infrastructure and the estate. While there is usually no direct link between the receipts from asset sales and expenditure on accommodation, HM Treasury agreed with the Department as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, that the proceeds from the disposal of Chelsea should be ring-fenced to be invested in service accommodation.

Army: Foreigners

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* all personnel and *(b)* officers in the army were nationals of overseas countries (A) in 1997, (B) in 2001, (C) in 2005 and (D) at the latest date for which information is available. [223300]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The proportion of all personnel and officers in the regular Army whose nationality was that of an overseas country in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 1 July 2008 are given in the following table:

Proportion of (i) all regular Army personnel and (ii) Army officers by nationality

Percentage

	1 April 1997		*1 April 2001*		*1 April 2005*		*1 July 2008*[1, 2]	
Nationality	*All personnel*	*Officers*	*All personnel*	*Officers*	*All personnel*	*Officers*	*All Personnel*	*Officers*
UK	99.4	98.7	98.4	98.4	94.2	98.1	92.8[4]	98.1[4]
Foreign and Commonwealth[3]	0.6	1.3	1.6	1.6	5.8	1.9	7.2[4]	1.9[4]

[1] 2,450 personnel with no nationality marker on JPA have been excluded from 1 July 2008 figures.

[2] Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA, Army strength statistics at 1 July 2008 are provisional and subject to review.

[3] Foreign and Commonwealth personnel include personnel whose nationality was that of Republic of Ireland, Commonwealth (excluding UK), UK dependencies and other countries, as recorded on Record of Service/Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA).

[4] Denotes provisional.

Notes:

1. The figures are for regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves. It includes both trained and untrained personnel.
2. Nationality is that recorded on Record of Service/JPA as at the date of strength and is not necessarily the same as at birth or when recruited.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK citizens there were in *(a)* the Army excluding the Gurkhas and *(b)* the Gurkhas at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many personnel there were from each (i) overseas country and (ii) British overseas territory in each case. [223301]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As at 1 July 2008, there were 7,350 Foreign and Commonwealth trained and untrained regular army officers and soldiers excluding Gurkhas. There were 3,830 trained and untrained Gurkhas as at 1 July 2008, all of whom are Nepalese.

A breakdown of the nationality of these personnel is given in the following table:

Regular army officers and soldiers by nationality as at 1 July 2008

		Officer and soldier		*Officer*		*Soldier*	
Category	*Nationality*	*Trained*	*Untrained*	*Trained*	*Untrained*	*Trained*	*Untrained*
	Total	[1]93,800	[1]10,190	[1]13,820	[1]820	[1]79,980	[1]9,370
	UK total	[1]86,930	[1]7,270	[1]13,560	[1]690	[1]73,370	[1]6,580
	Percentage of column total	[1]92.7	[1]71.3	[1]98.1	[1]83.9	[1]91.7	[1]70.2
	British (or first UK nationality is British)	[1]86,545	[1]7,245	[1]13,540	[1]690	[1]73,005	[1]6,555
	British Hong Kong	[1]10	[1]5	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]10	[1]5
	British overseas territory citizen	[1]370	[1]20	[1]20	[1,2]—	[1]350	[1]20
	Republic of Ireland total	[1]210	[1]20	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1]170	[1]20
	Percentage of column total	[1]0.2	[1]0.2	[1]0.3	[1]0.4	[1]0.2	[1]0.2
Republic of Ireland	Irish[4]	[1]205	[1]25	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1]170	[1]20
	Commonwealth (excl UK) total	[1]6,120	[1]860	[1]180	[1]20	[1]5,940	[1]840
	Percentage of column total	[1]6.5	[1]8.4	[1]1.3	[1]1.9	[1]7.4	[1]9.0
Commonwealth (excl UK)	Antiguan	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Australian	[1]65	[1]5	[1]30	[1,2]—	[1]30	[1,2]—
	Bahamian	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Bangladeshi	[1]5	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]5	[1,2]—
	Barbadian	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]10	[1,2]—
	Belizean	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Botswanan	[1]10	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]10	[1]10
	British Commonwealth	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1]5	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Cameroonian	[1]35	[1]15	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]35	[1]15
	Canadian	[1]50	[1,2]—	[1]15	[1,2]—	[1]35	[1,2]—
	Citizen of Fiji	[1]2,005	[1]170	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]2,000	[1]170
	Citizen of Seychelles	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]10	[1,2]—
	Citizen of Sri Lanka	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]10	[1,2]—
	Citizen of St Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Dominican	[1]20	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]20	[1,2]—
	Gambian	[1]125	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]125	[1]40
	Ghanaian	[1]685	[1]185	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]680	[1]185
	Grenadian	[1]50	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]50	[1]10
	Guyanese	[1]20	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]20	[1,2]—
	Indian	[1]60	[1]25	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1]50	[1]25
	Jamaican	[1]660	[1]20	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]660	[1]20
	Kenyan	[1]110	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]110	[1]40
	Lesotho	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Malawian	[1]140	[1]45	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]140	[1]45
	Malaysian	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Maltese	[1]5	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Mauritian	[1]35	[1]10	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]35	[1]10
	Namibian	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	New Zealander	[1]60	[1,2]—	[1]20	[1,2]—	[1]40	[1,2]—
	Nigerian	[1]90	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]90	[1]40
	Pakistani	[1]5	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]5	[1,2]—
	Papua New Guinean	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—
	Sierra Leonean	[1]40	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1]35	[1,2]—
	Singaporean	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—	[1,2]—

Regular army officers and soldiers by nationality as at 1 July 2008

		Officer and soldier		*Officer*		*Soldier*	
Category	*Nationality*	*Trained*	*Untrained*	*Trained*	*Untrained*	*Trained*	*Untrained*
	South African	[1]730	[1]120	[1]50	[1]12	[1]675	[1]115
	St Lucian	[1]190	[1]15	[3]	[2]	[1]190	[1]15
	Swazi	[1]10	[3]	[2]	[2]	[1]10	[3]
	Tanzanian	[3]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[3]	[3]
	Tongan	[1]5	[3]	[2]	[2]	[1]5	[3]
	Trinidad and Tobago citizen	[1]65	[1]5	[3]	[2]	[1]65	[1]5
	Ugandan	[1]55	[1]20	[3]	[2]	[1]55	[1]20
	Vincentian	[1]235	[1]5	[3]	[3]	[1]235	[1]5
	Zambian	[1]20	[3]	[3]	[3]	[1]20	
	Zimbabwean	[1]480	[1]40	[1]20	[3]	[1]440	[1]40
	UK Dependency total	[1]20	[2]	[3]	[2]	[1]20	[2]
	Percentage of column total	[1]0.0	[1]0.0	[1]0.0	[1]0.0	[1]0.0	[1]0.0
UK Dependency	Ascension Islander	[3]	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	Gibraltarian	[3]	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	Monserratian	[3]	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	St. Helenian	[1]15	[2]	[2]	[2]	[1]15	[2]
	Other total	[1]100	[1]10	[1]30	[3]	[1]70	[1]10
	Percentage of column total	[1]0.1	[1]0.1	[1]0.2	[1]0.4	[1]0.1	[1]0.1
Other	Afghan	[3]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	Brazilian	[3]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[3]
	Chinese	[3]	[3]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]
	Colombian	[2]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]
	Dutch	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	Filipino	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[3]
	Foreign	[1]5	[2]	[1]5	[3]	[2]	[2]
	French	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]
	German	[1]5	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]
	Italian	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[3]	[2]
	Mauritanian	[3]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[3]	[3]
	Nepalese	[1]80	[3]	[1]20	[3]	[1]65	[3]
	Somali	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[3]
	Spanish	[2]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]
	Swiss	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]
	Ukrainian	[3]	[2]	[3]	[2]	[2]	[2]
	United States citizen	[3]	[3]	[3]	[2]	[3]	[3]
	No value total	[1]420	[1]2,030	[1]10	[1]110	[1]410	[1]1,920
	Percentage of column total	[1]0.4	[1]19.9	[1]0.1	[1]13.5	[1]0.5	[1]20.4
	No value	[1]420	[1]2,025	[1]10	[1]110	[1]410	[1]1,915

[1] Provisional.
[2] Zero.
[3] Fewer than 5.
[4] Citizen of the Irish Republic.

Notes:
1. Prior to 1980 Zimbabwe was known as Rhodesia. Rhodesia was not a member of the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in February 2002. Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth on 7 December 2003 after the suspension was renewed at the Commonwealth Leaders' meeting. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth.
2. Figures are for trained and untrained regular strengths only and therefore exclude FTRS, Gurkhas and mobilised reservists.
3. Figures have been rounded to 5; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals have been rounded to 10. Totals and subtotals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
4. Due to the ongoing validation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Army: Manpower

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were enlisted in the Army at the latest date for which information is available. [223291]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As at 1 July 2008 the current strength of the Army was 108,750. This figure includes all trained and untrained personnel, Ghurkhas and full-time Reserve personnel. It excludes Army Reservists mobilised for service.

Information on the strength of the Army is published by DASA in its monthly National Statistics release "TSP3: UK Armed Forces Strengths and Requirements" which can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=50&date=2008-05-28&type=pdf.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, Army strength statistics at 1 July 2008 are provisional and subject to review.

NATO

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the agenda is for the NATO defence ministers' meeting in London on 18 September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [223655]

Des Browne: Following on from discussions at the Bucharest summit, the NATO Secretary-General called for a special meeting of NATO Defence Ministers to focus on the political challenges of NATO reform and to give ministerial direction and leadership to the transformation agenda. As a firm believer in the need for a fresh look at our international institutions, I offered to host the meeting which will be held at Lancaster House on 18 and 19 of September 2008. The Secretary-General has not issued any formal agenda, but has broadly outlined the issues facing the alliance—planning and delivering key capabilities; efficient use of human, financial and technical resources; and joint and proportionate burden-sharing. It is likely we will discuss also recent events in Georgia.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's policy on nuclear first use is; and if he will publish the relevant guidelines. [223656]

Des Browne: The United Kingdom Government would be prepared to use nuclear weapons only in extreme circumstances of self-defence. We would not use our weapons, whether conventional or nuclear, contrary to international law.

The UK does not rule in or out the first use of nuclear weapons. A policy of no first use of nuclear weapons would be incompatible with our and NATO's doctrine of deterrence. We do not determine in advance how to react to aggression. This would be decided in the context of all circumstances prevailing at the time. Our overall strategy is to ensure uncertainty in the mind of any aggressor about the exact nature of our response, and thus to maintain effective deterrence.

Poland: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on Poland's hosting of US missile defence facilities and Russia's position on such hosting; and if he will make a statement. [223657]

Des Browne: The agreement between Poland and the US to establish a ballistic missile defence interceptor site on Polish territory is welcomed.

The US ballistic missile defence assets in Europe will provide a limited defensive capability against a small number of states of concern who are currently seeking to develop or acquire ballistic missiles with the capability of striking Europe. Russia is fully aware of the capabilities, and limitations, of the planned US system, and are aware that their security should not, and could not, be threatened by it.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Boilers: Natural Gas

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many gas boilers were installed in homes in England and Wales in each year since 2004; and how many were *(a)* A-rated, *(b)* B-rated condensing boilers and *(c)* D-rated boilers. [219678]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The following table sets out how many gas boilers were installed in homes in the United Kingdom as a whole. It is not possible to break down these data for England and Wales only.

Number of units sold to the domestic sector

Energy efficiency class	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
A	824,165	1,051,954	1,271,748
B	200,284	310,844	262,439
C	1,179	482	296
D	449,838	176,463	78,666
E	2,875	0	0
F	32	0	0
G	0	0	0
Unknown	336	8	1,418
Total	1,478,709	1,539,751	1,614,567

Councillors: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councillors who are members of a joint committee with another council are required to *(a)* sign the code of conduct and *(b)* maintain a separate register of interests for both the council to which they were elected and the council also represented on the joint committee; and what guidance the Standards Board for England has issued on this matter. [223616]

John Healey: There are no such requirements or guidance.

When a councillor serves on a joint committee, they are acting as a representative of their authority and so must comply with their own council's code of conduct. The councillor's register of interests made to the council they were elected to is available to public scrutiny.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies her Department has contracts with for the provision of cleaning services; and what the hourly rate of pay is for cleaners in her Department. [223611]

John Healey: Cleaning services are provided as part of the Integrated Facilities Management Contract for CLG's HQ building with MITIE Group PLC. The current hourly rates of pay for cleaning grades are as follows:

	£
Part-time cleaners and full-time day janitors	5.52
Part-time cleaning supervisors	6.70
Full-time day cleaning supervisors	7.78

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, on departmental overseas visits, which overseas conferences her Department's representatives attended as part of the 388 overseas visits referred to. [223578]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government does not hold central records about individual overseas visits. All overseas visits require the local approval of the appropriate deputy director who will ensure business need and value for money are justified.

Eco-Towns: Expenditure

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on the eco-town policy and its implementation in each of the last three years for which figures are available; how much it has spent on the policy and its implementation in relation to the Pennbury site in each such year; and what its planned expenditure on the eco-towns policy is *(a)* in relation to the Pennbury site and *(b)* in total in each financial year to 2012-13. [223512]

John Healey: The eco-towns policy was announced in February 2007 and it has been developed alongside our housing policies. The costs for developing the policy form part of the Department's running costs and are set out in the departmental annual report, "Community, opportunity, prosperity". Future allocations to support infrastructure and local authority expenditure in relation to any of the sites will be drawn from the growth funding made available in CSR07.

The Pennbury site was announced as a shortlisted location on 3 April 2008. Since then and to date we have spent or committed approximately £153,000 on publicity and local authority assessment work, in addition to our assessments of financial viability and sustainability for all the sites. We are currently consulting on Pennbury and all the shortlisted eco-town locations.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether data gatherers for energy performance certificates, who are not domestic energy assessors, will need to be accredited and undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check. [223647]

John Healey: CLG has issued guidance setting out the circumstances in which data gatherers may be used. A Criminal Records Bureau check is needed for a data gatherer who visits dwellings unaccompanied by either a domestic energy assessor or the landlord where the dwellings have tenants. A data gatherer does not need to be accredited but cannot produce a certificate. The certificate is the responsibility of the domestic energy assessor (DEA).

English Regions Network

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will abolish the English Regions Network. [223624]

John Healey: The English Regional Network is a voluntary body that represents regional assemblies at a national level; as such the Secretary of State does not have the power to abolish it. A consultation paper on the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration was published on 31 March which included proposals to remove regional planning powers from regional assemblies and a response to that consultation will be issued in due course.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations she has received on the FiReControl Project from *(a)* Chief Fire Officers, *(b)* chairs of local fire authorities and *(c)* chairs of local authority companies since March 2008; and whether such representations have indicated opposition from fire authorities in their region to the move to regional control centres; [223612]

(2) what plans she has to introduce regional fire control centres in areas where the local fire authority opposes their introduction; under what authority such powers may be exercised; and what powers she has to enforce such action. [223613]

John Healey: We are working closely with all interested parties, including chief fire officers, fire and rescue authorities and local authority controlled companies, to deliver the FiReControl Project. There have been formal and informal representations and as with any project, a mixture of views have been submitted.

As the recently published Business Case Part 1: The Regional Cases show, FiReControl will significantly enhance national resilience and will provide a much greater functionality for the fire and rescue service in England. Communities and Local Government is

committed to delivering this project. The "Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11" reinforced this commitment.

Communities and Local Government have worked in partnership with other interested parties to deliver the FiReControl Project, and wishes to continue working in this way. But because of its importance we would consider, but only as a last resort, the use of powers under sections 22 and 29 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to ensure a successful move to FiReControl Network.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for the regional fire control centres in England to be fully operational as a national network is. [223614]

Mr. Dhanda: All Fire and Rescue Authorities should have transferred their calls to the regional control centre network by September 2011.

For further details on the schedule for each FRA I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the full business case for the FiReControl Project. [223615]

John Healey: Part 1 of the Business Case: The Regional Case was published on 8 July 2008, a copy has been placed in the House Library. Part 2: The National Case, will be published later this year.

Fire Services: Equipment

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire appliances there are in service in each brigade; and how many in each brigade carry *(a)* defibrillators and *(b)* other first aid equipment. [223465]

John Healey: Information on the number of front-line pumping appliances and defibrillators in each fire and rescue service in England during 2007 is set out in the following table. Information on how many of these appliances carry a defibrillator or other first aid equipment is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Front-line appliances and defibrillators in the fire and rescue services—England 2007

Fire and rescue service	*Front line pumping appliances*	*Defibrillators*[1]
Avon	37	37
Bedfordshire and Luton	22	14
Buckinghamshire	33	0
Cambridgeshire	38	29
Cheshire	35	0
Cleveland	22	23
Cornwall	43	3
County Durham and Darlington	27	15
Cumbria	51	5
Derbyshire	44	0
Devon and Somerset	122	21
Dorset	41	27
East Sussex	35	2
Essex	70	0
Gloucestershire	33	15
Greater Manchester	66	66
Hampshire	76	9
Hereford and Worcester	43	0
Hertfordshire	41	12
Humberside	49	49
Isle of Wight	16	2
Isles of Scilly	3	n/a
Kent	87	6
Lancashire	63	2
Leicestershire	31	29
Lincolnshire	48	22
London	168	80
Merseyside	42	1
Norfolk	54	12
North Yorkshire	47	20
Northamptonshire	28	2
Northumberland	24	13
Nottinghamshire	36	20
Oxfordshire	35	3
Royal Berkshire	24	1
Shropshire	28	0
South Yorkshire	32	23
Staffordshire	46	25
Suffolk	47	0
Surrey	35	10
Tyne and Wear	31	31
Warwickshire	26	0
West Midlands	62	0
West Sussex	46	45
West Yorkshire	64	62
Wiltshire	35	12
England	2,086	419

[1] Number of defibrillators held in each fire and rescue service, which are carried on pumps, other vehicles like vans or are located at fire stations.

Source:
Communities and Local Government

Heating

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic ground source heat pump installations there are; and what percentage of dwellings have ground source heat pumps installed. [219665]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 750-2,000 ground source heat pump

installations at the end of 2007. It did not estimate how many were domestic or non-domestic installations.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Heating: Solar Power

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic solar thermal hot water installations to buildings there were in each year since 2004; and what percentage of all buildings this represents. [219670]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 90,000 solar thermal installations at the end of 2007, up from 78,000 at the end of 2004. It did not estimate how many were domestic or non-domestic installations.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of home information packs on the incidence of *(a)* gazumping and *(b)* gazundering in the housing market. [223644]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Housing Minister gave to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1989W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum shelf life of each element of a commissioned home information pack is. [223646]

Mr. Dhanda: The elements of a home information pack (HIP) have no shelf life under the regulations as there is no requirement for sellers to update any document in the HIP as long as the property remains on the market.

Housing: Low Incomes

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that building affordable family homes is a key component of delivery for development in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* other housing growth point areas. [223641]

John Healey: Government do not set the levels and mix affordable housing in an area. This is set by local authorities through their local development frameworks as part of regional and local planning processes.

However, in order to emphasise the importance of delivering affordable housing, levels of affordable housing ambition were one of the criteria on which bids for new growth point status were appraised and is a key component of the assessment process for funding from the Growth Fund, which we have recently consulted on. The response to the consultation can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at www.communities.gsi.gov.uk. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* councils and *(b)* housing associations are offering the Social HomeBuy scheme. [223648]

John Healey: There are currently *(a)* 10 local authorities and *(b)* 69 housing associations offering the voluntary Social HomeBuy scheme to their tenants.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people there are on housing waiting lists in each housing authority area in Cornwall and Devon; and what percentage of the population this represents in each housing authority area. [223586]

John Healey: Information on local authority waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the registered social landlords will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority and the percentage of households this represents is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls.

Copies of this table are available in the Library.

Local Government: Maladministration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of maladministration upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman resulted in a formal ruling that was not implemented by the local authority in question in each year since 1997-98; and to which local authorities such rulings related. [223617]

John Healey: Where the Local Government Ombudsman finds maladministration that has caused injustice, a report is issued that includes recommendations for a remedy for the complainant, with around a 100 reports issued annually.

The following table lists local authorities who have failed to provide satisfactory remedies since 1997-98.

Authorities who have failed to provide satisfactory remedies

Year of issue of report	*Authority*
1997-98	Mid Suffolk DC
	Salford City C
	Walsall MBC
1998-99	None
1999-2000	Newark and Sherwood DC
	Basildon DC
	Sefton MBC
2000-01	Eden DC
	Rossendale BC
	North Warwickshire DC
2001-02	East Riding of Yorkshire
2002-03	Chichester DC
	Portsmouth City Council
2003-04	Dudley MBC
2004-05	None
2005-06	Blackpool BC
2006-07	East Riding of Yorkshire
2007-08	Trafford MBC

Property Information Questionnaires

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the information collected from property information questionnaires will be sorted in an electronic database. [223645]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no plans to do so. As set out in our consultation paper, the property information questionnaire would be completed by individual sellers and provided to prospective buyers as part of the HIP.

Property: Sales

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forecast she has made of the likely number of residential property sales in each of the next 12 months. [223564]

Caroline Flint: Communities and Local Government (CLG) does not make forecasts for the housing market and so has not made any forecasts of the number of residential property sales in each of the next 12 months. However, CLG does closely monitor the housing market and takes action to support it where necessary.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was distributed via Supporting People grants to each relevant local authority in England in each of the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09; what amount each local authority would have received had the formula been applied without damping in each such year; and what the equivalent figures are estimated to be for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [223500]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 553W, given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

The formula used to calculate the funding allocations is available at:

http://www.spkweb.org.uk/Subjects/Distribution+Formula/.

It includes estimated undamped allocations for all authorities for the years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11, and can also be used to calculate estimated allocations for previous years.

Thermal Insulation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of households with lofts installed loft insulation in each year since 2004; and what proportion of these were first-time installations. [219679]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Virtually all loft insulation installed in existing homes since 2004 has been installed via Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC). Both phases were administered by Ofgem and cover Great Britain, but not Northern Ireland.

An independent review of EEC1 (2002-05), Evaluation of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2002-05 (Eoin Lees Energy), showed that there were 226,245 professional insulations of lofts which previously had no insulation during this period. An additional 528,496 lofts, which already had some insulation, were topped up professionally. The programme also subsidises loft insulation via DIY outlets, and it is estimated that around 335,000 lofts were insulated by the householders themselves during the EEC1 period.

Ofgem is due to report on EEC2 (2005-08) on 1 August 2008. Based on the second year report for EEC2, the average number of professional insulations during 2005 and 2006 was 380,000 per year[1]. However, it is not yet known how many of these were in previously uninsulated properties.

[1] *Source*:

A review of the second year of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-08, Ofgem.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will revise the regulations determining bereavement benefit to ensure that *(a)* widows and widowers are informed in writing of entitlements to the benefit and *(b)* benefits are backdated to the date of entitlement for widows or widowers who do not receive such notification timeously. [223669]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pensions makes every effort to ensure that individuals who have been bereaved are aware of their possible entitlement to bereavement benefit.

As well as provision of information through traditional sources, such as leaflets, Jobcentre Plus continues to work in partnership with registrars and coroners to ensure that information is made available to bereaved people.

We have no plans to revise the regulations.

Care Homes: Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reasons those living in care homes are classified as ineligible for winter fuel payments by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [223161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Residents of care homes who are not in receipt of pension credit are entitled to a shared winter fuel payment of either £100 if they are aged 60 to 79 or £150 if they are aged 80 or over (this winter it will be £125 and £200 respectively). This is because they share the accommodation with other people who are also entitled to the payment and are responsible for a share of the heating costs.

Residents of care homes who are in receipt of Pension Credit are not entitled to a winter fuel payment. This is because historically people living in a care home and in receipt of an income-related benefit have received public funding for their care and accommodation costs including heating. Originally this was through the income-related benefit itself but for many years now has been through funding from the local authority. As this is still the case for the vast majority of people receiving Pension Credit, the winter fuel payment is not payable.

Note:

For winter 2008-09 the Winter Fuel Payment is increased to £250 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* liability orders and *(b)* deduction of earnings orders have been issued by the Child Support Agency to non-resident parents in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [217169]

(2) how many Child Support Agency cases have been passed to the bailiffs in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [217170]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) Liability Orders and (b) Deductions of Earnings Orders have been issued by the Child Support Agency to non-resident parents in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [217169]; and

How many Child Support Agency cases have been passed to the bailiffs in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [217170]

The Agency publishes information on the range of enforcement actions undertaken at national level, including the numbers of Liability Orders granted, new Deductions from Earnings Orders/Requests, and Distress Actions (where a case is passed to the bailiffs) in Table 21 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The Quarterly Summary of Statistics can be found in the House of Commons library or online at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

Information on the number of enforcement actions undertaken prior to April 2004 is not available.

The Agency does not routinely collate enforcement information at constituency, county or regional level. The attached Table 1 provides an estimate of the information you have requested at regional level, however as this information is an estimate only, it is subject to revision. The method of estimating enforcement figures by matching postcodes to areas becomes increasingly less accurate as the geographical areas get smaller, therefore robust information below regional level is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Estimate of Liability Orders applied for, Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests issued by the Agency and Bailiff referrals in the North East

	North East		
	Liability orders	*Bailiffs*	*Deductions from earnings orders /requests*
2004-05	445	250	[1]2,055
2005-06	625	490	4,185
2006-07	690	780	3,955
2007-08	950	695	4,400

[1] September 2004-March 2005

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. No robust management information on enforcement measures exists prior to April 2004.
3. Robust management information for Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests is also not available for December 2004, January 2005 or January 2007. At national level, figures for 2006-07 are underestimated by around 6,000. Figures for the seven months to March 2005 are underestimated by around 12,000. This means that figures for the North East for these periods are also underestimated.
4. The information provided in Table 2 is an estimate only and is therefore subject to revision.
5. The information on Liability Orders in Table 2 is on those applied for by the Agency and not the total granted by the courts.
6. Information concerning the number of Liability Orders applied for, the number of cases referred to debt collection agencies and numbers of new Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests has been allocated to the relevant geographical area by matching the postcode of the non-resident parent against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* liability orders and *(b)* deduction of earnings orders have been issued by the Child Support Agency to non-resident parents in (i) Darlington constituency, (ii) County Durham, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK since 1997. [219624]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) Liability Orders and (b) Deduction from Earnings Orders have been issued by the Child Support Agency to non-resident parents in (i) Darlington constituency (ii) County Durham (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK since 1997. [219624]

The Agency publishes information on the range of enforcement actions undertaken at national level, including the numbers of Liability Orders granted and new Deductions from Earnings Orders/Requests, in Table 21 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons library or online at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

Unfortunately information on the number of Deduction from Earnings Orders and Liability Orders applied for or granted prior to April 2004 is not available.

The Agency does not routinely collate enforcement information at constituency, county or regional level. The attached Table 1 provides an estimate of the information you have requested at regional level, however as this information is an estimate only, it is subject to revision. The method of estimating enforcement figures by matching postcodes to areas becomes increasingly less accurate as the geographical areas get smaller, therefore robust information below regional level is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Estimate of Liability Orders Applied For and Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests Issued by the Agency in the North East

	Liability orders	*Deductions from earnings orders/ requests*
2004-05	445	[1]2,055
2005-06	625	4,185
2006-07	690	3,955
2007-08	950	4,400

[1] September 2004-March 2005

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. No robust management information on enforcement measures exists prior to April 2004.
3. Robust management information for Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests is also not available for December 2004, January 2005 or January 2007. At national level, figures for 2006-07 are underestimated by around 6,000. Figures for the seven months to March 2005 are underestimated by around 12,000. This means that figures for the North East for these figures are also underestimated.
4. The information provided is an estimate only and is therefore subject to revision.
5. The information on Liability Orders is on those applied for by the Agency and not the total granted by the courts.
6. Information concerning the number of Liability Orders applied for and numbers of new Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests has been allocated to the relevant geographical area by matching the postcode of the non-resident parent with the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221588]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214662]

Mrs. McGuire: These are the totals as held on the Department's fixed asset register:

	£
Cost	266,343,510
Accum Deprn	202,338,527
New Book Value	64,004,982.78

In addition to the assets held by the department IT services are provided by a third party supplier.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220735]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2006-07, 97 per cent. by volume (94 per cent. by spend) of the paper used for photocopying by the Department was recycled paper. In 2007-08, the figures were 82 per cent. by volume and 80 per cent. by spend respectively.

Wherever possible the Department seeks to buy recycled paper in line with the mandatory "Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins" minimum environmental product standards as developed by DEFRA. All of the Department's forms and claim packs are printed on 100 per cent./re-cycled paper. Leaflets, marketing materials and magazines are printed on a variety of paper types, depending on the technical requirements of the individual product. The paper can be either 100 per cent. recycled, part re-cycled part virgin pulp or 100 per cent. virgin pulp. The Department does not hold information on the proportion of each type. Where virgin pulp is used it is purchased from FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) accredited sustainable sources.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215453]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table:

	Number of questions		*Average working days[1] to reply*	
	Ordinary	*Named day*	*Ordinary*	*Named day*
2005	2,394	553	13	7
2006	3,272	634	15	8
2007	2,692	657	12	8

[1] Working days excludes weekends and non-sitting days when PQ replies cannot be tabled.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of income-based claimants who will be *(a)* better and *(b)* worse off following the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance; and if he will make a statement. [218917]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* No existing claimant of incapacity benefits will be made worse off in cash terms as a result of introducing the employment and support allowance.

Employment and support allowance will replace incapacity benefits (including income support on grounds of incapacity) for new claimants from October 2008. Existing claimants will remain on incapacity benefits and will be migrated to employment and support allowance over the three years from 2010 to 2013. After migration, those who are entitled to a higher rate under employment and support allowance than their previous rate under incapacity benefits will receive more money. All other claimants will have their cash level of benefit protected.

Employment and support allowance is an entirely new benefit with a new structure and new benefit rates. Under employment and support allowance, people will generally receive more money earlier in a claim. Over the next five years, spending on employment and support allowance is forecast to be £400 million higher than would have been spent on incapacity benefits.

Industrial Health and Safety: EU Action

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what consideration he has given to seeking an exemption for professional paint removers should the European Commission's proposals to prohibit the use of methylene chloride be implemented. [223374]

Mrs. McGuire: The European Commission's proposal, currently under negotiation, for restricting the marketing and use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers, already contains the possibility for individual member states to authorise the continued use of these products by licensed professional users.

Under the proposal, the only requirements for granting licences relate to training in safe use.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were per member of frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus and its predecessor agencies in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [223435]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants there were per member of frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus and its predecessor agencies in each of the last 10 years a) in total and b) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide a functional breakdown of Jobcentre Plus staff prior to March 2004.

The table below shows the number of full-time equivalent staff employed as operational staff in Jobcentres, Jobcentre Plus offices, Social Security offices and Benefit Delivery Centres, Contact Centres and those who provide support for these services, for the period 2004 to 2008. It is not possible to differentiate between those who deal directly with the public and those who perform other supporting functions, and nor are we able to provide this information by region.

March	*JSA claimants*	*Full-time equivalent staff*	*JSA claimants per FTE*
2004	889,610	74,036.4	12.0
2005	853,142	66,808.6	12.8
2006	960,487	59,789.7	16.1
2007	930,094	57,939.5	16.1
2008	818,295	56,865.5	14.4

Notes:

1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount and details the position at March in each year.
2. The figures provided are for Great Britain.
3. Claimant information uses the seasonally adjusted figures. The term "frontline staff" is interpreted to mean all operational staff, including those in support roles, as we are unable to accurately identify, on a consistent basis throughout the time period, those who deal directly with the public. Figures exclude those people in National Directorates.

New Deal Schemes: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions have been applied to claimants on each New Deal scheme during their *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth or more time of involvement with the scheme for their (i) first, (ii) second and (iii) third or more offence. [223319]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The information is not available.

Pension Credit

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were granted backdated pension credits going back further than three months *(a)* in England, *(b)* in London and *(c)* in the London Borough of Sutton in the last year for which figures are available. [214373]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All the information requested is not available; such information as is available is in the following table. Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected. The information in the following table estimates the possible maximum extent of backdating by examining the difference between the date of first payment and the date at which entitlement begins. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit.

Estimates of pension credit claims backdated for more than three months in England and London, 2006-07

	Number
England	90,000
London	10,000

Notes:
1. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. Estimates at local authority level are not sufficiently robust for publication.
3. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department does not routinely collect information on backdating periods and these estimates have been produced by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. Estimated backdating periods therefore include unknown periods of time that are due to processing, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
4. Estimates cover the 2006-07 financial year May 2006 to February 2007.

Source:
Experimental Statistics of Pension Credit on flows.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on backdated payments of pension credit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216060]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected, nor therefore is expenditure on backdating. Expenditure on backdating has been estimated using information on average awards and backdating periods. Backdating periods have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and (the date pension credit is put into payment. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit. In 2006-07 around 60 per cent. of all successful new claims were backdated for three months or less (this includes cases with zero backdating). The information that is available is in the following table.

Expenditure on pension credit backdating

	Total expenditure (£ million)
2003-04 (October to March)	80
2004-05	330
2005-06	190
2006-07	150

Notes:
1. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department does not routinely collect information on expenditure on backdated payments and it has been estimated using information on average awards and backdating periods. Backdating periods have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. Estimated backdating periods therefore include unknown periods of time that are due to processing, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
2. All figures are consistent with the 2008 Budget Report.
3. Estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
4. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, so expenditure figures are only available from this date.

Source:
Experimental Statistics of Pension Credit on flows and DWP Accounting Systems

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pension credit claimants who will be affected by the change in the limit on backdating claims for pension credit from 12 to three months; and if he will make a statement. [216061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1700W, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department from changes to the backdating of pension credit from 12 to three months in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [216062]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 862-63W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension credit recipients received backdated payments *(a)* in total and *(b)* for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months, broken down by (A) guarantee credit and (B) savings credit in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [219205]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected. The information in the following table estimates the possible maximum extent of backdating by examining the difference between the date of first payment and date at which entitlement begins. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit.

Estimates of the number of claims for pension credit guarantee credit (GC) and pension credit savings credit (SC) by backdating period between 2003 and 2006

Thousand

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
Months	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*
0 to 3 months	1,890	1,610	150	70	130	60	140	50
3 to 6 months	70	140	60	120	10	10	20	10
6 to 12 months	—	—	130	270	60	110	40	70
Total inflows	1,960	1,750	340	450	200	180	200	140

Estimates of the proportion of claims for pension credit guarantee credit (GC) and pension credit savings credit (SC) by backdating period between 2003 and 2006

To the nearest 5 per cent.

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
Months	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*	*GC*	*SC*
0 to 3 months	95	90	45	15	65	30	70	40
3 to 6 months	5	10	20	25	5	10	10	10
6 to 12 months	—	—	35	60	25	60	20	50

Notes:
1. Estimates of the number of guarantee credit and savings credit claims by length of backdating cannot be added together to obtain total pension credit claims by length of backdating because some households receive both guarantee credit and savings credit.
2. Estimates of the number of claims by length of backdating period have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 cases.
3. Estimates of the number of claims backdated as a percentage of annual onflows have been rounded to the nearest 5 percentage points.
4. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department does not routinely collect information on backdating periods and these have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. Estimated backdating periods therefore include unknown periods of time that are due to processing, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
5. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003. About 1.8 million minimum income guarantee cases were transferred to pension credit at this time which explains the large number of on flows in 2003.
6. Estimates cover financial years for example April 2006 to March 2007, with the exception of 2003, which covers October 2003 to March 2004.
7. Estimates for 2007 have not been included as data are available only for the first quarter of that year.
8. Due to rounding the numbers of successful claims by period of backdating may not sum to the total number of successful claims.
9. Due to rounding the percentage of onflows by period of backdating may not sum to 100 per cent.
10. Onflows measure the total number of spells on benefit that commenced within a quarter. They do not include flows where people have moved out of one geographical area and into another while remaining on the benefit.
11. Estimates of the number of claims backdated 0 to 3 months include those with zero backdating.

Source:
Experimental Statistics of Pension Credit on flows.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average sum received in backdated pension credit was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per month for pension credit recipients who received backdated payments for a period covering (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months and (iii) between six and 12 months in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [219206]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected. Backdating periods have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit. In 2006-07 around 60 per cent. of all successful new claims were backdated for three months or less (this includes cases with zero backdating).

The information that is available is in the following table.

Estimates of the average total amount of pension credit backdated by period of backdating, 2003-06

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
0-3 months	100	200	200	200
3-6 months	300	500	650	700
6-12 months	—	850	1,150	1,350
All backdating	200	600	700	700

Notes:
1. Estimates of the average amount of backdated pension credit have been rounded to the nearest £50.
2. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department only holds information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. The length of backdating period has been estimated by comparing these dates. Estimated backdated periods therefore include processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
3. Estimates exclude cases where pension credit was not backdated.
4. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003.
5. Estimates cover financial years, for example April 2006 to March 2007, with the exception of 2003, which covers October 2003 to March 2004.
6. Estimates for 2007 have not been included as data is available only for the first quarter of that year.
7. On-flows measure the total number of spells on benefit that commenced within a quarter. They do not include flows where people have moved out of one geographical area and into another while remaining on the benefit.

Source:
Experimental statistics of pension credit on flows.

Post Office Card Account

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his letter of 9 July to the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling what *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK legislation creates a legal requirement for a competitive tender to be held for the successor to the current Post Office card account. [223287]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The legislation that creates a legal requirement for a competitive tender to be held for the successor to the current Post Office card account is EU Directive 2004/18/EC, enacted in the UK as "The Public Contracts Regulations 2006".

Post Office Card Account: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of state benefits were paid into Post Office card accounts in Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council area in the last year for which figures are available. [223233]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As at March 2008, around 32,000 state benefit and pension payments were being made into Post Office card accounts in Sandwell metropolitan borough council area. This represents around 27 per cent. of all state benefit and pension payments made.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken into the relationship between alcohol pricing and problem drinking. [221312]

Mr. Thomas: None. The Department of Health has, however, commissioned a review of the relationship between alcohol pricing and alcohol consumption and harm. The findings of the first phase of that review were published alongside the Department of Health's consultation document on further action in respect of the national alcohol strategy. Both documents can be found on the Department of Health's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Alcoholmisuse/indexhtm.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice he has received on the compliance with *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU competition law of minimum pricing for a unit of alcohol. [221313]

Mr. Thomas: In considering possible measures aimed at reducing alcohol related harms, the Government are taking account of the need to ensure any such measures are compatible with UK and EU law.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken into the effects that minimum pricing of alcohol would have on people on low incomes who drink responsibly. [221314]

Mr. Thomas: In considering possible measures aimed at tackling alcohol related harms, the Government are, of course, taking account of the likely impact of such measures and would consult publicly before taking decisions on any detailed proposals in this area.

Biofuels

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic biomass installations there are. [219667]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no comprehensive listing of the number of installations due to the range and diversity of biomass use and applications. However the best data available for biomass power generation come from the renewables obligation certificate (ROC) database compiled by Ofgem and available from Ofgem's renewables obligation (RO) website at

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environmnt/RenewablStat/Pages/RenewablStat.aspx

Biomass projects extracted from the ROC list are as follows. These tables do not, however, include sewage gas and landfill gas operations, nor those installations not claiming ROCs.

Power generation plants

Table 1: Electricity production from stand-alone conventional biomass combustion

Plant name	*Installed capacity (kW)*	*Generation in 2006 (MWh)*
Genny	8	0
Bioflame	600	0
Chestnut Bio Power Ltd (formerly: Ecoenergy Ltd)	980	0
Eccleshall Biomass	2,645	0
Elean Business Park	36,850	216,112
Eye Power Station(Fibropower)	14,316	82,999
Fawley Waste to Energy Plant[1]	8,600	32,926
Glanford Power Station (Fibrogen)	16,700	78,788
Knypersley Renewable Generator	7,200	0
Longma Thorn	400	119
LPL—Hockwold	400	0
Mossborough Hall Farm	300	0
Thetford Power Station	41,500	199,763
Wilton 10 Biomass Gen station	35,220	0
Total	165,719	610,707

Table2: Electricity production from biomass and waste using anaerobic digestion

Plant name	*Installed capacity (kW)*	*Generation in 2006 (MWh)*
Bedfordia Biogas Ltd (Twinwoods)	786	584
Biogas Engine, Mauri Products Ltd	850	728
Holsworthy Biogas Company Project	2,696	9,453
Little Woolden Hall Farm	85	19
South Shropshire Biowaste Digester	200	24
Twyford Power Station	250	0
Wanlip AD Plant	1.434	1,224
Total	6,301	12,032

Table 3: Electricity production from co-firing biomass with fossil fuel

Plant name	*Installed capacity (kW)*[2]	*Generation in 2006 (MWha)*
Aberthaw B Power Station, nr Cardiff	1,552,500	78,494
Alcan Lynmouth Power Station	420,000	2,026
Cottam Power Station[2]	2,000,000	97,765
Didcot 'A' Power Station	2,100,000	114,896
Drakelow Power Station	333,000	0
Drax Power Station*	4,065,000	63,582
Eggborough Power Limited	1,062,000	161,953
Ferrybridge C Power Station	200,000	343,048
Fibrepower (Slough)[2]	12,000	40,628
Fiddler's Ferry Power Station	1,995,000	271,400
Glanford Brigg Power Station	272,000	0
Ironbridge Power Station	970,000	28,668
Kingsnorth Power Station	2,034,000	221,811
Ratcliffe-On-Soar Power Station	2,034,000	0
Tilbury Power Station	1,085,000	61,351

Table 3: Electricity production from co-firing biomass with fossil fuel

Plant name	*Installed capacity (kW)*[2]	*Generation in 2006 (MWha)*
Uskmouth Power Plant	393,000	0
West Burton Power Station	2,000,000	48,338
Rugeley B, Staffs	50,000	0
Total	19,496,000	1,533,960

[1] The maximum percentage of co-fired ROCs that a supplier can present against its obligation was reduced from 25 per cent. in 2005-06 to 10 per cent. in 2006-07. This lead to a reduction of almost a factor of 2 in the number of co-firing ROCs presented in 2006-07.
[2] Capacities are for the whole power station, not just the part that co-fires biomass.

Table 4: Electricity from industrial CHP

Plant name	*Installed capacity (kW)*	*Generation in 2006 (MWh)*
Goosey Lodge Power Plant	16,000	82,092
Old Manor House	100	4
PDM Group Widnes	9,500	34,048
UPM Shotton Paper Boiler 7	19,655	14,407
Slough Electricity Contracts Ltd	35,000	166,148
Weston Industrial Estate	500	0
Buckland Down, Somerset	7,000	0
Total	87,755	296,699

Overall figures for the actual usage of bioenergy in the UK are available from the Digest of UK Energy Statistics on the website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/renewables/page18513.html.

Data for 2007 will be published on 31 July 2008.

The low carbon buildings programme also has information on the grants it has given (which include biomass) at

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/stats/

For further general information on biomass activity in the UK

Carbon Trust

Biomass Accelerator:

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B997E80E-CB94-4B75-BF46-ECEBEBFB948A/0/AllEnergy_May07.pdf

Biomass Review (dated 2005):

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications/publicationdetail?productid=CTC512

Energy Saving Trust (EST)

Suppliers and products (available through Government grant schemes):

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/generate_your_own_energy/types_of_renewables/biomass/

British Wind Energy Association: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the British Wind Energy Association received from the public purse in each of the last five years. [220698]

Malcolm Wicks: The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) is a non-governmental trade association funded by its membership.

The Department does not hold records of funding by other Government Departments of the BWEA's activities.

The BWEA has won several contracts for work tendered by this Department. The Department has also co-funded a number of projects undertaken by the BWEA.

The total funding in each financial year from 2003-04 onwards is set out in the following table.

Financial year[1]	*Contribution (£)*
2008-09	0
2007-08	35,000.00
2006-07	34,115.88
2005-06	51,000.00
2004-05	170,825.00
2003-04	25,215.00

[1] In some cases payments made in one financial year may relate to activities undertaken in another financial year.

Broadband

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with telecommunication providers on the delivery of broadband services to remote parts of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [216983]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had meetings with telecoms companies including BT, Virgin Media and Sky in recent months, when the subject of broadband was discussed and where rural broadband supply was part, but not the exclusive subject of those discussions.

Bromine

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met representatives of the bromine industry. [220667]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There have been no recent meetings between the bromine industry and BERR Ministers.

Business: Females

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to provide support for black and ethnic minority women entrepreneurs. [208439]

Mr. McFadden: The Enterprise Strategy, published in March 2008 as part of the Budget, recognises the important role that all women can play in driving up enterprise activity in the UK and has proposed a number of measures that will support women entrepreneurs, including those from black and other ethnic minority backgrounds, and provide them with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to see enterprise and business ownership as open to them. Those measures include provision for £12.5 million of Government capital through a women's investment fund; women's business centre pilots; enhanced mentoring support; a new national enterprise centre of expertise; and activity aimed at opening up procurement opportunities to women owned businesses.

In addition, in June 2007, the Government announced the launch of the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force. As well as making recommendations to Government on the further development of policy, the task force will help to foster growth among ethnic minority firms and boost economic participation by ethnic minority entrepreneurs.

Carbon Emissions: Energy

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of progress made by UK energy companies in reducing their carbon dioxide emissions. [218206]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on carbon dioxide emissions from the UK energy supply sector are published annually by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on their website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/gagccukem.htm.

The latest available data relate to the calendar year 2006, and they show that emissions from this sector were 220.835 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, which represents a reduction of 8.9 per cent. since 1990. The energy supply sector accounts for 39.7 per cent. of all carbon dioxide emissions in the UK.

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with other EU Governments on development of carbon capture storage policy; and if he will make a statement. [208484]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have had many discussions with other EU Governments on the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) policy.

EU leaders have recognised the potential of CCS and at the Spring Council 2007 agreed to bring about the necessary technical, economic and regulatory framework to bring environmentally safe CCS to markets, by 2020 if possible. This included an ambition for up to 12 demonstration projects by 2015. The UK Government are strongly committed to working with the EU partners to support these aspirations.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is *(a)* taking and *(b)* planning to take to encourage greater international collaboration in relation to carbon capture and storage technologies; what steps he plans to take to encourage other countries to establish carbon capture and storage initiatives; and if he will make a statement. [219400]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department undertakes a number of activities aimed at fostering greater international collaboration in relation to carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and encouraging other countries to establish carbon capture and storage initiatives. These include:

Active membership of multilateral organisations dedicated to making rapid progress towards deployment of CCS, including the International Energy Agency's Greenhouse Gas and Clean Coal programmes and their Working Party on Fossil Fuels, and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF).

Founder member, with Norway, of the North Sea Basin Task Force (now including Germany and the Netherlands) which aims to develop common principles that could form a basis for regulating the storage of CO_2 in the North sea.

Funding, in partnership with DEFRA, the Phase-I assessment of the wider EU-China Near-Zero Emissions Coal agreement signed in 2005, which has the objective of commercial demonstration of CCS for coal fired power generation in China by 2020.

Bilateral work with several countries (including the US, Australia, Canada, France, India) to undertake various activities to promote the deployment of CCS.

Specific actions undertaken by the Department, outside of the above activities, in recent months to promote CCS technologies internationally include:

A significant lobbying exercise to push for ambitious wording in the G8 Energy Ministers most recent statement, including supporting the recommendation from the International Energy Agency that 20 CCS demonstration projects should be launched globally by 2010.

Announcing our intention to host, in autumn 2009, the next CSLF ministerial conference—this conference will help to deliver renewed momentum in the move towards commercially deployable CCS technologies through the only international forum dedicated to promoting them.

Lobbying for agreement at the June European Council for the European Commission to be directed to bring forward as soon as possible a financial mechanism to incentivise the construction and operation of up to 12 demonstration projects by 2015.

Working closely with the European Commission and other member states to ensure the quick agreement of the draft directive on the geological storage of carbon dioxide.

Lobbying key countries in relation to the inclusion of CCS in the Clean Development Mechanism.

We will continue to build on this activity and our multi-lateral and bilateral links over the coming months to promote greater international collaboration on CCS, encouraging other countries to make strong commitments to CCS initiatives along the lines of those by the UK Government, including support for demonstration projects.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the public domain the report of the consulting engineers on the feasibility of a UK-based carbon capture and storage demonstration plant pre-Budget report of 2006. [221449]

Malcolm Wicks: The report announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report was commissioned to ensure that our understanding of the costs of a CCS plant based in the UK was robust before taking a decision on whether to support such a project. The evidence in the report is taken from several companies who were considering CCS projects, is commercially sensitive and subject to confidentiality agreements, which means that it would not be appropriate to publish the report.

Carers: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to paragraph 3.11 in the Carers at the Heart of 21st-century families and communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children his Department will provide in each of the next two years. [220312]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibilty for care services on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1087W.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how the Government plan to take forward the commitment to work through the G8 on *(a)* climate change mitigation-related technology co-operation strategies, *(b)* the promotion of the exchange of mitigation information and analysis on sectoral efficiency and *(c)* the identification of national technology needs and voluntary, action-oriented international co-operation, as set out in the G8 declaration on Energy Security and Climate Change of 9 July; and what additional resources will be made available for these purposes. [218869]

Malcolm Wicks: We are working with Japan, other G8 countries and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to take forward the G8 commitments. These cover: (i) an international initiative on energy technology research and development; (ii) further IEA analysis of sectoral efficiency; and (iii) the first meeting of the International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Co-operation, which will look at increasing efficiency in key sectors. The International Energy Agency is currently drawing up a programme of work to support the G8 agreement. In addition, Japan will host a G8 Energy Forum in the autumn which will focus on energy efficiency and international co-operation on low carbon, energy technologies.

Coal

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for expenditure on clean coal technology over the next 10 years. [220099]

Malcolm Wicks: In November 2007 the Government announced a competition for one of the world's first commercial-scale demonstrations of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology on a coal fired power plant. The project is scheduled to start operation in 2014. BERR is also committed to spending £2.2 million on the development of an Oxy-Fuel Combustion (CO_2 capture) demonstration system during 2008 to 2010, and a programme of support for CCS is under consideration by the Energy Technologies Institute.

The Government announced in the 2008 Budget that a new call for project proposals will be made shortly under the Environmental Transformation Fund. This will include support for the development of component parts of Carbon Capture and Storage and for other carbon abatement technologies.

In addition clean coal technology research and development continues to be supported under the Research Councils' Energy Programme and the Technology Strategy Board's Technology Programme. Public sector funding for the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board is provided by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what fuel oil grade will be used to fire the two 50MW gas turbines at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189691]

(2) whether the proposed two 50MW oil-fired gas turbines proposed at the new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth will be run as a high demand top-up for the grid. [189757]

Malcolm Wicks: The turbines would be for "black start" purposes only and would be fuelled by light fuel oil which is a blend of heavy fuel oil and gas oil to British Standard 2869 class D/DIN51603.

Companies

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies removed from *(a)* the Register of Companies in England and Wales and *(b)* the Register of Companies in Scotland by Companies House in 2007 had (i) not previously filed a set of accounts and (ii) accounts overdue at the time of their removal; and how many of those with accounts overdue had (A) one, (B) two and (C) three sets of accounts overdue. [221720]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Companies Investigation Branch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask his Department's Companies Investigation Branch to enquire of liquidators Moore Stephens of Stoke-on-Trent as to the reasons why no Statement of Affairs has been filed at Companies House in respect of the liquidation of Pubscene Limited. [206603]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 May 2008]:* Pubscene Limited went into compulsory liquidation on 23 September 2003, and the Official Receiver became liquidator of the company on the making of the winding-up order. From information currently available, it appears the Official Receiver exercised his discretion not to require a formal Statement of Affairs to be submitted by the directors of the company. In cases where the Official Receiver requires a formal Statement of Affairs, the legislation provides that the Statement be filed at Court and not at Companies House.

On 3 November 2003, the Secretary of State appointed an insolvency practitioner, Mr. Abdulali of Moore Stephens as liquidator of the company. There are no provisions in insolvency legislation providing for liquidators in compulsory liquidations, other than the Official Receiver, to obtain and file information by way of a formal Statement of Affairs.

Companies Investigations Branch

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many investigations the Companies Investigations Branch

(a) began and *(b)* completed in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion led to (i) prosecution and (ii) conviction. [215152]

Mr. McFadden: An investigation is a fact-finding exercise. It may show that there has been no irregularity or malpractice in which case the process ends. In many cases, however, information obtained during an inquiry is a basis for further action, either by BERR or by others. This may take the form of a winding-up of the company, prosecution, directors' disqualification or some form of regulatory action. In order to provide a more complete picture of the results of CIB investigations I have included the number of winding-up orders obtained and the number of directors disqualified.

Figures are not separately available in respect of prosecutions and convictions following a CIB investigation. Information from a CIB investigation which may lead to a criminal prosecution may be passed to BERR Legal Services for action; if successful the resulting prosecutions and convictions are included with the figures for the Insolvency Service. However, BERR is only one of a number of investigatory and enforcement bodies and the reports of CIB investigators may also lead to prosecutions by other prosecuting authorities for example the Serious Fraud Office.

I would add that the information that the hon. Member requests has been published on an annual basis in a report to Parliament entitled "Companies in (year)" until 2006-07 since when it has been published in the Annual Report and Accounts of the Insolvency Service.

Companies Investigation Branch investigations

	Investigations begun	*Investigations completed*	*Companies wound up*	*Directors disqualified*
1998-99	220	228	42	20
1999-2000	209	183	42	37
2000-01	175	183	46	17
2001-02	160	158	71	16
2002-03	419	[1]359	80	17
2003-04	200	197	[2]387	19
2004-05	171	174	107	38
2005-06	180	162	121	26
2006-07	219	174	95	21
2007-08	212	193	182	27

[1] The number of investigations in 2002-03 includes 289 companies linked to two specific investigations.
[2] The number of winding-up in 2003-04 includes 289 companies linked to two specific investigations.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219607]

Mr. Thomas: There are therefore currently no extra, specific measures in place to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. The Department operates within a set framework of rules governing official hospitality; these limit the occasions for which it is deemed appropriate to include alcohol.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219946]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not have a separate process for the purchase of alcohol for hospitality purposes. All BERR spending must comply with Departmental and wider Government guidance on public spending.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221105]

Mr. Thomas: The Department would seek to acquire only buildings with an excellent BREEAM (building research establishment environmental assessment method) rating where it is unable to re-use vacant Government property.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was paid to outside consultants used by his Department or its predecessor in each year since 2000. [211008]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the cost to the Department of engaging outside consultants in each of the following financial years has been:

	£ million
2000-01	21
2001-02	36
2002-03	93
2003-04	112
2004-05	86
2005-06	53.6
2006-07	40.3
2007-08	26
2008-09	[1]

[1] To date.

The Department has a formalised business case approval process for proposed consultancy engagements. This has been in operation for two years. We have worked

closely with OGC in formulating the cross-Government Consultancy Value Programme (CVP) and look forward to furthering this important initiative.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* employees of (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies reporting to his Department were (A) dismissed and (B) disciplined for matters related to their conduct in the last two years. [217601]

Mr. Thomas: The number of employees disciplined or dismissed within the Department or its predecessor during 2006 and 2007 are set out in table 1 as follows.

Table 1

	2006	*2007*
Disciplinary cases raised	42	42
Disciplinary dismissals	7	9
Other disciplinary penalties	22	26

Information regarding non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I have asked the Chief Executives of Companies House and Insolvency Service to write direct with information covering their Agencies.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3400) asking how many staff have: (i) been dismissed and (ii) been disciplined for matters relating to their conduct in the last two years.

There have been a total of:

i. 5 members of staff dismissed and.

ii. 7 members of staff disciplined

for matters relating to their conduct.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 21 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In the last two years four employees were dismissed and twenty-two staff were disciplined for matters relating to their conduct.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department has made towards its diversity targets for 2008. [204658]

Mr. Thomas: At 1 April 2008, the Department had made the following progress towards meeting diversity targets.

	Overall civil service target for April 2008 (percentage)	*BERR target for April 2008 (percentage)*	*Actual at April 2008 percentage*	*Difference to civil service target*
Women in senior civil service	37	37	37	0 (met)
Women in top management posts	30	35	30	0 (met)
Black and minority ethnic staff in senior civil service	4	8	4	0 (met)
Staff with disabilities in senior civil service	3.2	4.7	5	+2 (exceeded)
Band C ("feeder grades") women	No targets set	30	39	Exceeded BERR target
Band C ("feeder grades") BME	No targets set	7	7	Met BERR target
Band C ("feeder grades") disabled	No targets set	No targets set	6	

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216372]

Mr. Thomas: There are 595 members of staff with laptops specially configured for access to the Departments infrastructure.

There are 800 with tokens that allow them access to the Department's infrastructure from their home PCs.

There are 320 with BlackBerrys that allow access to the Department's e-mail and calendar service.

All devices supplied by the Department that can hold departmental information are encrypted. All the services that access the Department's infrastructure are authenticated and utilise encrypted communications links.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information technology projects initiated by his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221717]

Mr. Thomas: The Department and its predecessors have not cancelled any information technology projects prior to completion in the last five years.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which make and model of car he has chosen as his ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217768]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 July 2008 by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Transport, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on entertainment in each financial year since its establishment. [219257]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and, prior to April 2007, its predecessor, the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), ensures that all expenditure on entertainment and hospitality is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The figures in the tables are from 2002-3 to 2007-8 (figures prior to 2002 are not readily available) and include both entertainment and official hospitality:

					£
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Department of Trade and Industry	903,120	917,073	1,487,920	1,451,062	908,603
UK Trade and Investment	218,844	205,798	292,166	239,858	207,185
Insolvency Service	7,826	6,853	6,349	9,497	4,329
Arbitration and Conciliation Service	0	0	0	189,086	213,618
Total	1,137,031	1,144,144	1,797,197	1,895,225	1,333,735

	2007-08 (£)
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	805,024
UK Trade and Investment	195,305
Insolvency Service	265
Arbitration and Conciliation Service	196,043
Total	1,196,637

Note:
Expenditure has reduced across the period. The reason for the apparently higher spend in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is that for those years all catering provided for events held in DTI's conference centre were booked to Entertainment rather than other more appropriate codes.

Letter to Mr. Philip Hammond from Stephen Speed dated 15 September:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how much his Department and its agencies spent on entertainment in each financial year since its establishment.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform reported in answer to PQ 2007-1522 that £4,328.55 was spent on Entertainment in the 2006-07 Financial Year. Expenditure on Entertainment in 2007-08 was £264.76. Spend on Entertainment in the first three months of 2008-09 was £901.62.

Letter to Mr. Philip Hammond from Tim Moss dated 15 September:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The figures given below and overleaf are from 2002-3 to 2007-8 (figures prior to 2002 are not readily available) and include both entertainment and official hospitality:

	£
2002-3	1,756
2003-4	1,861
2004-5	1,963
2005-6	2,507
2006-7	2,218
2007-8	2,369

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221238]

Mr. Thomas: Staff of the Department worked a total of 49,273.8 hours overtime in the 12 months to June 2008 inclusive. A breakdown by grade and month can be found in the following table.

	2007					
Grade	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Range 2	20.50	28.00	0.00	26.50	60.50	81.50
Range 3	273.00	234.25	70.50	215.50	263.75	759.50
Range 4	179.00	242.50	88.25	230.00	322.00	739.75
Range 5	112.50	118.50	43.25	74.25	137.00	299.50
Range 6	390.75	439.50	181.28	286.75	564.75	954.92
Range 7	0.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	122.25	1,063.75

	2007					
Grade	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Range 8	941.50	789.25	427.75	743.25	814.50	2,071.00
Range 9	446.50	424.50	444.00	291.50	1,065.00	1,306.25
Range 10	1,068.00	742.50	1,394.50	338.75	671.25	1,010.50
Range 11	361.75	3.00	8.50	99.25	97.75	370.75
JFS	232.00	61.75	143.50	91.25	333.00	189.25
Total	4,025.50	3,083.75	2,827.53	2,397.00	4,451.75	8,846.67

	2008						
Grade	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Total*
Range 2	23.25	25.00	28.00	43.50	39.00	31.25	407.00
Range 3	217.25	247.75	199.00	249.00	212.00	232.75	3,174.25
Range 4	175.77	144.47	180.53	122.50	146.52	205.72	2,777.01
Range 5	210.00	144.25	125.75	148.50	118.00	269.75	1,801.25
Range 6	446.50	410.50	544.30	586.00	523.00	490.95	5,819.20
Range 7	72.25	427.60	4.00	31.00	56.25	44.75	1,847.85
Range 8	811.33	812.88	913.40	1,379.40	745.08	1,320.81	11,770.15
Range 9	389.00	463.00	621.25	348.50	255.25	215.25	6,270.00
Range 10	842.13	575.25	423.25	870.67	423.37	484.00	8,844.17
Range 11	178.25	185.75	163.00	259.17	91.50	120.75	1,939.42
JFS	537.25	462.25	339.00	642.50	372.25	1,219.50	4,623.50
Total	3,902.98	3,898.70	3,541.48	4,680.74	2,982.22	4,635.48	49,273.80

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221304]

Mr. Thomas: Staff of the Department were paid a total of £670,836.08 in overtime in the 12 months to June 2008 inclusive. A breakdown by grade and month can be found in the following table.

	2007					
Range	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Range 2	245.48	335.30	0.00	335.63	785.93	328.04
Range 3	3,727.95	3,141.56	874.35	2,928.89	3,478.60	3,217.83
Range 4	2,357.52	3,529.53	1,349.48	2,939.58	4,871.84	3,856.18
Range 5	1,301.64	1,449.31	686.03	864.84	1,540.17	1,297.10
Range 6	5,298.10	5,458.11	2,967.08	4,201.23	7,604.15	4,087.14
Range 7	0.00	0.00	635.80	0.00	4,324.20	2,819.89
Range 8	17,467.88	14,441.15	9,736.05	14,208.66	15,079.82	14,446.63
Range 9	8,976.75	10,428.14	9,139.30	6,420.23	9,155.73	5,739.44
Range 10	19,969.29	11,999.67	4,668.14	6,543.40	11,741.16	4,876.90
Range 11	9,391.83	81.88	295.28	2,674.63	2,616.81	5,169.49
JFS	4,194.83	859.16	2,165.18	1,168.73	4,544.20	3,468.36
Total	72,931.27	51,723.81	32,516.69	42,285.82	65,742.61	49,307.00

	2008						
Range	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Total*
Range 2	290.57	308.18	356.47	544.02	480.76	385.23	4,395.61
Range 3	2,951.10	3,370.07	2,650.77	3,458.73	2,845.42	3,188.23	35,833.50
Range 4	2,620.84	1,906.52	2,694.75	1,882.06	2,164.77	2,706.44	32,879.51
Range 5	1,639.62	1,756.13	1,472.37	1,800.10	1,417.85	1,882.52	17,107.68
Range 6	6,386.88	5,459.65	6,683.82	7,362.86	6,729.96	7,387.37	69,626.35
Range 7	1,839.21	944.40	63.75	512.00	1,246.64	1,170.35	13,556.24
Range 8	14,418.54	14,626.49	17,278.61	23,780.55	13,742.51	20,318.84	189,545.73
Range 9	7,620.51	6,240.13	12,200.45	7,060.67	5,067.22	3,935.59	91,984.16
Range 10	8,156.08	9,507.15	8,555.75	13,660.95	9,036.47	4,932.90	113,647.86
Range 11	5,094.99	4,458.99	3,872.64	6,892.15	2,902.64	3,385.93	46,837.26
JFS	5,176.61	6,328.45	4,658.22	8,508.33	5,106.24	9,243.87	55,422.18
Total	56,194.95	54,906.16	60,487.60	75,462.42	50,740.48	58,537.27	670,836.08

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department and its predecessor was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220685]

Mr. Thomas: The percentage of paper used by BERR and its predecessor from recycled sources over the last two years is as follows:

(a) Central Reprographics Service—99 per cent.

(b) Printed publications produced through our Marketing Department—95 per cent.

(c) In the vast majority of cases, 100 per cent. recycled paper is used for any local copying undertaken by sections within BERR.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208386]

Mr. Thomas: Reward arrangements below the senior civil service are delegated to individual Departments and agencies. For the senior civil service, Departments and agencies are responsible for their own reward arrangements within a framework set by Cabinet Office. The information available is set out in the following tables.

Table 1: Staff below SCS receiving performance related bonus payments in 2006-07 appraisal

	Number	Percentage
Male	435	27
Female	484	34
Disabled	55	24
Ethnic minority	87	24

Table 2: SCS staff receiving performance related bonus payments in 2007 appraisal

	Number	Percentage
Male	100	75
Female	36	25
Recorded disabled	6	4
Recorded ethnic minority	5	4

Data linking sexual orientation to bonus payments are not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221171]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

Press office travel and subsistence (T&S) plus losses or compensation

	T&S		£000
	UK	Overseas	Total
2005-06	9	40	49
2006-07	14	11	25
2007-08	13	27	40

	Losses or compensation[1] £
2005-06	n/k
2006-07	n/k
2007-08	110

[1] Information only available by named recipients for 2007-08

Conditions for Claiming T&S

When claims for travel expenses are made all staff members must:

complete the appropriate form

give full details of the journeys involved, including:

route taken

places visited

the form of transport

the time of travel

support all claims with the relevant receipts, unless the cost was small and receipts were not provided

include an explanatory note for any unusual expenditure

make the claim promptly.

Unreasonable claims and expenses that could have been avoided with better planning will not be reimbursed.

If a false claim is knowingly made the staff member may face disciplinary action and even criminal proceedings.

Claims for loss or damage

The Department may make a discretionary compensation payment if, in the course of official duty:

non-luxury items of personal property are lost, damaged or stolen;

items lost, stolen or damaged are not covered by insurance or subject to free replacement;

there is no evidence that actions to prevent the loss, theft or damage could have been taken.

Any compensation paid would be limited to the cost of replacing items stolen or lost, less an appropriate amount for depreciation, or the full cost of repair, where relevant, for items damaged.

The aforementioned conditions apply equally if overseas or on short term visits and during transit to and from the country being visited.

Letter from Graham Horne, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years 2007/3583.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform made no payments to press officers for reimbursable expenses in each of the last three financial years.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 22 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The amounts paid in reimbursable expenses to press office staff in the last three financial years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	447
2007-08	367

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221492]

Mr. Thomas: The Department continuously monitors the costs of mail services on its HQ Estate to ensure value for money. Information is recorded on a monthly basis on volumes of mail sent/received and the costs involved. BERR is a relatively 'low volume' sender of small mail items and currently uses Royal Mail for its standard 1st and 2nd class mail deliveries. BERR policy is that all mail is sent 2nd class unless there is a business need for use of 1st class delivery.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220442]

Mr. Thomas: The Department follows OGC best practice guidance in making payments to its suppliers within 30 days of a correctly submitted invoice. This is reflected in the provisions of our standard form of contract. The Department does not have a practice of requesting discounts in return for swift payment of invoices.

The Department is subject to the provisions of the Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 which provides suppliers with rights to claim interest on late payments of a commercial debt.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221573]

Mr. Thomas: I have asked the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3592) asking which organisations have received (a) free and (b) discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case.

The Insolvency Service has no record of providing free or discounted room hire to any other organisations in the last five years.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 28 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

A record of organisations using Companies House's meetings rooms is not kept. However, in the past five years, other government departments, and external organisations for the benefit of Companies House staff, have been allowed to use meeting rooms at no charge. These have included the Welsh Assembly Government, various BERR departments and Benendon Healthcare. As a commercial value is not placed on the meetings rooms there were no discounts identified.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from his Department since its inception; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221594]

Mr. Thomas: It is not BERR policy to offer free or discounted room hire for any of its conference facilities on the main BERR estate.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221359]

Mr. Thomas: Listening events, including public meetings are among the consultation methods that the Department uses in developing policy—the standard method for formal consultation exercises being a written consultation document made available on the BERR website. Listening events may or may not be organised by private contractors.

It would not be possible, except at disproportionate cost, to analyse all consultations by method used and extract costs relating specifically to listening events.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221370]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's Better Regulation Simplification Plan published in December 2007 followed a detailed review of the administrative burdens imposed by all the regulations for which BERR and its agencies are responsible.

Our approach is to review regulation in line with the March 2008 White Paper "Post-legislative scrutiny: the Government's Approach" by the Office of the Leader of the House. In addition, the revised impact assessment process has increased the focus on post implementation reviews.

All the Department's consultations are listed in the consultation index of its website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/index.html

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221607]

Mr. Thomas: The amount of expenditure made by the Department for projects commissioned from think tanks and charities in each of the last two years is not available without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department and its predecessor have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218981]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 921W: departmental sick leave.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215454]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However of 2,369 questions, tabled between November 2007 and June 2008, 80 per cent. of questions were answered within 10 sitting days.

Named day figures for the same period show that of 529 tabled, 134 were answered on the date specified (25 per cent.). All other named day questions received a holding answer and 70 per cent. received a substantive reply within five sitting days.

Electricity Generation: Renewable Energy

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of electricity generated in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West region and *(c)* nationally comes from renewable sources. [221678]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not collect data at *(a)* the county level for renewable generation. The Department publishes the annual Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) covering *(b)* regional and *(c)* national level statistics. For 2006, the last year for which data has been published, 4.6 per cent. (18,133.3 GWh) of electricity generated in the UK was from renewable sources. Of this, 797.4 GWh were generated in the South West region.

Electronics Industry

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of semiconductor companies based in the UK and *(b)* the number of people employed in the semiconductor industry. [216148]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* The Department has made no such estimate. However, according to the National Microelectronics Institute (NMI), there are 13 semiconductor manufacturing plants in the UK employing a total of approximately 4,700 people.

Energy: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's staff work on *(a)* nuclear energy and *(b)* combined heat and power issues. [220898]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* 62 of the Department's staff work on nuclear energy. This includes legacy nuclear, nuclear non-proliferation, and new nuclear. Three work on combined heat and power, where the policy lead rests with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Exports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's budget will be for supporting UK companies in their exporting activities in each of the next five years, broken down by main category of expenditure. [218925]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The budgets for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) are agreed with HM Treasury on a three year spending cycle. The budgets agreed in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 are drawn from three sources; UKTI's directly voted programme expenditure, and budgets delegated from UKTI's two parent departments—The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The estimated budget for trade promotion/exporting across the sectors, from aerospace to water as bespoke support for individual companies and for groups of companies within particular sectors for 2008-09 is £242 million reducing to approximately £236 million by the end of the 2010-11 financial year, subject to UKTI's annual corporate planning and annual parliamentary approval.

UKTI has not allocated any formal budgets beyond this time frame.

Exports: Middle East

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the value of goods exported from the UK to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories in the latest period for which figures are available. [220064]

Mr. Thomas: HM Revenue and Customs maintains records of UK exports to Israel and to the occupied Palestinian territories. However, no records are kept by HM Revenue and Customs of the final destination of these exports.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 387W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209015]

Mr. Thomas: Fair Trade products provided by the Department's contracted catering service provider from staff catering facilities include all coffee beans and filter coffee, standard tea bags, sugar sticks (brown and white), limited confectionery and a selection of biscuits. These are also supplied when ordered for meetings and other engagements.

Firearms: Exports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department provides to UK companies who export sporting firearms. [218924]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* UK Trade and Investment is the organisation within the FCO and BERR that provides UK businesses with access to a range of information, advice and support to assist their efforts in overseas markets. Support is tailored specifically to individual company needs.

However, there are no specific examples of UKTI helping exporters of sporting firearms.

Flexible Working

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many requests for flexible working by *(a)* (i) mothers and (ii) fathers were refused by employers in each year since 2003 and *(b)* carers were refused by employers in 2007; [216192]

(2) how many requests for flexible working by *(a)* (i) mothers and (ii) fathers were accepted by employers in each year since 2003 and *(b)* carers were accepted by employers in 2007. [216193]

Mr. McFadden: The following answer provides information on the number of requests for flexible working accepted or rejected by working parents by gender. The Department does not have the requested information for each year since 2003 and does not have evidence on the number of requests accepted or rejected by carers.

The Department does periodically conduct a Work-Life Balance Employees' Survey.

The last employee survey (Third Work Life Balance Employees' Survey) was conducted in 2006 (before the implementation of the extension of the right to request to carers therefore no evidence related to these requests is available).

Across the survey as a whole, 17 per cent. of employees had made such a request. 22 per cent. of mothers said that they had made a request to change the way that they work in the past two years as compared to 14 per cent. of fathers.

Data on acceptance and refusal rates are given in the following table; the numbers do not sum up to 100 per cent. because at the time of the survey some requests were awaiting decisions.

	Percentage making a request	*Percentage requests accepted by employer*	*Percentage requests refused by employer*
All	17	78	17
Mothers	22	83	13
Fathers	14	71	23

The Second Work-Life Balance Employees' Survey was carried in early 2003. Data on acceptance and refusal rates from requests made by mothers and fathers were not identified separately and so this information is not available.

Data on acceptance and refusal rates are given in the table below; the numbers do not sum up to 100 per cent. because at the time of the survey some requests were awaiting decisions.

	Percentage making a request	*Percentage requests accepted by employer*	*Percentage requests refused by employer*
All	17	77	20
Mothers	29	—	—
Fathers	12	—	—

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many working parents were *(a)* eligible to request, *(b)* asked for and *(c)* were refused flexible work in the most recent year for which figures are available; [216892]

(2) how many employers *(a)* were eligible to be asked to provide flexible working, *(b)* were asked by an employee for flexible working arrangements and *(c)* refused an employee's request to work flexibly in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216893]

Mr. McFadden: The following answer gives evidence on the number of parents eligible to request flexible working and the outcome of these requests, in addition we are also providing information related to employers receiving a request. We do not have information on the number of employers who are eligible to be asked to provide flexible working.

Three surveys carried out by the Department provide evidence on the information requested.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment carried out in 2002

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file11440.pdf

estimated that, prior to the introduction of the right to request flexible working for parents of young and disabled children, 3.7 million employees would be entitled to make a request to work flexibly.

Evidence on employees is provided by the Third Work-Life Balance Employees' Survey, conducted in 2006, which indicated that 17 per cent. of eligible working parents made requests to their employer for flexible working. Of these requests 78 per cent. were accepted, 17 per cent. were refused, while 5 per cent. were awaiting decisions at the time that the survey was conducted.

Evidence on employers comes from the Third Work-Life Balance Survey of Employers conducted in 2007, which found that 40 per cent. of workplaces had received a request from an employee within the previous 12 months to work flexibly. The survey also found that 90 per cent. of employers had accepted all requests and 9 per cent. reported they had turned down at least one request.

We do not have data on the number of employers who are eligible to be asked to provide flexible working.

Flexible Working: Tribunals

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employment tribunal cases were brought successfully by *(a)* (i) mothers and (ii) fathers in each year since 2003 and *(b)* carers in 2007 against refusal of requests for flexible working; and what the average amount of compensation awarded was in each case. [216487]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to give a breakdown by mother, father or carer, of the numbers of claims on the grounds of refusal of request for flexible working as this would incur disproportionate cost.

The amount of compensation awarded in flexible working claims is not recorded; the only jurisdictions where this is recorded are unfair dismissal and discrimination.

Fluoride

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the national demand for fluorspar of UK origin; and if he will make a statement. [216737]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has not undertaken any independent assessment of the national demand for fluorspar of UK origin. I refer my hon. Friend to the recently published British Geological Survey open report OR/08/27 "The Need for Indigenous Fluorspar Production in England", which is available online at

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/downloads/fluorspar_need_for_indigenous.pdf.

Fuel Poverty: Scotland

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households in Scotland which were not in fuel poverty on 31 December 2007 but which will be by 31 December 2008. [218214]

Malcolm Wicks: Each country within the UK has separate reporting procedures for fuel poverty rates, as the question relates to Scotland only, the Scottish Executive would be wholly responsible for providing the information asked for.

Gambling: USA

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* European Commissioners on the conclusion of negotiations between the EC and the US on the US withdrawal from its gambling commitments in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the consequent compensatory adjustments offered by the US in the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services. [220606]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The UK remained in close contact with the US Administration, the European Commission, other EU member states and UK gambling interests throughout the negotiation of an agreed compensation package with the US.

A final compensation package was agreed, between the EC and the US, in December 2007.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in *(a)* his Department and (b) its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215096]

Mr. Thomas: As at July 31 2008 there were 60 staff working in the central communications directorate of BERR and there are 22 UK Trade and Investment staff in similar roles.

There were, as of June 2008, a further 55 staff members, in the wider department, carrying out primarily communications roles.

All civil servants who work in a communication role can access the GCN and the resource it provides.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 22 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Services in respect of your question (2007/3218) asking how many staff in (a) his Department and (b) its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network.

The Insolvency Service has two members of staff classified as Government communicators with access to the Government Communications network.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 21 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Five Companies House staff are members of the Government Communication Network, and therefore classed as Government communicators. As members, they are the only staff with full access to the network.

Hazardous Substances: Textiles

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on the possibility of extending the scope of the revised restriction of hazardous substances directive to include textiles. [221185]

Malcolm Wicks: The restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) directive is currently being reviewed by the European Commission, with a view to the tabling of proposals for a revised directive later in the year. There are, however, no plans or intention to broaden its scope beyond electrical and electronic equipment.

Homeworking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons the UK has not signed the International Labour Organisation Convention on Homework; if he will make it his policy to sign the Convention; and if he will make a statement. [214234]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have taken measures which bring the UK closer to the principles articulated in the convention. For example, we have taken specific action to ensure homeworkers doing piecework receive at least the National Minimum Wage. Only five countries (Albania, Argentina, Finland, Ireland and the Netherlands) have ratified the convention.

Hydroelectric Power

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small hydro schemes supplying electricity to buildings there are. [219668]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 65-75 small hydro installations at the end of 2007 (less than 100 kW), although it did not estimate how many of these were supplying electricity to buildings.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Imports: Israel

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the value of Israeli settlement produce entering the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [220028]

Mr. Thomas: No such records are kept by HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department maintains a record of produce from illegal Israeli settlements which is imported into the UK. [220460]

Mr. Thomas: No such records are kept by HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to ban the sale of produce from illegal Israeli settlements in the UK. [220462]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The EU does not recognise settlements as part of Israel and does not accept goods from settlements as coming under the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The UK continues to work to ensure that settlement products are not imported as Israeli goods under the Preferential Trade Agreement.

The Government currently have no plan to ban the sale of produce from illegal Israeli settlements.

Industry

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the six industries which make the largest contribution to GDP are in the UK. [213143]

Mr. Thomas: According to the latest ONS fully balanced national accounts, industry, for 2004, the six industry divisions that made the largest contribution to whole economy gross value added (GVA) at current prices were:

Industry division	*Standard Industry Classification (SIC)*	*Percentage of total GVA in 2004*
Real estate activities	70	10.4
Other business services (legal services, accountancy, advertising, architecture and engineering activities, industrial cleaning etc.)	74	9.3
Health and social work	85	7.1
Construction	45	6.0
Education	80	5.8
Banking services	65	5.6

It should be noted that the economic output of the 'real estate activities' division is largely accounted for by 'imputed rent of owner occupiers', which covers housing services produced by owner-occupiers for which they are deemed to pay for themselves. If this was excluded, then real estate activities would not feature in the top six. The industry division which produced the next highest percentage of total GVA in 2004 was retail distribution (SIC 52), at 5.2 per cent.

The industries shown in the aforementioned table form a subset of industry divisions in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The SIC is used to group businesses into industries for official statistical purposes, on the basis of the type of economic activity they undertake. It provides a framework for the collection, tabulation, presentation and analysis of data and its use promotes uniformity of definition. However, it is worth noting that while the SIC enables statistical comparison of industries, the details in this table, and comparisons of this nature in general, essentially reflect the degree of detail in which industries are defined for statistical purposes within the SIC system. Typically, there is less detail defined within the service sector than within manufacturing, for example, so service industries tend to look bigger for this somewhat artificial reason alone.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 8 May 2008 on the Post Office local pilot scheme. [214788]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise for the delay in responding to my right hon. Friend, this was due to an administrative error.

I replied to my right hon. Friend on 3 July 2008.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons he has not replied to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare's letters of 19 May and 18 June 2008 on behalf of his constituent Mr. Egbers. [223218]

Mr. Thomas: I apologise for the initial delay in responding to the hon. Member.

I replied on 19 June 2008.

Microgeneration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of potential levels of microgeneration in the UK using *(a)* solar power and *(b)* wind power in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2020. [219881]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR, as part of a consortium with other organisations, commissioned some research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland. The study modelled the expected uptake of microgeneration technologies based on a variety of policy options. It found there were approximately 1,130 micro-wind turbines and 92,900 solar (PV and thermal) installations at the end of 2007. It suggested that with no additional policy support, there could be 3,500 micro-wind and 148,600 solar installations by 2015; and 8,700 micro-wind and 272,700 solar installations by 2020.

The report can be viewed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/index.html

Additional policy support, which we are consulting on as part of our Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation, could substantially raise these figures.

Minimum Wage

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of the national minimum wage information tour bus initiative is, broken down by main budget heading. [192170]

Mr. McFadden: The national minimum wage outreach bus campaign is costing around £250,000. This includes the cost of the nine week bus tour. We expect to have reached 800,000 people directly through the bus itself, and many others through the media coverage the awareness campaign has attracted.

Motor Sports: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which successful bids for the Spring 2007 technology programme were linked to motor sports. [220500]

Malcolm Wicks: One successful bid under the Spring 2007 Collaborative Research and Development call of the Technology Programme was linked to motor sports. However, the details are commercial in confidence.

National Grid: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish national grid's full report into the sequence of events and causes of the drops in system frequency on 27 May 2008. [220557]

Malcolm Wicks: The national grid has published a report into the events of 27 May 2008. This can be found on the national grid website at

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/D680C70A-F73D-4484-BA54-95656534B52D/26917/PublicReportIssue1.pdf.

Natural Gas: Prices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average cost of gas to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial consumers in each of the last five years. [206039]

Malcolm Wicks: Domestic retail prices for gas are published quarterly in section 2 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest edition of which was published in June 2008 and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46669.pdf.

Table 2.3.1 on page 21 holds average gas bills, back to 1990, split by payment method.

Table 3.4.1 on page 44 shows gas prices for non-domestic consumers split by consumption band. The Department does not hold any data on gas prices to commercial consumers.

Table 2.3.1 Average annual domestic gas bills by home and non-home supplier

£

	Standard credit			*Direct debit*[1]			*Prepayment*		
	Home suppliers	*Non-home suppliers*	*GB*	*Home suppliers*	*Non-home suppliers*	*GB*	*Home suppliers*	*Non-home suppliers*	*GB*
2002	326	273	310	295	258	281	327	327	327
2003	335	289	320	302	275	292	335	343	336
2004	344	309	333	317	296	309	355	342	351
2005	402	354	386	364	338	353	406	387	401
2006	510	427	474	453	400	424	515	467	498
2007	569	531	552	499	496	497	602	570	589

Table 3.4.1 Prices of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the United Kingdom (excluding the Climate Change Levy)

Pence per kWh

		2006				*2007*				*2008*
Fuel	*Size of consumer*	*1st quarter*	*2nd quarter*	*3rd quarter*	*4th quarter*	*1st quarter*	*2nd quarter*	*3rd quarter*	*4th quarter*	*1st quarter*
Electricity	Very Small	7.30	7.88	8.53	9.10	9.29	9.57	9.67	9.67	9.74
	Small	6.54	6.66	7.04	7.76	7.98	7.29	7.99	8.09	8.20
	Small/Medium	6.66	6.48	6.60	7.73	7.81	6.59	7.20	7.15	7.24
	Medium	5.98	5.91	5.85	6.97	7.09	6.23	6.26	6.32	6.36
	Large	5.88	5.65	5.68	6.56	6.77	5.74	5.92	6.01 r	6.28
	Very Large	5.00	5.01	5.03	5.49	5.93	5.62	5.63	5.81 r	6.46
	Extra Large	—	—	—	—	6.31	4.76	4.19	5.14r	5.65
	Average	6.09	6.10	6.24	7.03	7.11	6.49	6.63	6.82r	7.09
Gas	Very Small	2.367	2.173	2.442	2.641	2.843	2.621	2.580	2.651	2.998
	Small	2.398	2.126	2.244	2.411	2.630	2.260	1.919	2.234	2.504
	Medium	2.375	1.941	2.037	2.016	2.160	1.811	1.543	1.800	2.085
	Large	2.379	1.743	1.666	1.869	1.894	1.376	1.291	1.588	2.008
	Very Large	2.066	1.412	1.281	1.347	1.374	0.968	1.048	1.512	1.789
	Average	2.337	1.858	1.820	2.012	2.159	1.718	1.516	1.908	2.263

A copy of the 'Quarterly Energy Prices - June 2008' is available from both Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expenditure his Department incurred in retaining King Sturge to market the Berkeley Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Site; and whether the report on the work undertaken will be published. [223575]

Malcolm Wicks: I am advised that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority initially instructed King Sturge to help market some office accommodation at the Berkeley site, but were subsequently stood down and no expenditure has been incurred.

Nuclear Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has commissioned on *(a)* nuclear energy and *(b)* combined heat and power in the last two years for which information is available; and what the budget was for each piece of research. [220585]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* This year the Department commissioned research from Ernst and Young into the UK's competitive global position as a site for new nuclear investment. The budget for this project was £50,000. This Department has not commissioned any research on combined heat and power, where the policy lead rests with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the costs of providing additional electricity to make up for the loss from nuclear power stations closed for repairs since January 2007. [217581]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR does not seek to estimate the costs of generating electricity under hypothetical scenarios, to compare with actual costs. This would require speculation

as to the sources of generation that would not have been used under different scenarios, whereas many factors govern individual companies' decisions as to which plant should be used for generation at any given time.

BERR publishes a table of fuel used in electricity generation by major producers, which shows the contribution to overall generation from all sources including nuclear plant on an annual basis going back to 1995. This is available on the BERR website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/electricity/page18527.html

Nuclear Reactors

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the refuelling dates were of each nuclear reactor in the United Kingdom in the last 20 years. [221034]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not hold this information. Details of the timing of refuelling at nuclear plants is a commercial matter for the operators.

Nuclear Reactors: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the time needed to decommission graphite cores of redundant nuclear reactors. [220889]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and British Energy estimate that, following an extensive period during which radioactivity levels in the core have been allowed to decay away, it will take between two and three years to remove the graphite cores of redundant nuclear reactors.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanisms exist to retain those trained in the National Nuclear Skills Academy within the nuclear decommissioning, clean-up and waste management sector. [221033]

Malcolm Wicks: There are no specific mechanisms in place to retain staff, although individual employers and employees might negotiate their own arrangements. A blanket mechanism to restrict the movement of workers, once qualified, would be difficult to set up and open to legal challenge. The labour supply across energy will be tight and employers will have to be competitive to recruit and retain skills.

Nuclear-trained workers have a core set of technical skills that are transferable to other industries. The Academy and Cogent expect some leakage and have factored this into their planning. This is most likely to benefit related activities, such as new nuclear build, renewable energy and manufacturing. Thus there are positive benefits to the wider economy.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech he made to the annual dinner of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce; who drafted the speech; which Government Departments provided advice; and if he will make a statement. [219716]

Mr. Thomas: A copy of this speech will be deposited in the House of Commons Library.

The speech was drafted by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) officials in London, with contributions from the UKTI team in the British Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps *(a)* he has taken since January 2008 and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months to increase trade between the United Kingdom and Israel; how much his Department (i) has spent since January 2008 and (ii) plans to spend during the next 12 months on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Israel; what recent representations he has received on increasing trade between the United Kingdom and Israel; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [219717]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel, through UKTI officials based in London and the British embassy in Tel Aviv. UKTI officials in Tel Aviv also work to encourage increased Israeli investment in the UK. Examples of UKTI-funded activity since January 2008 include the publication of a newsletter, highlighting the UK's strengths as a business partner, to coincide with the Lord Mayor's visit to Israel, from 21 to 24 January 2008; financial support for Israeli participation in the NanoForum 2008 conference and exhibition in the UK in October 2008; and continued support for the Israel-Britain Business Council (IBBC), most recently through hosting the IBBC's Full Council meeting in the UK on 8 July 2008.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 19 to 21 July 2008, accompanied by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade & Investment; the Chief Executive of UK Trade and Investment; and a delegation of 19 senior British businessmen. During the visit, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke at a UKTI sponsored UK-Israel Business Conference on 20 July; signed a new co-production treaty aimed at promoting more joint ventures between the Israeli and British film industries; and announced ambitious new targets both to secure 25 more inward investment projects from Israel by 2010, and to increase bilateral trade between Israel and the UK to at least £3 billion by 2012.

UK Trade and Investment spent £69,682 on the promotion of trade between Israel and the UK over the period January to July 2008, and is currently committed to spending a further £31,676 over the remainder of this financial year.

I have received no recent representations on expanding trade between the UK and Israel. However, Lord Jones set out his views on the importance of commercial and wider bilateral links between the UK and Israel in a speech at the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce's Gala Dinner on 30 June 2008. A copy of this speech has been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Overseas Trade: Middle East

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on offering support to UK companies to gain or maintain contracts with illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. [220065]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment provides a range of support services to companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. The Department is not involved in the negotiation or agreement of individual contracts following this support.

Parental Leave

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's estimate is of the number of *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers who were eligible for parental leave in each year since 1999. [216191]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not have all the requested information for each year since 1999. However, there are four different sources that give information on eligibility, take-up and/or average length of parental leave for particular years.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment on the Parental Leave Regulations 1999

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file34183.pdf

estimated that there would be 2.7 million employees eligible for parental leave. Of those eligible, 60 per cent. were estimated to be fathers, because women with younger children are less likely to be in work.

The RIA also estimated that an additional 75,000 people would take parental leave each year as a result of the change in regulations.

The Second Work Life Balance Study: Results from the Employees' Survey published in March 2004

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file11499.pdf

which focuses on employees' responses, found that 12 per cent. of working parents who said that parental leave was available in their workplace had taken parental leave in the last year and with their current employer. This translates as 4 per cent. of all parents (regardless of whether parental leave was available in their workplace or not) with dependent children taking parental leave in the previous year. Sample sizes were too small for further analysis of take-up of parental leave by employee characteristics and for analysis of the average numbers of days parents took off.

The third Work-Life Balance Employer Survey published in 2007

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42645.pdf

which draws on employers' rather than employees' responses, indicates that around 14 per cent. of employers had at least one employee who had taken parental leave in the 12 months prior to taking part in the survey. This was comparable to the incidence of parental leave in 2003 (also 14 per cent.).

The Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf

which looked at the first 17 months of a child's life, indicates that 11 per cent. of mothers had taken some parental leave since the end of maternity leave, an increase from 8 per cent. in 2002. Two-thirds of these had taken a week or less.

The survey also showed that 8 per cent. of fathers had taken some parental leave within 17 months of their child's birth, three-quarters for less than a week.

Photovoltaics

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many photovoltaic panels he estimates will be installed in the UK in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [219349]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 2900 microgeneration PV installations at the end of 2007, the majority of them being installed during 2007. Although the research did not estimate how many installations there would be each year it provides information on potential uptake given various potential incentives.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic photovoltaic installations to buildings there were in each year since 2004; and what percentage of all buildings this represents. [219671]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 2,900 solar PV installations at the end of 2007. It did not estimate how many were domestic or non-domestic installations.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Post Office

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much profit *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* the Royal Mail made in each year since 1997; and how many companies were authorised to provide services previously reserved to the Post Office Corporation in each such year. [208625]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail Group Ltd and Post Office Ltd (POL) profits before exceptionals since 1997 are as follows:

£ million

Financial year	Post Office Limited	Royal Mail Group
1996-97	34	477
1997-98	33	528
1998-99	22	392
1999-2000	46	381
2000-01	(38)	22
2001-02	(144)	(67)
2002-03	(195)	19
2003-04	(133)	51
2004-05	(123)	302
2005-06	(111)	355
2006-07	[1](108)	233
2007-08	[1](34)	162

[1] When the additional impact of the social network payment is taken into account POL losses are £184 million for 2007-08 and £183 million for 2006-07.

The number of licensees authorised by Postcomm under section 11 of the Postal Services Act 2000 to convey letters within the UK were as follows:

Year (up to 31 December)	Newly licensed operators	Total number of licensees
2001	5	5
2002	8	12
2003	0	9
2004	2	9
2005	6	14
2006	4	18
2007	2	17
2008—at 4 June	4	20

Note:
The two columns do not tally because licensed operators exiting the market are not shown.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library the minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2007 in Brussels between his Department, the European Commission and Post Office Ltd. [208928]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* No minutes of the meeting were taken.

Post Offices

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Post Office branches subject to the Network Change programme have been submitted for further review by Postwatch; and how many decisions on Post Office branches that have been subject to the agreed review mechanism between Post Office Ltd and Postwatch have been altered as a result of this process. [221474]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Cash Dispensing

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage the installation of free cash machines at post office branches. [223238]

Mr. McFadden: The Government support Post Office Ltd. (POL) in expanding the range of financial services offered to customers, including the introduction of up to 4,000 free-to-use ATMs across the network.

However, this is an operational matter for POL. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what annual cash savings the Post Office expects to make from the closure of the post office branch at *(a)* 157 Broadway, Bexleyheath and *(b)* 301-303 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath. [214490]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Limited (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director, of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Competition

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to lift the restrictions on sub-post masters offering services which compete with Post Office Ltd. services. [213253]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* No. This is a contractual matter between Post Office Ltd. (POL) and sub-postmasters. POL believes that retaining restrictions in the sub-postmaster contract are essential to the survival of the network. The National Federation of SubPostmasters supports the company's position. These restrictions cover only the key products and services that generate income for the network and preserve POL's ability to negotiate new business on behalf of the full network. Allowing potential suppliers to cherry-pick branches in which to sell their products, would make it impossible for POL to negotiate agreements for all branches across the network.

Post Offices: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will require Post Office Ltd to publish details of the objections raised to each of the proposed branch closures in Cornwall during the network change consultation process. [223395]

Mr. McFadden: The implementation of the Network Change Programme is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. All of the Area Plan decision booklets published by Post Office Ltd. contain summaries of the key aspects of the responses received by Post Office Ltd. for each of the branches proposed for closure under the Area Plan proposals.

Due to the substantial response to each of the Area Plan proposals it is not feasible to set out in full all of the responses in the decision booklets. However, all such responses are reviewed, considered and taken into account by Post Office Ltd. when making its decisions on which branches should close.

Post Offices: Stoke on Trent

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the likely financial savings which will arise from the closure of *(a)* Dresden post office branch and *(b)* Trentham post office branch in Stoke-on-Trent South constituency. [223325]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Houses

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* forfeitures, *(b)* involuntary surrenders and *(c)* voluntary surrenders of tied public houses there were in each year since 2004. [219908]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not collate information on this matter.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the length of time spent nuclear fuel discharged from the reactor cores of the new nuclear reactors planned would remain in store at the respective reactor site or sites prior to removal for long-term management. [220446]

Malcolm Wicks: The management of any spent fuel arising from the operation of new build reactors in the UK is a matter for the owners of that material, namely the operators. However, the current assumption is that any fuel would remain in storage at the reactor site through life pending disposal. We believe that interim storage provides an extendable, safe and secure means of containing waste for as long as it takes to site and construct a geological disposal facility.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what pay scales are used by regional development agencies; and what guidance is provided to regional development agencies about the salary levels of management and senior management staff. [210415]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The regional development agencies have determined their pay scales for staff up to chief executive level based on recognised evaluation systems which determine the level of responsibility for each job along with local market benchmarking. Any changes in their pay framework have to be included in their pay remits, following Treasury Pay Remit Guidance for approval each year by BERR.

Key Facts Sheet

Any proposed increase in salaries for staff in the regional development agencies is submitted through their Pay Remits which are forwarded to BERR, except for the chief executives.

Pay Remit Guidance is issued by the Treasury.

The Pay Remits are sent to BERR and once all of the information is received are submitted to the Pay Co-ordination Group and then Secretary of State for approval.

The pay scales for the chief executives of the RDAs are agreed by the Secretary of State and increases are in line with the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Progression awards and bonuses are forwarded to the Secretary of State for consideration based on performance and to the structure detailed in the Financial Memorandum and Management Statement issued to the RDAs.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding each of the regional development agencies plans to provide to each of the regional equality and diversity partnerships in 2008-09. [215067]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDAs' funding to regional equality and diversity partnerships in 2008-09.

RDA	*Funding in 2008-09 (£000)*	*Notes*
AWM	0	No plans to provide core funding for the respective regional equality and diversity partnerships in their regions in 2008-09.
ONE	80	ONE to provide £80,000 to the North East Equality and Diversity Partnership.
YF	0	No plans to provide core funding for the respective regional equality and diversity partnerships in their regions in 2008-09.

No such single, legally constituted equality and diversity partnership exists within the east of England, east midlands, London, the north west, south east or the south west.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis is for the Government's calculation that £100 billion is required for investment in renewables to meet its EU obligations by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [219390]

Malcolm Wicks: This calculation was based on the Renewables Advisory Board's report, "2020 Vision—how the UK can meet its target of 15 per cent. renewable energy", which is available at:

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/related_documents

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost *(a)* on average to the consumer and *(b)* to the economy of the renewables obligation in each of the last five years. [221450]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

(a) The annual cost of the renewables obligation to the consumer (based on an average domestic electricity consumption figure quoted by Energywatch) was:

	£
2002-03	2.97
2003-04	4.33
2004-05	5.11
2005-06	5.87
2006-07	7.35

(b) The cost to the economy of complying with the renewables obligation was:

	£
2002-03	277,847,040.00
2003-04	415,772,340.12
2004-05	497,892,106.53
2005-06	583,003,786.32
2006-07	718,970,430.24

Renewable Energy: Nuclear Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of supply chain constraints in *(a)* the renewable energy sector and *(b)* the nuclear sector, what strategy his Department is pursuing to overcome such constraints; and if he will make a statement. [220160]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* There has never been a greater global demand for finance, equipment and skills to build and operate renewable energy and nuclear power stations.

BERR commissioned a report on the supply chain constraints in the renewable energy sector which was published on the BERR website last month. As we have stated in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document, we will be working with the regional development agencies, UK Trade and Investment and other relevant bodies to develop a co-ordinated strategy to address the supply chain barriers in this sector.

We have asked NAMTEC, the National Metals Technology Centre, to produce a preliminary study of our nuclear supply chain which will analyse the expertise developed through 50 years of nuclear power in the UK and our potential to compete with the best in the world. The new Office of Nuclear Development will work with industry and others to identify and manage potential supply chain issues.

Severn Barrage: Railways

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the feasibility study on the Severn Barrage commissioned by his Department is examining the possibility of the inclusion of a rail link. [220076]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1147W: Severn barrage: railways.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184107]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

Grants provided by BERR

The Department paid Shropshire county council a resource (revenue) grant of £136,375.20 in April 2007 and paid a similar grant of £91,244.40 to Telford and Wrekin council in August 2007. The grants were made under Section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 in respect of the cost of treating and disposing of household hazardous waste electrical and electronic equipment during the period 1 June 2006 to 30 June 2007.

The Department has not made available any other direct funding to Shropshire county council, Telford and Wrekin council or Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council in 2007-08 in respect of its current responsibilities following the machinery of government changes. No further grants to the councils are planned in 2008-09.

ERDF grants

Additionally, BERR and the previous Department of Trade and Industry provided PES cover to ERDF grant offers approved in the West Midlands Objective 2 Programme for 2000 to 2006. The amounts shown as follows relate to the ERDF grant offers where the PES cover is provided by BERR/DTI. ERDF is paid in calendar years not financial years.

Details of grants made to Telford and Wrekin council are detailed in the following table; no grants were approved for Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council or Shropshire county council during the years in question.

Other associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

Grants payments by Advantage West Midlands. Period covered 2006-07 to 2008-09

Applicant	*Description*	*Actuals*[1]	*Budget*[2]	*Budget*[3]	*Grand total*
Shrewsbury and Atcham BC	Shrewsbury Environmental Technology Centre (Rural Regeneration Zone (RRZ))	190,103	340,212	-	530,315
	Entertainment Venue for Shrewsbury	3,995	-	-	3,995
	Shrewsbury Business Improvement District	-	60,000	-	60,000
Total		194,098	400,212	0	594,310
Shropshire county council	RRZ Renewable Energy Capital Grant Scheme Pilot	-	350,000	790,000	1,140,000
	Sustainable Tourism Business Grant Scheme	-	128,720	226,660	355,380
	Craven Arms Learning Centres	-	308,185	448,766	756,951
	Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre	800,563	-	-	800,563
	M54 Shropshire Tourism Informat	5,000	-	-	5,000
	Northern Marches Leader+	25,206	16,805	-	42,011
	Eastern Oswestry Gateway-Infrastructure	-	453,600	750,000	1,203,600
	Civic Park Whitchurch-Land Acquisition	9,701	4,964	-	14,665
	Shropshire Rural Access to Services programme	400,000	400,000	400,000	1,200,000
	Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre2	-	2,628,698	2,342,815	4,971,513
	SPARKS (SRB613)	5,044	-	-	5,044
Total		1,245,514	4,290,972	4,958,241	10,494,727
Telford and Wrekin Council	Transforming Telford-Projects	-	352,500	4,610,500	4,963,000
	Land Stabilisation in the ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site	-	300,000	2,300,000	2,600,000
	Telford and Wrekin Rural Access to Services Programme	94,749	100,000	100,000	294,749
	Transforming Telford Prelims	-	395,000	-	395,000
	Wellington Market Towns Initiative	56,000	403,207	193,180	652,387
	Telford and Wrekin Redundancy Fund	20,000	10,000	-	30,000
	Telford First	404,630	-	-	404,630
	Improving Access in Telford (SRB648)	3,292	-	-	3,292
Total		578,671	1,560,707	7,203,680	9,343,058
Grand Total		2,018,283	6,251,891	12,161,921	20,432,095

[1] 2006-07 is actual grant defrayed.
[2] 2007-08 is budget committed.
[3] 2008-09 is budget committed.

Project Title	*Total ERDF Grant Offered*	*2006*	*2007*	£ *2008*
Tourism for Telford's Future	843,079	113,435	70,337	0
Industrial Evolution Through Innovation-Coalbrookdale	1,028,393	53,378	0	0
Industrial Evolution through Innovation-Delta Research Park	1,950,000	262,963	109,315	112,419
Industrial Evolution through Innovation-Polymer Cluster Elem (Core)	911,132	212,863	296,238	90,577
Industrial Evolution through Innovation-Polymer Cluster Elem (Transitional)	336,620	101,879	76,985	33,961
Donnington Business Units	486,666	0	486,666	0
Hadley Park Industrial Units	416,528	0	408,379	8,149
	5,972,418	744,518	1,447,920	245,106

Small Businesses: Video Games

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small and medium enterprises were created in the UK games industry in each of the last three years. [218344]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* These figures are not available. BERR's published data on SMEs does not currently offer a sectoral breakdown at a level of detail sufficient to identify video games businesses specifically.

Accurate data on the video and computer games sector is generally not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

Small Businesses: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of businesses in *(a)* West Midlands and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in the West Midlands are small businesses. [215778]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of the total number of businesses in the West Midlands are published by BERR. Latest published data (2005) are as follows. Data for the UK and the regions for 2007 will be published in late July 2008.

At the start of 2005, there were 353,400 businesses in the West Midlands Government office region, of which 99.2 per cent. (or 350,515) were small (with 0-49 employees).

Data for parliamentary constituencies are only available for VAT-registered enterprises. It is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small. Latest published data (2007) will be placed in the Library of the House of Commons. Data for 2008 will be published in November 2008.

Businesses are unlikely to be VAT-registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

VAT-registered businesses in each parliamentary constituency in the West Midlands, start of 2007

Parliamentary constituency	*Number*
Aldridge-Brownhills	2,095
Birmingham, Edgbaston	1,855
Birmingham, Erdington	1,390
Birmingham, Hall Green	1,235
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	790
Birmingham, Ladywood	7,335
Birmingham, Northfield	795
Birmingham, Perry Barr	1,475
Birmingham, Selly Oak	1,795
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	2,395
Birmingham, Yardley	1,575
Bromsgrove	3,695
Burton	3,405
Cannock Chase	3,010
Coventry North East	1,865
Coventry North West	1,780
Coventry South	2,865
Dudley North	1,795
Dudley South	2,585
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	2,465
Hereford	4,190
Leominster	5,375
Lichfield	3,110
Ludlow	4,650
Meriden	3,205
Mid Worcestershire	4,450
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,055
North Shropshire	4,440
North Warwickshire	3,210
Nuneaton	2,520
Redditch	2,620
Rugby and Kenilworth	3,925
Shrewsbury and Atcham	3,680
Solihull	2,715
South Staffordshire	2,695
Stafford	2,680
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,855
Stoke-on-Trent Central	1,920
Stoke-on-Trent North	1,685
Stoke-on-Trent South	1,665
Stone	3,675
Stourbridge	2,445
Stratford-on-Avon	6,210
Sutton Coldfield	2,845
Tamworth	2,935
Telford	2,115
The Wrekin	2,560
Walsall North	1,820
Walsall South	2,150
Warley	1,765
Warwick and Leamington	4,985
West Bromwich East	1,445
West Bromwich West	2,240
West Worcestershire	4,235
Wolverhampton North East	1,380
Wolverhampton South East	1,800
Wolverhampton South West	2,315
Worcester	2,545
Wyre Forest	2,965

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006, available at http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Solar Power: Housing

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to encourage the installation of solar panels on domestic properties. [220040]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 2002 the Government have spent £26 million on the Solar PV programme and £10 million on PV Field Trials. The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has allocated over £20 million to 6,398 projects of which almost £6,376,863 million has been allocated to 4,662 households for installations using solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technology.

The Renewables Obligation is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation with all eligible renewable electricity generation installations able to receive Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). We have proposed that all electricity generated by solar photovoltaic panels will be eligible to claim two ROCs for every 1 MWh of renewable electricity generated from April 2009.

In addition there are wider measures such as the 2016 Zero Carbon homes policy and we have also made it easier for homeowners to install microgeneration technologies through relaxed planning requirements which benefits solar technologies.

The Renewable Energy Strategy consultation that was published by the Department in June 2008 includes a set of potential measures to allow the UK to meet its share of the EU 2020 target. We believe that distributed energy technologies including microgeneration, have a

role to play and we are looking at a range of options to increase financial support to the small-scale generation of electricity and heat—including consideration of upfront payment, and whether a move to a feed-in tariff system might have advantages. We will publish our full Renewable Energy Strategy in spring 2009, setting out our action plan for meeting our targets in the most effective way.

Trade Fairs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the guidelines are for deciding which firms will be allocated funding to attend overseas trade shows. [216130]

Mr. Thomas: Guidance on company eligibility and the terms and conditions for support under the Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) are given on the UK Trade and Investment website www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk under Our services: Making it happen. For 2008-09 UKTI has allocated indicative budgets to Accredited Trade Organisations for the support of eligible firms at each show in the programme.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding was made available through UK Trade and Investment to assist firms in attending overseas trade shows in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many firms received such assistance. [216138]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007-08 UK Trade and Investment provided financial assistance of £8.55 million under the Tradeshow Access Programme. 3,142 small and medium sized businesses were supported to participate in overseas fairs (some receiving more than one grant). The budget also provided for enhanced promotion of the UK group at 109 major sectoral exhibitions.

Trade Unions: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the planned expenditure on the Trade Union Modernisation Fund is in each of the next three years. [217363]

Mr. McFadden: The forecast accruals are as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	2.5[1]
2009-10	1.3
2010-11	1.8

[1] Including spend to date.

Trading Funds

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people there are in the shareholder executive team undertaking the trading fund assessment; and what the criteria for their selection were. [223239]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently four officials (equating to approximately 2.0 FTE) from the Shareholder Executive engaged directly in the Trading Funds Assessment and they are working closely with others in BERR, HMT and elsewhere in Whitehall. The Shareholder Executive officials were selected to give a balance of civil service and private sector financial expertise, as well as wider knowledge of certain of the trading funds included in the assessment.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which public sector bodies the shareholder executive team *(a)* has met and *(b)* plans to meet as part of the trading fund assessment. [223241]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the trading funds assessment, representatives of the Shareholder Executive team have met and are continuing to work closely with representatives from BERR, OFT, OPSI, HMT, Cabinet Office, the trading funds themselves and their parent Departments and public sector customers.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff worked for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) in April 2008; and what UKTI's budget is for 2008-09. [215437]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The information requested is as follows.

Staff

At April 2008 just under 2,400 people (expressed as full time equivalents) were working for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). Of the 2,400 just under 1,300, mainly Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), staff were working in diplomatic posts in 99 markets overseas that are the highest priority in terms of the UK's economic interests. Just under 700 people, mostly Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) staff, were based mainly in London and Glasgow. These include operational, customer-facing staff as well as those in corporate support functions. Just under 400 people were based in International Trade Teams (ITTs) in the English regions. These are mainly International Trade Advisors (ITAs), either Government Office (GO) staff or people with business experience who are under contract to deliver UKTI services.

Budgets

UKTI's budgets consist of three different elements—a directly controllable and voted programme budget, and budgets delegated from BERR and FCO, both direct and indirect. For 2008-09, UKTI's budgets are:

A directly voted net UKTI programme budget of £91.5 million;

A net estimated FCO budget of some £170 million: the budget directly in UKTI's control is £19.1 million, and an additional estimated budget managed by the FCO of c£1 50.9 million;

A net BERR administration budget of some £55 million: the budget directly in UKTI's control is £45.6 million, and an additional budget managed by BERR of c£9.4 million.

Latest figures show that against an annual target to achieve at least 525 involved inward investment project successes, of which at least 125 should be high value; UKTI exceeded its target with 549 projects, of which 182 were high value.

In FY 2007-08 UKTI helped 15,900 companies to exploit opportunities in overseas markets. 57 per cent. of these customers reported an improvement in their business performance as a result of UKTI services. And we helped 2,799 companies to increase their R and D in the UK. Total additional bottom line profit reported by trade customers as a result of our help amounted to £3 billion over an annual period.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 147-50W, on UK Trade and Investment: manpower, how many staff are based in Cambridge. [215795]

Mr. Thomas: There are 19 people from the east regional team based at two locations in Cambridge. These are a mix of civil servants and people with business experience who are under contract to deliver UKTI services.

UK Trade and Investment: Public Appointments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the head of the UK Trade and Investment's Defence and Security Organisation will be appointed. [215439]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The appointment of the Head of UK Trade and Investment, Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) was announced on 12 June 2008. His name is Richard Paniguian CBE. Further details about this appointment can be seen on the UKTI DSO website at:

http://www.dso.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

Unionlearn: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding has been allocated to Unionlearn by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the European Social Fund for 2007-08. [198073]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the European Social Fund has allocated funding to Unionlearn for the period 2007-08.

Video Games

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* highly skilled and *(b)* other jobs were associated with the UK computer games industry in each of the last three years. [217931]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

However, data recently published by independent industry consultants, Games Investor Consulting, suggests that in 2006 there were 9,150 highly skilled jobs in games development studios in the UK. This rose to 9,950 in 2007. A further 12,000 staff are estimated to be currently employed in games publishing and games retail.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many highly skilled jobs were created by the UK computer games industry in each of the last three years. [217932]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

However, data recently published by independent industry consultants Games Investor Consulting estimate that some 800 new highly skilled jobs were created in the UK computer games development industry between 2006 and 2007.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding from the public purse was received by UK-based computer games studios in each of the last three years. [217933]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Computer games studios, like other companies, receive support from a wide range of Government activities including for example business support, the R and D tax credit, the programmes of the Technology Strategy Board and UK Trade and Investment help with accessing overseas markets. Many of the regional development agencies also provide funding that benefits games studios. Figures showing the uptake specifically by computer games businesses of all of these sources of funding are not available.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what revenue UK-made computer games generated globally in each of the last five years. [217934]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

BERR has not made any estimates of revenue generated by UK-made computer games in each of the last five years. However, independent industry consultants Games Investor has recently published data which suggest that between 2006 and 2008 computer games made in the UK will generate nearly £4 billion globally.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of potential revenues to UK companies of worldwide sales of UK-made computer games in 2008. [217935]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2008]*: Accurate data on the video and computer games sector are not readily available to the Department, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

BERR has not made any estimates of potential revenues to UK companies of worldwide sales of UK-made computer games in 2008.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210551]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has made no recent assessment of the level of demand for the services it provides in Welsh. I have contacted Companies House and the Insolvency Service, and asked their chief executives to respond directly to the hon. Member. However, their records indicate that, to date, none have been asked to provide any of their documents in the Welsh language.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has asked me to reply to your question (2007/2933) on what recent assessment has been made of the level of demand for the services provided by his Department and its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language.

The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Service has not made any recent assessment of the level of demand for services provided in the Welsh language, but requests for services in the Welsh language are dealt with on a case by case basis and The Service will continue to provide information and adapt its services in Welsh as and when required.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 21 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not made recent assessments of the need for these services because we already have a good idea of the demand. This is because we provide a service which allows officers of all companies that are registered in Wales to receive all communications in bilingual form. At present some 400 companies have taken up this option. The Companies legislation under which we operate allows certain filings to be bilingual and details of these are attached as an annex. Under the provisions of the new Companies Act 2006, we plan to increase the number of documents that Welsh companies can file in the Welsh language, without them having to provide certified translations into English.

We provide electronic services to all our customers, including our Welsh speaking customers. Our latest development is a bilingual web-filing service for the annual return that provides online filing capabilities equivalent to services offered to companies filing in English. Bilingual webfiling also allows customers to file other document types. This delivered significant benefits to Welsh speaking customers in terms of cheaper, quicker, simpler and more secure filing. In addition all guidance material is provided bilingually and we operate a Welsh language version of the Companies House website. We have an established network of Welsh speakers across the organisation and provide dedicated telephone numbers for customers to communicate directly them.

I hope this information is helpful. I would be happy answer any further queries.

Annex—Companies House provision of Welsh filing services

Required by law:

1. Currently companies can file bilingual forms in order to:

Incorporate a company

Declare that a company is exempt from the requirement to use "Limited" or "Cyfyngedig"

File a return of allotment of shares

Change an accounting reference date

Change the situation or address of the registered office

Appoint a director or secretary

Change the particulars of a director or secretary

Terminate a director or secretary appointment

File the company's annual return

Apply for strike-off

Withdraw a strike-off application

2. Existing legislation allows the filing of various forms relating to Welsh companies in Welsh (with the registrar then obtaining an English translation for the public record):

Memorandum and articles of association

Annual accounts and reports (private companies only)

Auditors report (private company only)

From 1st October 2009 as part of the Companies Act 2006, Welsh companies will be able to file additional documents in Welsh only (without the need for a certified translation into English), these include:

Special resolutions to:

re-register

reduce the company's share capital

change the company's name

change the location of the company's registered office

alter the company's articles on conversion to a community interest company

amend a resolution or agreement by reason of an enactment or court order

Wind Power

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of buildings have small wind turbines installed. [219669]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of a consortium of organisations including the microgeneration industry and energy NGOs, we commissioned research on the growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland, which included current levels of uptake. It found that there were an estimated 1,100 micro-wind installations at the end of 2007.

The research can be accessed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the results of the planning application for each onshore and offshore wind farm in the UK have been in each of the last 10 years, broken down by planning authority. [174413]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department only has responsibility for the consenting of planning for England and Wales for onshore wind farms of 50 MW or more and offshore wind farms over 1 MW under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. A list of these projects can be found in the following tables.

For Scotland, Northern Ireland and, for those projects in England and Wales that are dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (less than 50 MW), projects are tracked through the planning database on the RESTATS website. This database and can be accessed though:

http://maps.restats.org.uk/run.irdh?request=public&&ird_id=O395gCC1793M3kyYQIUy.

Wind farms consented/refused by DTI/BERR under the Electricity Act or Transport and Works Act

Onshore—section 36—England and Wales

Windfarm	*Refused/Consented*	*Local authority*	*MW*	*Date of refusal/consent*
Humble Hill/Kielder	Refused	Tynedale District Council	80	29 March 2001
Whinash	Refused	Eden District Council/ Lake District National Park Authority	67.5	2 March 2006
Cefn Croes	Consented	Ceredigion County Council	60	23 May 2002
Scout Moor	Consented	Rossendale Borough Council/Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	65	24 May 2005
Little Cheyne Court	Consented	Shepway District Council	78	18 October 2005
Fullabrook	Consented	North Devon District Council	66	9 October 2007

Offshore—S36 and Transport and Works Act

Consented	*Local authority*	*MW*	*Date of consent*
North Hoyle	n/a	60	July 2002
Scroby Sands	n/a	60	April 2002
Kentish Flats	n/a	90	March 2003
Barrow	n/a	90	March 2003
Burbo Bank	n/a	90	July 2003
Lynn	n/a	90	October 2003
Inner Dowsing	n/a	90	October 2003
Rhyl Flats	n/a	90	October 2003
Gunfleet Sands	n/a	90	October 2003
Ormonde	n/a	100	February 2007
London Array	n/a	1,000	December 2006
Thanet	n/a	300	December 2006
Greater Gabbard	n/a	500	February 2007
Teesside	n/a	90	September 2007
Walney	n/a	450	November 07

TREASURY

Crosby Report

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the interim Crosby report on the mortgage market. [223438]

Kitty Ussher: On 9 April 2008, the Chancellor announced that Sir James Crosby would provide advice to the Government on options for improving the functioning of mortgage finance markets.

Sir James presented his interim analysis to the Chancellor on 29 July 2008. This interim analysis is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/E/crosby290708.pdf

Sir James will present his final recommendations to the Chancellor in the autumn.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last three months. [223542]

Angela Eagle: For information on alcohol spending I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 629W. The amounts spent on official entertainment for the period May to July 2008 were as follows: HM Treasury £5,832, Debt Management Office £9,000, Office of Government Commerce £529 and OGCbuying.solutions £330. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Economic Situation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for his analysis of the state of the economy contained in his interview published in *The Guardian* newspaper on 30 August 2008. [223566]

Kitty Ussher: Updated assessments and forecasts for the UK and world economies will be published in the forthcoming pre-Budget as normal.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue that would accrue to his Department annually as a result of auctioning *(a)* seven per cent. and *(b)* 10 per cent. of allowances under Phase II of the Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [223562]

Angela Eagle: In Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which runs from 2008 to 2012, Government will auction 7 per cent. of allowances. This equates to approximately 85 million allowances, plus those allowances from installations that close during Phase II and any unused surplus from the New Entrant Reserve (NER). The total amount cannot exceed 10 per cent. of the number allocated during Phase II according to the terms of the EU ETS Directive 2003/87/EC. The amount of revenue will be influenced by the market price of carbon at the time of the auctions. The Government do not comment on carbon price, as it would be improper for Government to speculate on how the market will function in the future. Therefore, an estimate on the amount of revenue the auctions will raise cannot be given.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms the Government are using to assess compensation payable to former Equitable Life policyholders. [223483]

Kitty Ussher: As I explained in my written statement to the House on 17 July, the ombudsman looked at matters of considerable factual and technical complexity. I am giving her 2,800-page report on Equitable Life very careful consideration and will give my response to the House in the autumn.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of duty each EU member state imposes on fuel for trains. [223588]

Angela Eagle: Information is not held on duty charged in other EU countries on hydrocarbon oil used as fuel for trains.

Excise Duties: Imports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of his Department's staff work in support of the Minister of State with responsibility for revenue protection at the UK border; [223106]

(2) whether the Minister of State with responsibility for revenue protection at the UK border has an office in Treasury buildings. [223107]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* In my capacity as a member of the ministerial team at the Treasury, I have access to office facilities whenever I require them at the Treasury, and support from a wide range of administrative and policy officials, from both HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs. The number of officials supporting me varies according to the nature of the work at any particular time.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what events the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill has attended in his capacity as Minister of State with responsibility for revenue protection at the UK border since his appointment to that post. [223108]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* I have attended numerous events in connection with the UK Border Agency since I took up my Treasury post in January 2008. I attend these events in both my capacity as Minister of State for Borders and Immigration and my capacity as Minister of State with responsibility for revenue protection at the border.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vehicles were exempted from vehicle excise duty in the disabled tax class as a result of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* war pensioner's mobility supplement in each year from 2002; and how many were exempted because they fell within the disabled passenger vehicle taxation class in each such year. [223093]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not hold historical figures for the requested categories. At the end of March 2008, there were a total of 1,141,747 vehicles exempted from vehicle excise duty as a result of their owners being eligible for the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance and the war pensioner's mobility supplement. At the same time, 17,105 vehicles were exempt from VED as a result of their falling within the disabled passenger carrying vehicle class.

Import Controls

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of crates imported to the UK were screened or searched at UK ports by HM Revenue and Customs in 2006-07. [223591]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available. HMRC does not centrally record the number of crates imported into the UK.

Northern Rock: Repossession Orders

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes Northern Rock has *(a)* repossessed and *(b)* initiated action to repossess in the last six months. [223626]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Public Buildings: Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of maintaining empty public buildings in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the amount by which this figure will change following the removal of empty property rate relief. [223538]

Angela Eagle: Over the last 12 months the average actual vacancy rate on the Government civil estate was 1.6 per cent. of the total estate. In June 2008 this was 1.43 per cent. This compares well with the private sector, where vacant space can be four times greater.

The cost of maintaining empty buildings on the civil estate for 2007-08 is estimated to be approximately £39.5 million. The removal of empty rate relief is likely to increase this cost in the current financial year to approximately £47.2 million, on the assumption that a similar amount of property remains empty.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table showing public expenditure per head of population for each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency and ranked from highest to lowest ratio. [223587]

Yvette Cooper: Public expenditure figures by parliamentary constituency are not available but we do publish figures on a regional basis in the Country and Regional Analysis (CRA) section of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA). These can be obtained for the years 2002-03 up to 2007-08 from the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_cra/country_region.cfm

Figures for earlier years are not available on a comparable basis due to changes to the definition of expenditure that can be identified as benefiting a particular region, and changes to the methodology Departments use when allocating expenditure to regions.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to extend the suspension of stamp duty announced on 2 September 2008 for all properties up to the value of £175,000 to cover the whole of the 1 per cent. stamp duty band. [223484]

Kitty Ussher: The stamp duty holiday is limited to transactions up to the value of £175,000 in order to provide support to those homebuyers who need it most.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the evidential basis is for his statement that the suspension of stamp duty on the purchase of residential properties costing £175,000 or less will cost more than £600 million; [223539]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of residential property sales at prices between £125,000 and £175,000 that will take place in the year commencing 3 September 2008 *(a)* with and *(b)* without the suspension of stamp duty, broken down by Government Office region. [223540]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of residential properties that will be exempt from stamp duty as a result of the recent change in thresholds in each Government region in each of the next 12 months. [223565]

Kitty Ussher: The estimate of the cost of the suspension of stamp duty land tax on the purchase of residential property costing £175,000 or less is based on a number of factors, including estimates of future transactions, house prices and behavioural effects. The Treasury does not publish forecasts of house prices or transactions.

Stamp duty rates and thresholds apply uniformly throughout the UK. It is estimated that around half of all purchases in the UK are for properties worth £175,000 or less.

Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many recipients of tax credit renewal packs were subsequently found not to be eligible for tax credits in the latest period for which figures are available; [223207]

(2) what procedures are in place to discontinue the distribution of tax credit renewal packs to former tax credit claimants when they have ceased to be eligible for tax credits. [223208]

Jane Kennedy: The statistical information is not available in the format requested.

HMRC is statutorily obliged to send annual declaration and renewal notices requiring claimants to provide or confirm details of their income and circumstances, and any changes in their circumstances. That information is necessary to determine their entitlement in the tax year just ended.

HMRC does not send annual declaration and renewals packs to customers where they have not been in receipt of tax credits over the past year and when HMRC is certain that the customer is no longer eligible for tax credits.

Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse arising from the introduction of credit card processing fees for tax bills paid by telephone by credit card. [223541]

Jane Kennedy: There is not expected to be any additional cost to the public purse for receiving telephone credit card payments in respect of amounts paid to HMRC.

Taxation: National Lottery

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* prize levels, *(b)* good causes revenue and *(c)* taxation revenues of a change to the taxation regime for the National Lottery from lottery duty to gross profits taxation. [223477]

Angela Eagle: At Budget 2008, the Government announced that they would consider the case for moving lottery duty to a gross profits tax and would announce their plans at pre-Budget report 2008.

Officials from both HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have been in discussions with the national lottery operator to help determine the impact of such a change.

Tobacco: Smuggling

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the excise duty lost on tobacco products due to smuggling in tax year *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [223663]

Angela Eagle: Estimates for the revenue loss to the Exchequer (duty plus VAT) associated with illicitly supplied cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco are estimated separately for 2003-04 to 2005-06 and are reported in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses - 2007" published by HMRC in October 2007, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Estimates for 2006-07 are expected to be published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report. Further, the 2007-08 estimates are expected to be published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report.

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis has been undertaken of the potential cost to the Exchequer of introducing a track and trace system for tobacco products *(a)* exported to and *(b)* manufactured in the UK. [223664]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has not undertaken an analysis of the cost of introducing a track and trace system for tobacco products exported to the UK or manufactured in the UK. However, HMRC keeps abreast of developments in track and trace technology through its regular contacts with tobacco manufacturers and customs authorities in other EU member states.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to support the training of accountants in Afghanistan; what support his Department has provided to the Afghanistan Society of Accounting Technicians; and if he will make a statement. [223582]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide financial support for the training of accountants nor for the Afghanistan Society of Accounting Technicians. The objective of our economic management programme is to support the Afghan Government's capacity to manage and expand the formal economy and promote wider reform of governmental systems.

In 2008-09 DFID will contribute £74 million towards this objective; over half the total Afghanistan programme. This support is aligned to Government of Afghanistan priorities and includes £60 million channelled through the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). The 2008 external review of the ARTF found that is has helped improve the Government's capacity to manage its finances.

DFID is helping the Government of Afghanistan to improve their public spending practices with a £9.8 million programme of support to the Budget Department in the Ministry of Finance. This has led to year on year improved use of resources in the delivery of basic services to the Afghan population.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what projects his Department is collaborating with the African Development Fund; at what cost in 2008-09; and what programmes the African Development Fund is operating to financially stabilise fragile states. [220382]

Gillian Merron: During negotiations on the eleventh replenishment of the African Development Fund (AfDF 11), donors agreed to establish a Fragile States Facility and set aside 7.5 per cent., of AfDF 11 resources (about £330 million) for this. The new facility will provide countries emerging from conflict and crisis with additional resources to rebuild infrastructure and re-establish services for example, as well as helping them qualify for debt relief.

Department for International Development (DFID) country teams collaborate with the AfDB in the field. In Sierra Leone, Zambia, Ghana, Malawi and Mozambique AfDB and DFID provide budget support under a common framework with a number of other donors to enable the governments to implement their poverty reduction strategies. In Zambia, DFID will provide about £26 million in budget support and AfDB will provide £30 million. In Ghana, DFID will provide about £50 million in budget support and AfDB will provide £25 million. In Malawi, DFID will provide about £22 million in budget support and AfDB will provide £14 million. In Mozambique, DFID will provide about £42 million in budget support and AfDB will provide £15 million. Other donors will of course also contribute to budget support operations.

There is also strong collaboration between AfDB and DFID in Malawi and Mozambique on water and sanitation. In Malawi, AfDB plans to provide about £24 million towards the water sector over the next five years (and £6.5 million in 2008-09) and DFID is planning to match this with £25 million for the next three years through the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund. In Mozambique, DFID will provide about £500,000 in 2008 and 2009 for water, and the AfDB will contribute about £8 million.

Finally, DFID and the AfDB work closely on improving road infrastructure in Mozambique. In 2008 and 2009, DFID will contribute £4 million and AfDB will contribute just under £15 million.

African Development Bank

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what influence the UK has over the way the African Development Bank uses the UK's contribution of funding; and what assessment he has made of the key areas to which this aid should be directed. [213264]

Gillian Merron: The African Development Fund (AfDF) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) provides grants and concessional loans to around 40 African countries. The AfDF is replenished by donor countries every three years, and during the negotiations, AfDB management and donors agree how the resources will be spent. New approaches and policy changes are also agreed as part of the replenishment discussions. All donor contributions to the AfDF replenishment are governed by the agreements and resources are pooled; no donor can earmark their contribution to the AfDF for particular countries, sectors or projects.

The latest AfDF negotiations concluded in December 2007. It was agreed that the AfDF could make the best contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa by concentrating on supporting countries' efforts to accelerate economic growth. Building infrastructure is an important part of this, and around 60 per cent. of resources are likely to be used in this way. New approaches were agreed on how the AfDF would promote regional integration, which is important for growth in Africa, and assist fragile states, particularly those emerging from conflict. The agreed policy changes included how the Bank would adjust its approach to assist countries to tackle climate change and how it would ensure its assistance made a more effective contribution to improving the lives of African women and girls. The UK was instrumental in securing these agreements, and committed £417 million to the AfDF over the next three years. A copy of the replenishment agreement, known as the AfDF 11 Deputies Report, has been placed in the Library of the House.

The UK is also providing funding to assist the AfDB to build its capacity and improve the effectiveness of its assistance. These funds are focused in six areas: infrastructure, climate change, governance, water and sanitation, knowledge and statistics, and institutional strengthening.

Asylum

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of refugees flows to neighbouring countries in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [215593]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government continue to work with agencies such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to protect and resettle refugees. In 2007 DFID funding of £19 million helped UNHCR assist some 4.5 million refugees of whom 730,000 returned to their country of origin.

Current figures available from UNHCR indicate that there were an estimated 11.4 million refugees world-wide in 2007. We are unable to break down this figure into those that sought sanctuary in neighbouring countries and those that went beyond the initial border.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of British aid to Burma in 2008-09 will *(a)* be used to enhance logistic capacity for aid delivery and *(b)* support early recovery and livelihood regeneration activities; and if he will make a statement. [220702]

Mr. Malik: The UK's current commitment for Burma in 2008-09 is £45 million towards the Cyclone Nargis relief effort, in addition to the £12 million regular programme through the Department for International Development (DFID) which had been planned before the cyclone struck.

So far £6.4 million (14 per cent. of the £45 million for cyclone relief) has been allocated for strengthening the logistical capacity for aid delivery. This funding has included grants to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Red Cross, the secondment of staff to support WFP's air operations, and the direct provision of flights, flat-bottomed boats and other items of equipment.

DFID has allocated £5.6 million (12.4 per cent. of the £45 million for cyclone relief), so far, to early recovery and livelihoods work being undertaken by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN HABITAT and International Development Enterprises (IDE). This funding includes the provision of seeds and agricultural tools to enable farmers to resume rice planting. We are reviewing new proposals and expect to make further contributions towards early recovery and livelihoods, including disaster risk reduction, from the £45 million for cyclone relief.

DFID is also supporting rural livelihoods across Burma from our regular programme, primarily through projects carried out by UNDP and IDE. Spending on these projects is expected to comprise about 12 per cent. of the £12 million allocated this year.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217871]

Mr. Malik: Detailed records of PCs, screens, printers, copiers, etc., left on when not in use are not kept. However awareness-raising switch-off campaigns around the office have been carried out including using posters provided by the Carbon Trust, to reduce the proportion of equipment left on overnight, and security staff now regularly monitor and switch off unnecessary items. Exercises to reduce the overall number of devices such as printers used in the office have also been carried out.

It is estimated that the awareness campaigns and reduction in numbers of items have reduced the overall number of devices left on unnecessarily over the last five years from around 800 (20 per cent. of the total) to less than 200 (under 5 per cent. of the total). The approximate additional cost in terms of electricity would have been between £8,000 five years ago, to £2,000-3,000 last year.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212521]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media for each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214695]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 1997, the total expenditure by the Department for International Development (DFID) on the following has been:

(a) Internet hosting

	£
2004-05	18,600
2005-06	18,600
2006-07	18,600
2007-08	18,600
Total cost	74,400

Web hosting figures are unavailable prior to 2004.

The Department's website design is managed by internal DFID staff.

(b) The "Aid works" campaign is the only public information campaign since 1997 that has involved print media. The cost of printed inserts was £6,122.

(c) The Department did not undertake paid-for broadcast media activity as part of any public information campaigns between 1997 and 2006.

In December 2007, broadcast (radio) media activity supporting a "caring consumer" message to UK public cost £2,500.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212501]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Home Civil Servant staff at the Department for International Development (DFID) receive payment on either an annual salary or an hourly rate basis, depending on the terms of their contract.

Details of the average pay per hour worked by all staff on Home Civil Service pensionable terms (including fixed term contract staff) for June 2008, broken down by pay band, are provided in the following table:

Grade	*Average hourly rate (£)*
SCS	41.37
A1	30.66
A2	24.78
A2(L)	19.06
B1(D)	16.37
B1	14.96
B2	11.91
C1	9.70
C2	8.23

Note:
The above data represents basic salary rates and does not include overtime payments or other allowances.

DFID also appoints temporary staff through recruitment agencies to undertake both administrative and specialist roles, including IT and communications specialists. Administrative appointments are managed centrally, but individual departments within DFID have delegated authority to engage specialist staff. Records are not held centrally for this group and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Under the terms of the contract with the agency suppliers, DFID is unable to make public information that may be of value to a competitor. This specifically precludes us releasing details of the hourly rates paid for each grade of staff.

Developing Countries: Health

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methods his Department uses to fund disease prevention in developing countries besides the use of health budget support. [215634]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses a range of aid instruments to fund disease prevention in developing countries. Through our bilateral programme we use programme and project instruments (as well as budget support)—for example to provide bednets to afford greater protection from malaria and condoms to help prevent HIV. DFID also provide substantial sums for health through the multilateral system, including the United Nations, the international financial institutions, the European Commission, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and UNITAID.

The mix of instruments chosen is determined at the country level, according to the local context and includes health systems strengthening through the International Health Partnership (IHP) launched in September 2007. Further information is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/ihp/default.asp

DFID is a substantial donor in education, water and sanitation, nutrition and food security and social protection—which all impact on health outcomes.

Gaza: Food

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of rising food prices on the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [204826]

Mr. Malik: At least 76 per cent. of the population of Gaza are now partly dependent upon food aid. The main issue affecting the supply of humanitarian aid, including food, is the partial closure of Gaza's crossings. This has significantly increased the time and costs involved in importing humanitarian supplies into Gaza. Although food aid is getting into Gaza, the size and frequency of these deliveries are insufficient to meet the broader needs of the population, who are dependent on such food items as are commercially available to make up the shortfall.

Rising food prices have exacerbated an already difficult situation. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, food prices in Gaza increased by 24 per cent. from March 2007 to March 2008 (compared to a general inflation level of 17 per cent. in the same period).

The World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organisation and the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have recently conducted a survey of food security in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and will release the results soon. The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made a separate assessment of the impact of rising food prices.

Governance and Transparency Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which 10 countries have received the most funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund since its inception; and how much each received. [217226]

Mr. Thomas: A list of proposals offered support under our £130 million Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) was published on the Department for International Development (DFID) website on 6 May 2008 at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/fundinq/gtf.asp

The GTF Fund managers are still finalising project budgets with the 38 successful applicants. It is therefore not yet possible to provide information on GTF funding by country. Information on allocations will be published on the DFID website once all budgets have been agreed.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes have been run through the Governance and Transparency Fund; how much money has been spent on each programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* on administrative costs; and which countries each programme relates to. [220451]

Gillian Merron: In April 2008, 38 proposals to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) were provisionally offered support by the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Development (DFID). Details of these can be found on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/gtf.asp.

These proposals are currently being checked and finalised. No money has yet been spent through these projects.

India: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of India and *(b)* non-governmental organisations on (i) improving sanitation in relief camps and (ii) provision of emergency supplies in the Sepaul, Madhepura, Saharsa and Araria districts of India affected by flooding. [223482]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) office in India is holding regular discussions with the Government of India, the State Government of Bihar and international agencies involved in the relief effort.

Sanitation in the relief camps is a priority issue. UNICEF is implementing a $2.6 million humanitarian programme to address immediate needs with a special focus on the worst affected areas, including Sepaul, Madhepura, Saharsa and Araria districts. DFID has pledged £1.15 million to this programme which will provide nutrition, water and sanitation for 125,000 displaced people.

The Government of India recently announced that they were providing £125 million and 125,000 tonnes of food for those affected in Bihar, and food distribution is now under way. The Government of Bihar, international NGOs, and charitable giving in India are providing additional support. DFID will soon participate in a multi-donor assessment of recovery needs for the medium term. We are closely monitoring the level of immediate need.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to humanitarian relief following the recent flooding in Bihar state, India; and if he will make a statement. [223579]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £1.15 million to UNICEF to assist those affected by the Kosi river floods in India. These funds will be used to meet immediate relief needs in health, water and sanitation, nutrition and child protection.

DFID is in close contact with the relevant departments of the Government of India, the State Government of Bihar, UN agencies, other donors and the non-governmental organisation (NGO) community in order to monitor the situation as it evolves. We stand ready to respond further as necessary.

International Health Partnership

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what programmes his Department is working in partnership with the International Health Partnership. [215415]

Gillian Merron: The International Health Partnership (IHP) was launched a year ago, on 5 September 2007, to accelerate progress towards the health Millennium Development Goals. It is not a new institution, a new

Secretariat or a new fund. It is about donors working together to support developing country Governments as they try to improve the health of their people.

The IHP currently operates in a small set of countries—Burundi; Cambodia; Ethiopia; Kenya; Madagascar; Mali; Mozambique; Nepal; Nigeria; and Zambia—to build stronger and lasting health systems and to strengthen coordination of aid. At a global level, the Department for International Development (DFID) supports the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank in taking forward the IHP. At a country level, where DFID has a programme, we are working with partners to implement the IHP.

Iraq: Reconstruction

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has allocated to Sadr City, Baghdad to improve *(a)* electricity, *(b)* sanitation and *(c)* medical facilities; what types of aid have been provided in each case; and if he will make a statement. [213365]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing support to the people of Sadr City through contributions to UNICEF and to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

UNICEF has provided medical supplies both to the Directorate of Health and to medical facilities in Sadr City. They have provided safe water, hygiene materials and emergency health supplies to over 12,000 families and 3,000 individuals in Sadr City. Water tankering operations serve these families daily, as well as the three major hospitals and other health facilities in the city. UNICEF has also pre-positioned various supplies in medical facilities in the city—including basic health kits for up to 100,000 people—and distributed water purification tablets door-to-door.

In Sadr City, ICRC provides food parcels, rice, and hygiene kits to vulnerable families and medical supplies to the Imam Ali general hospital. ICRC transport nearly 10,000 litres of drinking water to the city every day, and in Sadr City have repaired the Urfali water treatment plant—which provides clean water for 10,000 people—and the Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital, the largest health centre in Iraq.

ICRC's humanitarian assistance to Sadr City is funded from their core Iraq budget, to which DFID has provided £7 million in 2008. Similarly, UNICEF's work in Sadr City is funded from the UN Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, to which DFID has provided £5 million in 2008.

In a wider sense, DFID is encouraging the Government of Iraq to take a lead in providing for the welfare of their own people. In line with this, the Government of Iraq have established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the regeneration of Sadr City—with a budget of $100 million—which is responsible for both regeneration and delivery of essential services to Sadr City, including electricity.

Namibia: Territorial Waters

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department has made on visits to Namibia about illegal fishing by other states in Namibian waters; and if he will make a statement. [220763]

Mr. Thomas: I visited Namibia on 9 July, immediately after Namibia hosted a Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Ministerial Conference on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) from 2 to 4 July. This conference was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) with strong support from DEFRA and the FCO. The conference generated a Statement of Commitment to be passed to SADC Heads of State later this year, calling for regional action to improve fisheries governance and trade, and in particular to combat illegal fishing. The lack of capacity within the region to deal effectively with illegal fishing was highlighted during a meeting I had with the Chief Executive Officer of Hangana Seafoods, the first Namibian seafood producer to receive British Retail Consortium certification.

DFID's programme with Namibia through SADC has been instrumental in influencing southern African regional policy development for sustainable fisheries. DFID has now approved further funds to help build on this commitment and extend it to other parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Namibia represents a relatively positive model for African fisheries and effort will continue to support Namibian interests in promoting best practice. Nambia has operated effective monitoring, control and surveillance of its fishing activities since Independence. Recent and relatively modest infractions during late 2007, involving Nambian flagged, foreign operated vessels in the horse mackerel fishery, have been effectively dealt with by the authorities.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards meeting the Gleneagles pledge to double development assistance, from G8 countries by $15 billion by 2010. [213643]

Mr. Thomas: The Gleneagles summit communiqué estimated that annual official development assistance (ODA) from all donors would increase by $50 billion, and ODA to Africa would increase by $25 billion, between 2004 and 2010. So far, according to preliminary data for 2007, from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), ODA from DAC members only has increased from $79 billion in 2004 to $104 billion in 2007, and ODA to Africa has increased from $19 billion in 2004 to $24 billion in 2007.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence with the objective of increasing the timeliness and effectiveness of aid from international institutions to conflict-affected areas. [220375]

Gillian Merron: Improving the effectiveness of aid from international institutions to conflict-affected countries is a UK Government priority. The Department for International Development (DFID) has taken a leading role in supporting reform of the international response to humanitarian crises led by the United Nations. This

has led to an increase in the timeliness and effectiveness of humanitarian aid through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and the country-level Emergency Response and Common Humanitarian Funds.

DFID is also supporting improvements to the effectiveness of international institutions' development assistance to conflict-affected countries. UK funding through the joint DFID-FCO-MOD Conflict Prevention Pool and DFID funding to the United Nations funds, agencies and programmes, including UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the UN Peace building Fund, is subject to improved timeliness and effectiveness. For the World Bank, DFID secured commitments on financing for fragile states during the fifteenth replenishment negotiations of the International Development Association (IDA 15) in 2007, including extending the period of extra assistance for post-conflict states.

Recently, the UK has launched a new initiative on improving the international community's support for post-conflict stabilisation and early recovery. We are working with the UN, the World Bank, regional organisations such as the European Union and the African Union, and other countries to address the lack of timely and effective development aid during the immediate post-conflict period.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are for the outcome of the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in September. [220383]

Mr. Malik: The High Level Forum (HLF) is an important opportunity to achieve further progress in the quality of aid. The Department for International Development's (DFID) objectives for Accra are to:

Internationally identify and agree on concrete actions to accelerate progress and unblock obstacles towards our 2010 Paris targets and commitments on aid effectiveness under the five broad principles of Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Mutual Accountability and Managing for Development Results.

To ensure partner country ownership and that partner country priorities are addressed and civil society perspectives are inputted into the Accra Agenda for Action outcome document that will be endorsed internationally.

And particularly to:

Improve medium term predictability of aid so that governments can plan expenditures better and meet recurring costs, for example wages of nurses and teachers.

Improve the governance of aid so that there is better accountability of donors to partner countries as well as partner countries to donors to drive better performance and results.

Improve the transparency of aid delivery for better planning and accountability.

Rationalise aid delivery to reduce costs increase coherence and improve the efficiency of aid.

Improve incentives for agency effectiveness to really secure practical behavioural change in donor organisations.

To ensure more aid is untied to free up more resources for poor people.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes were funded by the £89 million contributed by his Department to the Partnership Programme Agreement; and what the administrative costs associated with each programme were. [220450]

Gillian Merron: Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs) provide unrestricted funding to non-governmental organisations in support of objectives they share with the Department for International Development (DFID). It is therefore not possible to provide figures for specific programmes or administrative costs.

The 26 organisations which receive PPA contributions and the objectives against which they are held to account are detailed on the Department for International Development's external website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/DFIDwork/ppas/partnerprogagreements.asp

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what private sector contracts are funded through the £86 million that his Department spends through its country programmes. [220452]

Mr. Thomas: Details of all contracts awarded centrally by the Department for International Development (DFID) are available on our website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp

for the period January 2005 to March 2008. This includes the project/programme title, name of supplier, the related sector and contract award value. Low value contracts issued by our overseas offices are not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department operates to increase awareness of *(a)* black and minority ethnic groups, *(b)* faith groups and *(c)* young people on assistance to developing countries; and how much was spent on such programmes in 2007-08. [220453]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) runs a comprehensive package of development awareness programmes aimed at reaching diverse audiences, including black and minority ethnic groups, faith groups and young people. The total budget for development awareness for 2007-08 was £14.4 million.

Information on the main programmes for the audiences mentioned is as follows:

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups:

A partnership arrangement with the BME network organisation, Connections for Development—approximately £250,000 in 2007-08 to support the engagement of more BME organisations in international development. A volunteering programme to support volunteering in developing countries by the UK's diaspora communities was launched on 17 July 2008. The budget for this is £3 million over three years. Special workshops have been run in order to make BME groups aware of funding streams that are available to support greater development awareness among their communities and to increase the number of good quality applications from these groups.

Faith groups:

DFID supports a number of faith groups, or projects which target faith groups, through the competitive Development Awareness Fund. Ministers have been undertaking outreach visits to faith groups, including a multi-faith gathering of leaders hosted in Glasgow on

7 March and a seminar hosted by the DFID Minister, (Shahid Malik), with Muslim groups to discuss DFID's my hon. Friend the Member for Dewsbury work.

DFID gives funding to faith based NGOs such as CAFOD, Aga Khan Foundation, Islamic Relief and Christian Aid some of which is allocated by them to development awareness activities.

Young people:

In 2007-08 DFID funded around £8 million of activities that targeted young people in schools through the formal education sector, working with colleagues in DCSF, the curriculum authorities and the devolved Administrations. In addition DFID launched a new Youth Volunteering Scheme that aims to fund 2,500 young volunteers to work in developing countries. The budget for this scheme is £10 million over three years. DFID also reaches out to young people through sponsorship of youth festivals, such as the recent Global Students' Forum, and through innovative tools such as the Race Against Poverty Game which is available at the DFID website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of new development aid committed at the G8 summit is planned to go to *(a)* Africa, *(b)* South America, *(c)* South East Asia, *(d)* the Middle East and *(e)* Eastern Europe; and if he will make a statement. [220757]

Gillian Merron: G8 leaders at the 2008 summit in Tokyo reaffirmed their commitment made at Gleneagles, to work towards an increase in global Official Development Assistance (ODA) of $50 billion per year by 2010, of which half, i.e. $25 billion, additional funding should go to Africa.

There are no specific G8 planning targets for other regions.

The UK Government believe it is important that this commitment to Africa should be met and we will work with our partners to ensure that it is.

Overseas Aid: International Cooperation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcomes were of the Accra conference on aid effectiveness; and if he will make a statement. [223581]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra reached a groundbreaking agreement—the Accra Agenda for Action—to improve the quality of global aid and help ensure that every pound or dollar of global aid delivers the maximum benefit for poor people.

In adopting the Accra Agenda for Action donors and developing countries agreed a number of concrete, monitorable actions, including the following:

Donors committed to make greater use of country's own financial systems to deliver aid, helping to strengthen those systems and improve accountability to Parliaments and citizens;

Donors and developing countries agreed to develop stronger mechanisms to hold each other accountable for meeting their commitments, at both country and global level;

Donors committed to respect and support partner country-led efforts to agree a better division of labour between donors in-country and to start a dialogue on international division of labour between countries. This will help to reduce the burden on governments of dealing with multiple donors and address the issue of countries that receive insufficient aid;

Donors will better communicate with partner governments about the aid they can expect over the next three-five years, helping governments to plan more effectively.

Donors will improve the way they deliver aid in 'fragile states', including those suffering from conflict. They agreed ways to use aid better to support state-building and peace building.

The full text of the Accra Agenda for Action is available through:

http://www.accrahlf.net/.

Also at Accra, 14 donors endorsed the new UK-led International Aid Transparency Initiative to help ensure that information on aid flows is available to everyone. It will enable partner Governments and their citizens—those who ultimately benefit from aid—to plan for and make the best use of aid. It will also help citizens hold donors and governments to account for their promises.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to the *(a)* Clean Technology Fund, *(b)* Strategic Climate Fund and *(c)* the DfID/Defra Environmental Transformation Fund to date; and what projects and initiatives have had allocations from each of those funds to date. [223558]

Mr. Thomas: In the 2007 Budget, HM Treasury allocated £800 million to the Environment Transformation Fund International Window (ETF-IW), which is shared equally between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The full £800 million will be used to capitalise the new Climate Investment Funds administered by the World Bank—the UK contribution will be made via the Strategic Climate Fund. Ministers have agreed that roughly two thirds will be allocated to mitigation (forestry and clean technology) and one third to adaptation.

To date, £50 million has been committed to the Congo Basin Fund and £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund. These allocations will be made via the Strategic Climate Fund. A £50 million allocation to China will be made via the Clean Technology Fund.

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNDFW); at what cost in 2008-09; and what UNDFW programmes his Department's staff have been working on. [220377]

Gillian Merron: Since 2004-05 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided financial support to UNDFW (or UNIFEM as it is also known) amounting to £14 million. During 2008-09 we will provide £3 million given as core funding and £725,000 to supporting women's engagement in peace building and preventing sexual violence in conflicts in six countries. Core funding supports the delivery of UNIFEM's overall strategic plan and, hence, the full range of UNIFEM's activities.

United Nations: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the £307 million provided by his Department through central contributions to the UN agencies was distributed in *(a)* 2002-03 and *(b)* 2003 to 2007. [217040]

Mr. Thomas: During the period 2002-03 to 2006-07, the Department for International Development provided the following central contributions to UN agencies.

UN agency	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*£000 2006-07*
Food and Agriculture Organisation	12,018	12,399	13,408	9,132	13,700
International Fund for Agricultural Development	3,000	5,299	7,899	12,130	4,686
International Labour Organisation	1,518	4,447	4,816	3,446	3,106
Office for the Co-ordination of Human Affairs	3413	4,507	4,511	47,500	53,745
United Agency for Palestinian Refugees	18,807	23,646	17,229	14,985	15,015
UNAIDS	3,052	3,000	8,069	16,002	10,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	19,366	18,303	22,221	31,928	24,712
UN Development Programme(UNDP)	44,934	42,791	43,039	52,768	52,919
UNESCO	13,293	11,440	10,841	11,765	549
UN High Commission for Refugees	14,432	14,484	19,916	20,193	20,040
UN Industrial Development Organisation	3,560	3,846	3,844	4,783	4,351
UN Population Fund	9,000	18,100	20,038	30,000	25,000
World Food Programme	8	1415	2,566	5,053	2,780
World Health Organisation	34,135	33,777	30,039	45,141	59,045
Other UN Agencies	4,115	5,885	5,985	7,203	18,305
Total	184,651	203,339	214,421	312,029	307,953

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with Zimbabwean authorities on the provision of humanitarian assistance to that country. [223481]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Providing humanitarian assistance in Zimbabwe has been extremely challenging in recent months due to Mugabe's callous suspension of most relief operations. Department for International Development (DFID) officials have been working closely with the UN, EC and NGOs, in Zimbabwe and internationally, to lobby for an immediate resumption of all humanitarian activities, including food aid for up to 2 million Zimbabweans. As a result of these efforts, the Zimbabwean Government have finally allowed humanitarian agencies to resume their essential support. We are now closely monitoring the situation on the ground to assess humanitarian needs and ensure our partners can access the most vulnerable Zimbabweans.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department has based in Afghanistan, other than those engaged locally; and how many of those hold a qualification in Dari or Pashto. [215289]

David Miliband: The UK employs a broad range of staff in support of the Government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. More than 100 civilian staff in Kabul and more than 40 staff in Helmand are employed from across the Government, including the Stabilisation Unit, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit. Their roles include work in governance, stabilisation, reconstruction and development, security sector reform and counter narcotics.

As at July 2008, seven members of staff from the FCO had qualifications in Dari or Pashto and a further seven members of staff were studying the languages.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many pictures of Afghan poppy fields have been taken by the Surveillance, Monitoring, Targeting and Verification project in each year of its operation; how many of these pictures have been used by the Afghan authorities in the fight against narcotics in each year; and if he will make a statement. [220207]

David Miliband: The contract for the Survey, Monitoring, Targeting and Verification (SMTV) Project was signed in September 2006. Since its establishment, SMTV has delivered timely and accurate data on poppy cultivation and eradication in Afghanistan for use by HMG to support the Government of Afghanistan's implementation of their National Drug Control Strategy.

No digital aerial photographs or satellite images were taken during the period of September 2006 to December 2006 as the poppy harvest period was over. In 2007, 12,500 digital aerial photographs and 43 satellite images were taken. In 2008, 135 satellite images were taken. These photographs and images were used to measure poppy cultivation and to target and measure eradication. This data was used by the UK, in concert with the

Government of Afghanistan and key international partners, to formulate policy and monitor progress on counter narcotics in Afghanistan.

Afghan authorities in the Ministry of Counter Narcotics have used map products produced from the photographs. In addition, some photos and images have been used in training programmes for Afghan nationals.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff the British Embassy Drug Team (BEDT) in Afghanistan has; and how often BEDT has met Afghan counter-narcotics officials in the last 12 months. [220283]

David Miliband: At present, there are eight staff working in the counter-narcotics team in Kabul (formerly known as the British Embassy Drugs Team) and two working in the counter-narcotics team in Lashkar Gar. However, both teams work closely with a number of other Government organisations, including the Serious Organised Crime Agency, HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence, as well as a number of consultancy experts who work, in varying degrees, on counter-narcotics.

At least one member of the counter-narcotics team, and often more, meet Afghan counter-narcotics officials daily. This includes meetings with Ministers in the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics at least once a week.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in establishing and maintaining the British Embassy Drug Team in Afghanistan since its establishment. [220284]

David Miliband: The British Embassy Drugs Team was formed in 2003 as part of the established British embassy in Kabul. The salary expenditure incurred in maintaining the British Embassy Drugs Team in Afghanistan is shown below for each financial year since 2003:

Financial year	*Number of staff (not all staff were present for the full year)*	*Total of salaries paid (based on average salaries, excluding personal allowances) (£)*
2007-08	10	294,155
2006-07	10	362,031
2005-06	8	286,761
2004-05	7	257,937
2003-04	7	256,176

These figures do not include the embassy's overhead costs, such as accommodation, security/close protection and administration. These are pooled for the Government's overall efforts in Afghanistan.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in establishing and maintaining the Surveillance, Monitoring, Targeting and Verification project since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [220285]

David Miliband: The Survey, Monitoring, Targeting and Verification Project commenced in September 2006. Since then the Government have paid £5,903,990 towards the provision of timely and accurate data on poppy cultivation and eradication in support of the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department used to determine its support for the nomination of General Khodaidad to the post of Minister of Counter-Narcotics in the government of Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [220290]

David Miliband: The decision on the appointment of General Khodaidad as Minister of Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan was made by the President of Afghanistan in 2007. The UK played no part in this appointment.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects his Department sponsors as part of its counter-narcotics programme; what the objectives of each such project are; and how much funding his Department has provided for each such project in the last five years. [220291]

David Miliband: The UK has funded more than 500 counter-narcotics projects across the world, including capacity building for anti-narcotics forces in a number of partner countries and strengthening their law enforcement agencies' investigative skills. This also includes an integrated counter-narcotics programme in Afghanistan focussing on: interdiction and enforcement; justice; elimination; counter-narcotics governance; livelihoods and growth; regional activities; and Helmand counter-narcotics work. In total, the UK has spent £159.8 million on our counter-narcotics programme from 2004-08. A further £39.7 million has been earmarked for the current financial year 2008-09.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the Government's counter-narcotics strategy for Afghanistan together with the names of its authors and significant contributors. [220292]

David Miliband: The UK's policy is to support the Government of Afghanistan's National Drugs Control Strategy. Our strategy is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf18/fco_nationaldrugcontrolstrategy.

It was produced by the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit, which comprises staff from a variety of Whitehall Government Departments, including the FCO, the Department for International Development, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what publicity strategy his Department adopted in respect of the recent deployment of British police officers to Kabul. [219620]

Dr. Howells: The UK has a comprehensive communications strategy for Afghanistan, including our support for building the rule of law. We have offered

several broadcasters and newspapers the opportunity to interview UK police mentors in Kabul and Helmand. We intend to organise press briefings to provide further detail about recently deployed UK police, taking into account the security of the officers concerned.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to consult the relevant Select Committees of the House on any future deployment of British police officers to Kabul; and if he will make a statement. [220319]

Dr. Howells: There are no plans to make it our policy to consult Select Committees on any future deployment of British police officers to Kabul. The International Development Committee was briefed on the EU Police Mission (EUPOL) in Afghanistan on 17 January 2008. The Government deposits Explanatory Memoranda on EUPOL's legal documents at the relevant times with the House of Commons Parliamentary European Select Committee.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK has contributed to the costs of deployment of British police officers in EUPOL Afghanistan. [220327]

Dr. Howells: In addition to our assessed contribution of £5,490,370 (financial year 200-08), the UK meets all personnel-related costs of seconding British officers to the EU Police mission in Afghanistan. As at July 2008, this amounted to a spend of £959,000 on seconded personnel.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU police mission in Afghanistan; which states are contributing to the mission; and how much each state is contributing. [221338]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* As at July 2008, the EU Police Mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL) was making steady progress towards full deployment and had a presence in 14 provinces. The Mission is developing important working relationships with the US police teaming programme. Personnel from EUPOL are also working with the International Policing Co-ordination Board to develop a shared vision for the role of the Afghan police and with the US to strengthen the capability of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, both of which will be key to the success of police reform. In recognition of the importance of EUPOL and the role it plays in police reform in Afghanistan, the Government supported the ambition to significantly increase the size of the mission as agreed in May 2008. As at July, 18 states were seconding personnel to EUPOL. This breaks down as follows:

	Number
Canada	11
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	8
Estonia	1
Finland	9
France	4
Germany	34
Hungary	3
Italy	17
Lithuania	3
Netherlands	5
Norway	2
Poland	3
Romania	3
Spain	11
Sweden	8
UK	10

Contributing states meet all personnel costs for seconded staff bilaterally and therefore we do not hold information on these costs.

Afghanistan: Police

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing the Afghan national police; and if he will make a statement. [221339]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* At 28 March 2008, according to figures provided by the US, total strength of the Afghan police was approximately 78,000 personnel and the force was deployed in every province in Afghanistan.

The International Policing Coordination Board (IPCB) is working to develop a vision for the Afghan police that will define its future role in both law enforcement and counter insurgency operations. The IPCB includes representatives from the Afghan Ministry of Interior, the US and the EU and other actors. The US is pursuing a police reform programme called Focused District Development which provides equipment, training and mentoring in law enforcement techniques to police officers at the tactical level. The EU, through the European Policing mission to Afghanistan, provides framing and mentoring for the Afghan police at the strategic and regional levels.

The Afghan police play a vital role in the counter insurgency campaign and regularly support the Afghan national army on operations.

While the force suffers from major problems such as low levels of literacy and corruption, its performance is improving.

China: Earthquakes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Tibetans (i) killed and (ii) injured in the recent earthquake whose epicentre was on the borders of the Tibetan Ngaba Autonomous Prefecture. [220371]

Meg Munn: At the time, official Chinese estimates of the number of fatalities, as a result of the earthquake in Sichuan Province, was 69,197. The Chinese estimate for injuries was 374,176 and 18,340 estimated missing. We do not have figures broken down by ethnic group.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the relief effort with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on 12 June. The Government provided around £2.55 million at the time in assistance as well as sending a medical team to participate in the relief effort.

China: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese Government to ensure that it uses the name Taiwan, in Chinese, Chinese Taipei, instead of Taipei, China, and that English and Chinese versions used are the same. [221424]

Meg Munn: This is a matter for the International Olympic Committee (IOC). But the name used by Taiwan in international sporting events has been agreed by the IOC, Taiwan and China and we would expect all parties involved to abide by this agreement. The Chinese authorities have stated that the form "Chinese Taipei", and the agreed equivalent in Chinese, will be used in all official venues and in official correspondence, as required.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from other Commonwealth countries on his decision to withdraw from the Commonwealth Scholarship Fund. [221415]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Canadian Government expressed regret at the decision and asked us to reconsider it. We have explained the steps we are taking to identify additional funding for scholarships for Canada, in addition to the existing allocation of Chevening scholarships, once we stop funding new awards through the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan after the 2008-09 academic year. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations from other Commonwealth Governments.

The Government's overall contribution to Commonwealth scholarships will increase over the next three years—from £16.9 million in 2007-08 to £17.9 million in 2008-09; about £18 million in 2009-10; and over £17.5 million in 2010-11—because the Department for International Development is increasing its contribution for scholars from developing Commonwealth countries.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Diplomatic Service

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations to seek to ensure that the salary arrears of former diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who are now British citizens are paid by the Government of the DRC. [220595]

Meg Munn: We have raised the issue of the payment of outstanding debts, including salary arrears, owed by the embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on a number of occasions and will continue to press the embassy to settle them. We have been advised by the embassy that the issue of salaries owed to former diplomats at the embassy should be pursued by the former diplomats themselves directly with the Government of the DRC.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219600]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hoon) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1638W. Government Hospitality is part of the Protocol directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and, as such, is subjected to the same monitoring procedures as other Departments.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219953]

Meg Munn: Government Hospitality in Protocol directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), is advised in its wine purchasing by the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW). The GHACPW offers advice according to the requirements of the Government cellar, wine market prices, the availability of individual wines and vintages and their quality. The level of expenditure on wines and spirits is the responsibility of the Head of Government Hospitality. The GHACPW offers its advice based on 'blind' tastings of samples acquired from a range of British wine merchants.

The GHACPW does not provide advice on expenditure for the purchase of wine for other hospitality carried out by the FCO.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217868]

Meg Munn: The instruction to leave personal computers switched on, referred to in my reply to the hon. Member on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 665-66W, applies to all Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff. There are approximately 12,000 personal computers in use in FCO offices around the world. Allowing for exceptions and shared use by shift workers, an estimate of 10,000 machines left on overnight is reasonable, but untested.

In 2007 power consumption tests based on the range of personal computers then in use suggested an average of 80 watts for each personal computer—(assuming 14 idle hours per day for each of the 10,000 personal computers gives an overall estimate of approximately four million kilowatts per hour per annum). This cannot readily be converted to a cash equivalent, as different tariffs apply in the countries around the world in which the FCO is represented. This level of consumption

would have been broadly constant during the past five years. It has been our assessment that the risk of lost productivity and the risk to national security that this policy avoids outweighed its cost.

As explained in my earlier answer, the consumption is expected to fall substantially as old equipment is replaced. To date, approximately 3,500 new machines have been installed in offices in the UK. Under current plans all 12,000 machines worldwide should have been replaced by 2009. In addition to this, we will be applying global policies to ensure a reduction in power consumption.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211767]

Meg Munn: Records for how many chairs, desks and other office furnishings purchased by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies are not held centrally. It would not be possible to obtain this information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221179]

Meg Munn: The amount claimed in reimbursable expenses (travel, accommodation and official entertainment) by staff working in the press office at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

	£
2005-06	11,738
2006-07	5,832
2007-08	11,616

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221481]

Meg Munn: Mail charges are checked monthly by managers of departments. These details are forwarded to the appropriate finance management unit who monitor usage.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221351]

David Miliband: As part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Strategy Refresh, we invited members of the public to contribute their views on "three big questions": where should the UK concentrate its global effort; where are we most needed; and where can we most effect change. The replies to these questions, and other stakeholders' views, were fed into the deliberations of the FCO's Strategy Refresh exercise.

Engaging with stakeholders is an important part of FCO policy formulation and delivery and we are developing new methods of enhancing dialogue with the public in the UK and overseas.

We also use our FCO web platform

www.fco.gov.uk

to seek views from the public, for example on new forced marriage guidelines, on next year's human rights report and on the FCO's Engagement publication. In addition our web log (blog), available at

http://blogs.fco.gov.uk

offers an ongoing chance for members of the public to contribute to our thinking, sending their comments directly to the official or Minister responsible for the policy. All of these exercises are run using FCO resources.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221379]

David Miliband: I launched a refresh of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's strategy on 19 July 2007 in my speech at Chatham House. This was not a formal review but an exercise undertaken internally, drawing on input from the general public and key stakeholders. The input from these groups did not constitute a formal consultation but a listening exercise (my answer to written parliamentary question 221351 refers). I announced the outcome of the strategy review to the House on 23 January 2008.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218063]

Meg Munn: Research in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is primarily undertaken by FCO research analysts, who provide analysis and advice to Departments. The proportion of the FCO's budget spent on research analysts for the last four financial years is shown as follows:

	Percentage of the FCO budget
2004-05	0.002
2005-06	0.002
2006-07	0.002
2007-08	0.002

Data for years preceding 2004-05 is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Research is also conducted by individual directorates, Departments and posts and funded from devolved budgets. Information relating to the proportion of these budgets used for research is not held centrally and can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221608]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has regular contacts with think tanks and charities and often works with them to deliver our objectives. The specific information requested is not held centrally and to gather it would incur disproportionate costs. However, figures for the total project spend on each of the Departmental Strategic Objectives are freely available in the FCO's Annual Report (pages 118-140).

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218723]

Meg Munn: Thirty-nine UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO services have had two or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years up to 31 July 2008. This represents 0.7 per cent. of the FCO's UK-based work force.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218967]

Meg Munn: In the period 1 January 2005 to 31 July 2008, 45 UK civil servants (0.75 per cent. of UK-based staff) employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) or FCO services had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of these years.

The FCO does not hold records of sickness absence before 1 January 2005.

We monitor sickness absence closely. Long periods of sick leave trigger a reduction in pay (of 50 per cent.) and eventually loss of salary altogether.

Developing Countries: Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department provides to charitable organisations on the direction of their operations in third-world countries. [220699]

Meg Munn: Our diplomatic missions regularly provide specific advice to charitable organisations wishing to work in their host countries. We are most commonly consulted for general travel and security advice but also regularly advise on the general political conditions, including the most efficient and effective means of delivering aid to the country. Beyond this, we would also encourage non-governmental organisations to carry out their own independent checks in line with industry best practice.

This advice would normally be delivered by the Department for International Development, but where they are not represented, this role is played by our embassy or high commission. More general information is also accessible through our website on a range of issues that may affect them, including travel advice, political structure, security environment and economic conditions.

Non-governmental organisations are, of course, not obliged to seek this advice or to stay in close contact with our embassy or high commission and some choose not to do so. Although we maintain a good relationship with non-governmental organisations overseas, we are careful to respect their independence and are not in a position to dictate the way in which they deliver their aid.

Where projects are funded or part funded by the Government, however, we have considerable say in how aid is directed. In some cases the Government use non-governmental organisations as conduits for essential UK aid, particularly in countries where we lack confidence in the host Government's ability or willingness to distribute aid to the most needy. It is, in general, difficult for host Governments to divert aid administered through non-governmental organisations for political or military purposes.

Diego Garcia: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 932-33W, on Diego Garcia: detainees, what investigation his Department has carried out into the allegations relating to the USS Bataan and the USNS Stockholm. [220879]

Dr. Howells: Pursuant to my answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 932-33W, during the course of our most recent exchanges, the US have confirmed to us that they have not held any detainees on ships within the territorial waters of Diego Garcia since 11 September 2001. They have also informed us that they do not operate detention facilities for terrorist suspects onboard ships. US naval vessels were used in the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan to screen and temporarily hold a very small number of individuals pending their transfer to land-based detention facilities. The US has informed us that these ships were not located within the territorial waters of Diego Garcia. We are not aware of any of these ships being supplied from the island.

In a matter unrelated to terrorist suspects, the US have informed us that they apprehended pirates on ships in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa and that

these individuals were detained on US Naval vessels pending their delivery to the land of a nation with jurisdiction to try them.

Diplomatic Service: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of British ambassadors and high commissioners were educated at *(a)* a private school, *(b)* a state school, *(c)* the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and *(d)* other universities. [218988]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this data as a matter of course on its employees. The data have been collected in order to answer this question. As at July 2008, two Heads of Mission posts were vacant.

Educational background of serving Heads of Mission and Governors (by school)

School	*Total*	*Percentage*
Private	82	52
State	54	35
Data unavailable	19	12
Vacant	2	1

Educational background of serving Heads of Mission and Governors (by university)

University	*Total*	*Percentage*
Oxford and Cambridge	83	53
Other universities	41	26
Did not attend university	11	12
Data unavailable	20	8
Vacant	2	1

France: Embassies

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of maintaining the Embassy in Paris was in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [218637]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total cost of maintaining our embassy buildings in Paris between 2005 and 2007 was:

	£
2005-06	708,678
2006-07	819,002
2007-08	804,445

These figures relate to the cost of maintaining our embassy, consulate and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development offices in Paris. Our embassy in Paris also undertook essential fire safety work in 2007-08 at a one-off cost of £231,000.

Gaza: Energy

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the EU has provided to Israel for fuel and electricity for Gaza in the last 12 months; and whether such payments are made in advance of delivery. [220242]

Dr. Howells: The EU provided €89.5 million in fuel to the Gaza power station over the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. This funding was provided by the European Commission. All payments were made after the delivery of the fuel took place.

Iceland: Whales

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the issue of whaling was raised during his meeting with the Icelandic Foreign Minister on 12 May; and if he will make a statement. [220034]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Murphy), gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 436W.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government have made to the Icelandic Government on the possible resumption of whaling in Iceland. [220035]

Meg Munn: When my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met with Icelandic Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde on 24 April, he raised the whaling issue and explained our view that the whaling industry was doing significant damage to Iceland's international reputation. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also pointed to the significant economic and social benefits from Iceland's growing whale-watching industry and expressed the view that any decision to recommence whaling could seriously undermine those benefits.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, (Mr. Murphy) gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 436W. As the Minister for Europe's response made clear, he raised whaling with the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Gísladóttir on 12 May.

On 25 June, our ambassador to Iceland published an article in the Icelandic press entitled 'What on earth is the point to whaling'. Although written from a personal view, the article makes clear the UK position on whaling: we strongly support the International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling and oppose all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes, to meet a defined and substantiated need. The article also makes clear the UK's position that neither a domestic nor international market exists for Icelandic whaling products.

Our new ambassador to Iceland also raised the whaling issue with the Prime Minister of Iceland at their meeting on 14 July.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 147-8W, on Iran (nuclear programme), what the evidential basis is for his statement that sanctions are having an effect on the Iranian economy; and what effect such sanctions are having. [217392]

David Miliband: There is much anecdotal evidence from sources inside Iran that the financial measures, including asset freezes imposed by UN Security Council resolutions and reinforced by the EU, have affected the Iranian business community's ability to function effectively in some areas. They have disrupted the international operations of a number of Iranian companies and those Iranian banks named in the sanctions. According to our sources, restrictions on dual use goods have led to difficulties in sourcing spare parts in the Iranian power sector.

Sanctions have also partly contributed to a slowdown in inward foreign investment in the Iranian oil and gas sector. There is now a growing debate inside Iran about the Iranian Government's policies, including on economic management. Internal discontent about the Iranian economy is increasing in the light of accelerating inflation rates (approximately 26 per cent. as at August 2008), unemployment and frequent power cuts. We believe further measures on Iran must remain part of the current twin track diplomatic approach to persuade the Iranian regime that its continued defiance of UN Security Council resolutions will not be cost free.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which members of the Iranian government *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have met in the last year; and where each meeting took place. [220653]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had three meetings with his Iranian counterpart, Manouchehr Mottaki, in the last year—in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2007, in the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos on 26 January 2008 and in the margins of the Iraq Neighbours Conference in Kuwait on 22 April 2008. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also spoke to Foreign Minister Mottaki by telephone on 26 February 2008. I have also met the Iranian Foreign Minister in the margins of various conferences and meet with the Iranian ambassador occasionally.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the efforts of Brigadier-General Mohammed Reza Naqdi to get round UN sanctions on Iran were, as referred to in Annex 1 of UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008). [217316]

David Miliband: Brigadier General Mohammed Reza Naqdi was sanctioned for his role as the head of state anti-smuggling headquarters, engaged in efforts to get round the sanctions imposed by UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747. *Iran Daily* quoted Naqdi on 23 April 2007 as saying,

"after the new round of pressures (that is, sanctions) on Iran we have decided to provide all needs by ourselves and kill the enemy's slightest hope of achieving its goals. We are going to take advantage of these opportunities against embargoes".

The Islamic Republic News Agency noted on 22 September 2007 that Naqdi admitted Iran exported arms without specifying the target destination, saying

"no seller unveils his customer".

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the applications to enter the UK from the group of Iraqi interpreters, who arrived in Amman, Jordan on 21 April 2008, will be decided before their Jordanian visas expire on 20 July; and if he will make a statement. [219689]

Dr. Howells: Five former interpreters and their families who moved to Amman on 21 April have now arrived in the UK. The other cases are being processed as quickly as possible but clearance procedures have not yet been completed. We are working to secure assurances that the individuals will be granted permission to remain in Jordan until the processing of their cases is completed. The Government will reimburse the cost of extending their visas.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on Iraq: asylum, how many of the 422 applications received by the UK Border Agency from Iraqi nationals under the Gateway Protection Programme have been approved. [219739]

Dr. Howells: Applications received from former locally engaged staff for assistance under the Gateway Programme are being processed as quickly as possible. As at July 2008, applications from thirteen former staff and their families had been approved.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on Iraq: asylum, against which criterion of the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme the most applications from former Iraqi staff have been rejected. [219740]

Dr. Howells: Not having completed 12 months employment as locally engaged (LE) members of staff was the most common reason why former LE staff who had applied for assistance were subsequently assessed as being ineligible.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on Iraq: asylum, how many applications for assistance under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have been received from *(a)* Jordan, *(b)* Syria, *(c)* the United Arab Emirates, *(d)* Bahrain, *(e)* Kuwait, *(f)* Lebanon, *(g)* Canada, *(h)* Thailand, *(i)* Germany, *(j)* Denmark, *(k)* Sweden, *(l)* India and *(m)* the United Kingdom; and how many applications from each country have been approved. [219743]

Dr. Howells: The number of applications received from each of the countries, together with the number approved for assistance, is as follows:

	Total	Approved	Number Rejected
Jordan	4	2	2
Syria	28	13	15
United Arab Emirates	5	4	1
Bahrain	1	0	1
Kuwait	2	1	1
Lebanon	1	0	1
Canada	3	1	2
Thailand	1	0	1
Germany	1	0	1
Denmark	6	3	3
Sweden	4	2	2
India	1	1	0
UK	4	2	2

We have also received applications from the following:

	Total	Approved	Number Rejected
Netherlands	1	1	0
Malaysia	1	0	1
Ukraine	1	1	0
USA	4	3	[1]1
Turkey	1	0	1
Australia	1	1	0

[1] Decision pending

Israel: EU External Relations

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are used to determine whether Israeli representation is relevant in particular working groups established by the EU-Israel Association Council; and in which working groups such representation is considered relevant. [220236]

Dr. Howells: Under the auspices of the EU/Israel Association Council, on 16 June, a broad range of areas for closer engagement was identified, as set out in the Association Council statement. Israel will be represented in working groups in the areas established by the Association Council.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what stage in its development he expects hon. Members to have the opportunity to scrutinise the next European Neighbourhood Action Plan regarding the EU-Israel Association Council; and if he will take steps to ensure that such an opportunity is provided before the action plan is agreed at EU level. [220245]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The current EU-Israel Action Plan has been rolled over for a further year. The EU/Israel Association Council will seek to agree a successor to this action plan in early 2009.

The existing 12 European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) country action plans have been agreed between the European Commission and ENP partner countries and are reviewed periodically by the EU through the publication of EU country progress reports prepared by the Commission, most recently in April 2008.

Hon. Members scrutinise the overarching Association Agreements between the EU and partner countries, as these cover areas of mixed competence. As ENP action plans, which are neither legal texts nor international agreements, are drawn up by the Commission on the mandate given to them by the member states, hon. Members do not have the opportunity to scrutinise the plans, although the progress reports are subject to scrutiny.

Israel: EU Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which settlement products have benefited from the mutual trade concessions agreed between EU and Israel for agricultural products, processed agricultural products or fisheries. [220237]

Dr. Howells: It has been brought to our attention that goods from illegal Israeli settlements may be entering the UK under false pretences and without paying the correct customs duties. We have discussed this issue with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian General Delegation in London and non-governmental organisations. We take this issue seriously and have alerted HM Revenue and Customs to it so that it can take appropriate action.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which products from the Palestinian Territories exported through Israel have benefited from the mutual trade concessions agreed between the EU and Israel for agricultural products, processed agricultural products or fisheries. [220238]

Dr. Howells: Palestinian goods from the Palestinian Territories benefit from preferential customs arrangements through the EU-Palestinian Interim Association Agreement. However, obstacles to movement are such that virtually no produce has been imported in this way.

We take seriously reports that agricultural products produced on illegal settlements in the West Bank are exported via Israel with the goods documented as Israeli, so benefiting from the EU-Israel agreement.

Israel: Human Rights

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of proposals for an EU-Israel Association Council Sub-Committee on Human Rights; what agreement has been reached on its *(a)* constitution, *(b)* membership, *(c)* powers, *(d)* remit and *(e)* proposed frequency of meetings; whether external organisations will be permitted to provide evidence of alleged human rights abuses to the Sub-Committee; whether the proceedings of the Sub-Committee will be published; whether its findings on human rights abuses will be reported to the Association Council; and in what ways the Sub-Committee will differ from the informal Working Group on Human Rights. [220235]

Dr. Howells: The EU proposed to upgrade the current Human Rights working group into a formal political sub-committee at the EU-Israel Association Council of 16 June. There has been no formal response from Israel.

The exact structure, operating procedures and reporting policy require the agreement of both parties.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues were discussed at the EU-Israel Association Council's informal working group on human rights on 30 April 2008; what the outcomes of the meeting were; and whether the group recommended specific actions on the Government of Israel's part. [220240]

Dr. Howells: The informal working group on human rights, on 30 April, discussed a wide range of the EU's concerns with Israel's human rights record. To encourage a full and frank discussion of the issues, a public record of the meeting and its outcomes is not released.

Israel: Law

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of Israeli law with EU and international law in the areas of *(a)* torture and *(b)* the territorial boundaries of Israel in the context of the proposals made at the eighth meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council on EU-Israel relations. [220238]

Dr. Howells: The UK abides by its commitments under international law, including the UN Convention Against Torture, and expects all other countries to comply with their international obligations.

We have made it clear that we consider settlement building anywhere in the occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, as illegal under international law and that we are deeply concerned by recent announcements of plans and tenders for settlement building.

Israel: Overseas Students

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the 80 Israeli students who have received scholarships under the Erasmus Mundus exchange programme, how many were of *(a)* Jewish, *(b)* Arab and *(c)* Druze ethnicity; and how many were from institutions wholly or partly located in settlements in (i) East Jerusalem and (ii) the West Bank. [220239]

Dr. Howells: The Erasmus Mundus exchange programme is a scheme run by the European Commission. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold any information on the participants in this programme.

Kosovo

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's budget is for expenditure in Kosovo on *(a)* embassy staff and other operational costs, *(b)* support for the British Council, *(c)* technical assistance to the (i) government of Kosovo and (ii) non-governmental organisations working in Kosovo, *(d)* budgetary support for (A) the government of Kosovo and (B) non-governmental bodies working in Kosovo, *(e)* support for (1) UNMIK, (2) EULEX, (3) ICO, (4) OSCE and (5) other international bodies and *(f)* other costs in the 2008-09 financial year. [219648]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) budget for expenditure is £1.1 million on embassy staff and other operational costs and around £200,000 on support for the British Council in the 2008-09 financial year. Technical assistance to the Kosovo Government is provided through a combination of FCO bilateral funding, project activities under the joint FCO/Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence Conflict Prevention Pool and the FCO's Strategic Programme Fund. The total budgets for expenditure for these three funds in the 2008-09 financial year are: £76,000; up to £3.8 million; and £110,000 respectively. Our work with non-governmental organisations in Kosovo is also funded from the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Strategic Programme Fund. The FCO does not provide budgetary support for the government of Kosovo and non-governmental bodies working in Kosovo.

The UN Mission in Kosovo's approved budget for the 2008-09 financial year is US$198 million, of which the UK's contribution is 7.9 per cent. or US$14.8 million (around £7.4 million). The EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo's (EULEX) approved commitment appropriation for calendar year 2008 is €140 million, of which the UK's contribution is 17 per cent. or €23.8 million (around £18.9 million). The actual amount spent on EULEX in 2008-09 will not be known until the end of the financial year. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission in Kosovo's (OMIK) approved budget for calendar year 2008 is just over €30 million, of which the UK's contribution is 11.09 per cent. or €3.3 million (around £2.6 million). The budget for calendar year 2009 is yet to be approved but in UK financial year 2007-08, the UK contribution to OMIK was €3.7 million. We would not expect this level to be exceeded in 2008-09.

We have provisionally budgeted for a total of 76 UK secondees to EULEX in 2008-09 at an estimated cost of £5.3 million and for a total of five UK secondees to the International Civilian Organisation at an estimated cost of £377,000. We have one UK secondee to OMIK at a cost of around £70,000 per annum.

Kosovo: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials are based at the UK Embassy in Kosovo; to which departments they are attached; and whether there are any posts unfilled. [219649]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Eleven UK-based officials are posted to our embassy in Pristina. All are Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff. There are currently no posts unfilled.

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas the government of the Republic of Kosovo has requested assistance from his Department in the last 12 months. [219656]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are in regular contact with the government of Kosovo, both bilaterally through our embassy in Pristina and in appropriate multilateral

forums. We have provided extensive advice and assistance on a range of issues over the last 12 months including in areas such as Government accountability, international co-operation and co-ordination, rule of law, stability and conflict prevention, and jobs and growth. We continue to support the Government of Kosovo they build the strong institutions it will need to achieve the stability and prosperity all her people deserve.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British personnel are seconded to or otherwise engaged with *(a)* UNMIK, *(b)* EULEX, *(c)* ICO and *(d)* each other international body in Kosovo; and what role each is undertaking. [219653]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As of July 2008,46 UK police officers were serving with the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). 24 contracted UK staff members were serving with UNMTK and performing the following roles:

2 international prosecutors;
senior legal officer;
legal officer;
court recorder;
Head of the Penal Management Division;
senior Civil Affairs officer;
2 Civil Affairs officers;
Chief telecommunications engineer;
Political Affairs officer;
Operations officer;
Public Information officer;
Outreach officer;
Five security officers;
Interpreter / Translator;
Chief of Administrative Services;
Acting Chief;
Support officer; and
Secretary.

27 UK police officers will transfer from UNMIK to the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) where they will be joined by another six officers. As at July 2008,

there were 18 seconded and 33 contracted UK staff members serving with EULEX.

The seconded staff had the following roles:

Deputy Head of EULEX;
Chief Reporting officer;
Anti-Corruption expert;
Security, Economic Management / Penal Administration expert;
Customs Law Enforcement advisor;
Senior Security Information analyst;
Police Liaison officer (Brussels-based);
Legal Advisor, Legal Policy and Legislation Unit;
Criminal Judge, District Court;
Legal officer, District Court;
3 Court recorders;
Deputy Chief Programme manager;
Programme manager;
Public Outreach officer;
Policy officer; and
International secretary to the Head of EULEX.

We do not hold details of the roles performed by contracted UK staff.

There were three seconded and one contracted UK staff members serving with the International Civilian Office (ICO) and performing the roles below at the time:

Head of the ICO's Mitrovica office;
Head of the Press and Public Affairs Division;
EU Co-ordinator and Political Adviser to the EU Special Representative (Brussels-based); and
Human Resources officer.

As of July 2008, there was one seconded UK staff member serving with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) as Head of the Regional Centre to OMIK in Mitrovica.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the legal basis is of the *(a)* UNMIK, *(b)* EULEX and (c) ICO missions in Kosovo; and how long each lasts. [219654]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 (1999) authorises the UN Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant international organisations, to establish an international civilian presence in Kosovo and authorises that presence to maintain civil law and order, including through the deployment of international police personnel. The UN Mission in Kososvo (UNMIK) continues to operate under this legal basis. The provisions of UNSCR 1244 (1999) remain in place until the Security Council decides otherwise.

The EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) has deployed to Kosovo in response to an invitation from the Government in Kosovo for a police and rule of law mission in accordance with the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. EULEX is established under Title V of the Treaty on European Union. In co-operation with UNMIK, EULEX will take on part of the role envisaged in UNSCR 1244 (1999) for the international civilian presence and it accordingly also draws upon the authority of that resolution. The European Council's Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP of 4 February 2008, which established EULEX, states that the European Council shall evaluate, not later than six months after the start of the operational phase, whether EULEX should be extended.

The International Civilian Office (ICO) operates on the basis of an invitation from the Government of Kosovo in accordance with the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. The Proposal provides for a review of the ICO's operations after two years.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy objectives are for its engagement with the Republic of Kosovo. [219655]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overall policy objective is a stable, prosperous, multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo committed to the rule of law, which has implemented the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal and is making progress towards the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Kosovo: Recognition of States

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many countries have recognised the Republic of Kosovo; and what steps he is taking to assist the Government of Kosovo to increase the number. [219650]

Mr. Jim Murphy: At the time of writing 43 countries have recognised the Republic of Kosovo, including 20 in the EU and seven of the Group of Eight leading industrialised nations (G8). The UK is taking opportunities as they arise in bilateral discussions and multilateral forums, working closely with like-minded international partners and alongside the Government of Kosovo, to encourage further recognition.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget allocation his Department has made for language training for its staff in 2008-09. [215288]

David Miliband: The budget allocation for language training for staff in 2008-09 is £4,030,000.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 924-5W, on languages, how many of those employed by his Department, other than those engaged locally, have *(a)* received training and *(b)* held a qualification in Dari or Pashto; and if he will make a statement. [215292]

David Miliband: Since April 2005, 34 members of staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have received language training in Dari or Pashto. As at July 2008, seven FCO staff were receiving language training in Dari or Pashto. This covers all job slots currently identified as requiring the need to speak Dari or Pashto. All other staff use locally engaged translators when required.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 924-5W, on languages, how many of those employed by his Department, other than those engaged locally, are receiving language training in *(a)* Arabic, *(b)* Farsi, *(c)* Dari or Pashto, *(d)* Mandarin, *(e)* Swahili and *(f)* Japanese. [215293]

David Miliband: The following table shows the total number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff receiving language training in June 2008 in the specified languages:

Language	*Number of staff receiving language training*
Arabic	31
Farsi	8
Dari or Pashto	7
Mandarin	16
Swahili	2
Japanese	10

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to assist the peace process between Israel and Palestine; and what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli and Palestinian Governments on the matter. [220628]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The UK provides strong political support to the peace process urging both sides to negotiate towards a two-state solution and to put a stop to their actions which undermine it. In particular, we urge the parties to address the restrictions that Israel imposes on the movement and access of Palestinians and the ongoing violent attacks perpetrated by Palestinian militants against Israel.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have visited the region recently and we are in frequent contact with both authorities in order to do what we can to encourage a robust peace resolution.

We also provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority to develop their governance structures, economy and security efforts. A viable economy and a reliable security force are the integral foundations of any future Palestinian state.

Nigeria: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made proposals for the instigation of peace talks in the Niger Delta in Nigeria; and what representations he has received from human rights organisations on this matter. [221456]

Meg Munn: The Government stand ready to support the Government of Nigeria in their peace initiatives for the Niger Delta region. In a meeting with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July, President Yar'Adua confirmed his commitment to a peace process that will address the need for reconciliation between all parties and deliver improved development across the region. Addressing the underlying causes of the crisis in the Niger Delta, namely poor governance, instability and underdevelopment, will be vital to the success of the peace process. The UK encourages the Nigerian Government to address the situation in the Niger Delta as a priority and urges all parties to engage in peaceful dialogue towards the resolution of the crisis.

Officials from our high commission in Abuja regularly talk to Nigerian and international human rights organisations on a range of topics including the Niger Delta. The UK keeps a close watch on human rights abuses in Nigeria and regularly raises specific issues with the Nigerian Government.

Nigeria: Oil

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of militant attacks in Nigeria on overall Nigerian oil output; and if he will make a statement. [220772]

Meg Munn: Following discussions with Nigerian authorities and oil companies, officials from our high commission in Abuja estimate that Nigerian short-term production capacity stands at 2.6 million barrels per day, with the potential to rise to 4 million barrels per day. However, production has recently dropped to approximately 1.5 million barrels per day. Not all of this shortfall can be attributed to security concerns. A proportion is due to under-investment by the Federal government in existing oil exploration and production projects. This shortfall in production has consequences for the international oil markets and for the Nigerian and global economies, particularly in the context of high oil prices.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met President Yar'Adua on 16 July in Downing street. In a joint-statement, he expressed his support of the Nigerian Government in their peace initiatives. He committed to working with the Government of Nigeria to identify training and advisory support which would help to improve the Nigerian capability to provide security in the Niger Delta and to support longer-term development measures.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following the EU's calls to freeze all settlement activity and dismantle outposts erected since March 2001, how many such outposts have been dismantled; what deadline was given to Israel for compliance; and what steps will be taken in circumstances of continued settlement growth. [220241]

Dr. Howells: The deadline, as set out in phase 1 of the Roadmap, to freeze all settlement activity was May 2003. We do not hold figures on the number of outposts that have been dismantled. The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza involved the removal of the Israeli settlements and outposts there, but settlements continue to expand in the West Bank. We have repeatedly called on all parties to meet their Roadmap obligations and support the Annapolis negotiations as the best opportunity to move towards a two-state solution.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of homes which have been built in settlements since the EU's initial call for a halt to Israeli settlement growth. [220243]

Dr. Howells: We do not keep a breakdown of the number of housing units which are built in settlements.

However, we are very concerned that there have been a number of new housing tenders issued for illegal Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank since the Annapolis Conference in November 2007. We continue to make clear to the Israeli Government that we view all Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as illegal under international law. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reiterated our policy on settlements when he addressed the Israeli Knesset on 21 July.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public statements he has made on Israeli settlement expansion since the Annapolis peace conference; and which of these related to settlement growth on the Golan Heights. [221700]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to make clear that all Israeli settlements in occupied territory are illegal under international law. On 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 140, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House that

> "I have made the Government's position clear from this Dispatch Box on many occasions: the requirement on all sides to live up to their Roadmap commitments does indeed apply to all sides. The Israeli commitment in respect of settlements needs to be honoured".

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spelt this out very clearly during his visit to the region and made clear, including in a speech to the Israeli Knesset on 21 July, that we want to see an immediate freeze of settlement activity and indeed withdrawal from them.

The Government support the resolution of the Golan Heights issue in the context of a peace deal between Syria and Israel. In this context, we are encouraged by reports of indirect talks between Syria and Israel. Syria still has more to do, however, to support the peace process, including ceasing its support for Palestinian terrorist groups.

Pakistan: Christianity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Pakistan on reports of the abduction of Christian women and their forced conversions to Islam. [221457]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns instances where individuals are persecuted or exploited because of their faith. With our EU partners, we raised our concerns over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan in July.

Rendition

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, on terrorist suspects (renditions), what status the two planes carrying the detainees had when they refuelled at the US facility in Diego Garcia. [215869]

David Miliband: As indicated in my written ministerial statement to the House on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 58-59WS, the US considers these to be intelligence flights.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, on terrorist suspects (renditions), what the *(a)* name, *(b)* nationality and *(c)* current status of each of the two detainees is. [215870]

David Miliband: As I set out in my statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, the US Government have told us that neither of the individuals was a British national or a British resident. They have informed us that one of the individuals is currently detained in Guantanamo Bay and that the other has been released.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, on terrorist suspects (renditions), whether there is an official log of the landing times and take-off times of the two planes carrying detainees. [215871]

David Miliband: Records on flight departures and arrivals on Diego Garcia are generally held for a period of between three and five years by the Island authorities for administration purposes. There are no flight records still held by the Island authorities that cover the period when the two cases of rendition occurred.

Saudi Arabia: Prisoners

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Saudi Arabia on the case of Muhammad Geloo, detained without charge in Saudi Arabia; what progress has been made in securing Mr. Geloo's release; what contacts British consular officials have had with Mr. Geloo during his detention; what reports on the case he has received from HM Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; what steps he has taken in response to reports that Mr. Geloo has been tortured during his detention; when he expects Mr. Geloo's case to be heard before a court; and if he will visit Saudi Arabia to discuss Mr. Geloo's case with the Saudi Government. [220877]

Dr. Howells: We have made regular representations to the Government of Saudi Arabia, including by our ambassador in Riyadh, regarding the fact that Mr. Geloo has been held without charge. We will continue to do so. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this case during his trip to Saudi Arabia on 22 April. The Saudi authorities have told us that they intend to charge Mr. Geloo and that they are operating within Saudi law. We do not know when Mr. Geloo's case is expected to be heard before a court.

We are in regular contact with Mr. Geloo and his family and are providing them with appropriate consular assistance.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's role in cases of British nationals detained overseas is one of welfare. We cannot comment on the veracity of any charges brought against British nationals overseas and we are unable to interfere in the judicial processes of another country. Our own processes are similarly protected. We take allegations about torture very seriously. With the individual's permission, we can take up any justified complaint about ill treatment, personal safety or discrimination with the authorities in question.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings his Department has held with Somali officials on the recent military attacks on the parliament town of Baidoa; and if he will make a statement. [220778]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not had contact with Somali officials specifically about the attacks on Baidoa.

The FCO is fully engaged with the Somali Transitional Federal Government on matters of political progress and welcomes the agreement reached in Djibouti on 9 June, between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. The UK will make all efforts to support the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General towards ensuring that the Djibouti Agreement is implemented. This stands the greatest chance of resulting in long-term security and stability and improving the lives of ordinary Somalis.

Somalia: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conflict resolution projects the UK is supporting in Somalia under the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool. [216301]

David Miliband: The Africa Programme of the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) has allocated £2 million to support conflict prevention and peace-building activities in Somalia in the current financial year 2008-09. This includes direct support to civil society organisations engaged in conflict resolution and peace-building and strengthening the political process facilitated by the UN. CPP funding has also been allocated to support a joint donor approach to building and reforming Somali security capacity.

South Africa: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1403W, on South Africa: chemical and biological welfare, for what reasons he is unable to confirm or deny details of evidence considered during his Department's investigations into South Africa's Project Coast; and if he will place in the Library the evidence considered in the course of the UK investigations. [220847]

Meg Munn: UK investigations carried out following allegations of assistance to South Africa's Project Coast were thorough and drew on a variety of sources, including evidence given to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. The sensitivity of some of these sources precludes the provision of further details.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the causes of the escalation in violence between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers; and if he will make a statement. [220717]

Dr. Howells: In our view, the substantial threat which Sri Lanka faces from domestic terrorism and the Sri Lankan Government's abrogation of the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement, in favour of a policy of military suppression of terrorism, have been major contributory factors to the current levels of violence. The UK's view is that military action alone cannot resolve the conflict; the violence is too high a price for the people of Sri Lanka. Inclusive political negotiations need to take place for a just settlement that can satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all communities in Sri Lanka and promote democracy, stability and the observance of internationally accepted human rights principles.

During his visit to Sri Lanka, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, reiterated the UK's concerns to the Sri Lankan Government.

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to inform the public that Exceptional Assistance Measures for terrorist incidents overseas will not be available to UK citizens travelling abroad without travel insurance. [209378]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website has been updated and a new version of the publication 'Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide' will reflect these policy changes.

We will continue to work with our partners through the 'Know Before You Go' campaign. This is a joint venture with the travel industry aimed at ensuring British travellers are better prepared when they go overseas, to ensure that the public are fully aware of the need to take out comprehensive travel insurance.

For further information on Exceptional Assistance Measures, I refer the right hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's written ministerial statement of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 41WS.

The level of support that might be required if the Exceptional Assistance Measures are activated will be determined by the particular circumstances of the incident, and for this reason the measures remain flexible. Under the measures, the FCO can provide immediate support to British nationals in the country where the incident occurred and to assist their return to the UK, but often victims of major incidents overseas, or their families, need ongoing help after they return to the UK. To address this we have a working agreement with the Humanitarian Assistance Unit in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, who will work with the relevant agencies and services to help victims and their families access the ongoing support they need.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese Government encouraging that government to participate fully in the eighth round of talks between its representatives and those of the Dalai Lama. [220602]

Meg Munn: We have consistently emphasised to the Chinese Government, both in Beijing and London, that the political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese Government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did this when he met the Chinese Foreign Minister on 12 June. We are pleased that the two sides have restarted the process of dialogue, meeting in Shenzhen in May and again in Beijing from 1-2 July. We look forward to the eighth round of talks taking place as soon as possible and hope this will lead to substantive progress on the issues involved.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what fiduciary risk assessment he has undertaken of the debts and liabilities of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. [220832]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office carries out an annual economic review of the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with a number of other overseas territories. This assesses the state of the public finances, including the ability of the government to service its debt. The most recent review expressed concerns about the public finances, which I have communicated to the government, saying that improvements need to be made. In addition, the Turks and Caicos Islands also has an independent chief auditor, appointed by the Governor. Accounts are audited in accordance with local ordinance and laid before the House of Assembly. Audit reports, some of which have been critical of the Government, are discussed by the Turks and Caicos Islands public accounts committee.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of *(a)* the budget of the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(b)* the sustainability of the (i) current debt, (ii) fiscal claims and (iii) contingent liabilities in respect of the Islands' administration. [220834]

Meg Munn: The Turks and Caicos Islands constitution allows its government to set its own annual budget. The 2008-09 budget was presented to the House of Assembly in April this year and was debated over a number of days before it was passed. The UK does not interfere in the budgetary process but has agreed borrowing guidelines with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, which limit the level of debt that it can incur.

We do have concerns about the sustainability of the level of Government debt, including particularly the level of reserve funds, and I have made this clear to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government. I have stressed to the Government the importance of improving their public financial management and rebuilding its reserves before any additional borrowing can be permitted. We have also encouraged the Government to act on the findings of their own audit reports, which include recommendations on fiscal claims.

Venezuela: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Venezuela on international drug trafficking. [220054]

Dr. Howells: The former Minister of State for Latin America, my noble Friend Lord Triesman, held useful discussions with the Venezuelan Minister for Europe in June 2007 on the importance of tackling together the flow of cocaine through Venezuela. I held discussions on the issue during my visit to Venezuela in October 2006.

Officials from our embassy in Caracas, including our ambassador, continue to hold discussions with Venezuelan interlocutors to explore how our Governments can work together to reduce the harm caused to both countries by drug trafficking, along the lines of the informal UK-Venezuela bilateral action plan signed in June 2007.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to oppose any further enhancement of Morocco's relationship with the EU until it complies with its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions in respect of the Western Sahara, with particular reference to the organisation of a referendum on the territory's status. [221601]

Dr. Howells: The UK welcomes closer co-operation between the EU and Morocco, including the proposal for an Advanced Status Agreement currently under discussion between EU member states, the EU Commission and Morocco. The Agreement will provide for enhanced dialogue and practical co-operation on economic and commercial issues, justice and security, regional co-operation, cultural and educational co-operation and human rights. The UK supports this and the prospect of greater co-operation on a range of human rights issues, including elections, access to justice, women's rights and the role of local human rights non-governmental organisations, as envisaged by the Agreement.

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and the negotiation process currently under way.

Zimbabwe: Embassies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 34WS, on diplomatic missions (non-domestic rates), what steps he is taking to ensure the payment of a business rates contribution by the Zimbabwean Government. [221272]

Meg Munn: The Valuation Agency (VOA) of HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for billing and collection of National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR). We continue to work with the VOA to press all diplomatic missions to pay their NNDR bills. The VOA issued an updated statement to the embassy of Zimbabwe on 8 July requesting that the embassy pay the sums due, which amounted to £79,883.28.

Zimbabwe: Foreign Relations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on relations with Zimbabwe following the re-election of Robert Mugabe. [219852]

Meg Munn: We maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of Zimbabwe and use them to encourage positive policy change on the ground and to provide a consular service to the British community. The people of Zimbabwe clearly indicated on 29 March that they wish for a change of Government and President and we look forward to improved relations when that change comes.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Students

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many dependants of Zimbabwean officials subject to EU sanctions are *(a)* studying and *(b)* resident in the UK. [220681]

David Miliband *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We continue to gather information on those dependants who might be present in the UK. At the end of 2007 we had identified some 20 dependants, of which about half were believed to be studying. It is worth noting that some are British citizens and/or minors.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 15 September and Tuesday 16 September 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many anti-social behaviour injunctions have been issued since April 2007. [224099]

Mr. Dhanda: Social landlords (including local authorities and registered social landlords) can apply for injunctions to tackle antisocial behaviour under the Housing Act 1996. These are commonly known as antisocial behaviour injunctions. Using their powers under the Local Government Act 1972, local authorities may also apply to the civil courts for injunctions to restrain antisocial behaviour that constitutes a public nuisance.

Large registered social landlords (those owning and/or managing 1,000 or more units/bedspaces) successfully applied for 1,319 antisocial behaviour injunctions from April 2007 to March 2008. These figures were collected by the Housing Corporation. Figures for smaller registered social landlords are not available.

The Department has asked local authorities to submit information for 2007-08 on antisocial behaviour injunctions and those injunctions available to them under the Local Government Act 1972. These figures are not yet available.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Annex B, Table 1 of her Department's annual report 2008, what proportion of the provision recorded as unallocated for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 has now been allocated. [224037]

Mr. Dhanda: None. Any changes involving proposed use of Departmental Unallocated Provision for 2008-09 will be included in the Department's Winter or Spring Supplementary Estimates and accompanying Ministerial Statements to the House. As yet, none of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 allocations have been allocated to a programme.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of households displaced and *(b)* the amount of uninsured losses caused by the recent flooding, broken down by local authority area. [224198]

John Healey: An assessment of the impact of the recent flooding is still being made and it is too early, at this stage, to assess how many households will be out of their homes for a significant period. Information by area is not available but in Morpeth, the worst affected area, it was estimated that around 500 residents attended the emergency rest centres. The information needed to assess the level of uninsured losses could only be gathered at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Complaints

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Standards Board for England has investigated in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* outcome of the investigation and *(b)* consequent action taken was in each case. [224269]

Mr. Dhanda: The Standards Board for England came into existence in 2001 and its first full year of operation was 2002-03. The following tables show the number of investigations dealt with per financial year and the outcomes of those investigations, and the consequent action taken in each case.

Number of investigations and their outcome

Investigation findings	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
No evidence of breach	114	154	310	119	128	73
No further action	211	462	947	459	182	126
No further action taken as there was no power to refer a matter locally	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Referred to local authority standards committee	n/a	58	78	66	12	15
Referred to Adjudication Panel for England	[1]109	87	111	94	9	8
Direction to monitoring officer for other action	n/a	n/a	0	12	46	71
Total cases	466	761	1,446	750	377	364

[1] One of which was an interim report

Consequent action

Sanctions	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
No breach	1	6	12	15	6	2
Censure	—	18	26	18	—	1
Suspension and training	—	—	—	—	1	2

	Consequent action					
Sanctions	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Suspension	1	39	53	49	5	7
Suspension and censure	—	—	—	—	—	2
Censure and training	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suspension and apology	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suspension or apology/training	—	—	—	—	2	—
Suspension, training and apology	—	—	—	—	—	—
Censure, training and apology	—	—	—	—	—	—
No further action	1	7	15	29	5	—
Partial suspension	—	1	—	3	—	—
Partial suspension, training and apology	—	—	—	—	1	—
Partial suspension, training, apology and censure	—	—	—	—	1	—
Suspension, training and censure	—	—	—	—	—	—
Training	—	—	—	—	1	1
Apology	—	—	—	—	—	—
Apology and training	—	—	—	—	2	—
Withdrawn/other	—	1	—	1	—	—
Disqualified	27	97	25	31	6	7

This table reflects that in some cases the investigation and subsequent action were in different financial years, and that for some cases there were two or more consequent actions taken.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer the letter of 4 August 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Rev David Gray. [224119]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has now replied to my right hon. Friend.

Planning: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that responses to the current South East Plan consultation made in writing but not on an official Government Office for the South East response form will be fully considered as part of the consultation process. [224242]

Mr. Dhanda: We have set up a consultation portal

http://gose.limehouse.co.uk/portal

in order to make it easier for people to respond electronically. However, we will, of course, consider written representation whether using the comments form or not.

Repossession Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were repossessed *(a)* in each local housing authority area and *(b)* nationwide in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [224110]

Mr. Dhanda: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions, the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However, both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders data is available on its website at

http://www.cml.org.Uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753

The Financial Services Authority data is available on its website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Respite Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information is collected by local authorities on the number and percentage of disabled children in each locality accessing short breaks services; what analysis her Department has made of such data; and if she will make a statement. [224093]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Although local authority data on disabled children's access to short break services is not currently available, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has asked authorities to begin to collect this data as part of the Children in Need (CIN) Census. The first CIN Census is a child-level data collection that will run from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009. Data will be submitted to the Department by the end of June 2009 and published in autumn 2009. Figures on the number of children accessing short breaks will then be provided through the CIN Census on an annual basis for each financial year from 2009-10 onwards.

For a limited period beginning in April 2009, the DCSF will also monitor local authority progress in growing short break services through complementary information collected as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children delivery programme.

Standards Board for England: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* administration costs and *(b)* average costs per case for the Standards Board for England were in each of the last 10 years. [224270]

Mr. Dhanda: Average costs per case are shown in the following table.

	£
2004-05	6,492
2005-06	6,380
2006-07	6,765
2007-08	11,817

The Standards Board does not disaggregate administration costs, which are included in the figures.

HEALTH

Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the public health effects of people maintaining allotments. [224034]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific considerations have been given to the health benefits of maintaining an allotment, but cultivating an allotment represents a rewarding opportunity for building physical activity into everyday life for those seeking an alternative to sport or other structured exercise. There is also evidence that exercising in a natural environment can bring additional benefits for health and wellbeing.

There is also value in children growing their own food and recognising where food comes from as a real incentive to eating their Five a Day.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas of England bowel cancer screening has not yet commenced. [224206]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are continuing to roll out the National Health Service Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and expect it to be fully implemented by December 2009. The following table lists the remaining primary care trusts where bowel cancer screening will commence in the final roll out.

Strategic health authority	*Primary care trust*
East Midlands	Lincolnshire
East of England	Luton
East of England	South East Essex
East of England	Bedfordshire
East of England	Peterborough
East of England	West Essex
East of England	North East Essex
East of England	Mid Essex
East of England	South West Essex
London	Bromley
London	Bexley Care Trust
London	Havering
North West	Blackburn with Darwen
North West	Stockport
North West	Tameside and Glossop
North West	East Lancashire
North West	Trafford
South Central	Oxfordshire
South Central	Isle of Wight
South Central	Milton Keynes
South Central	Buckinghamshire
South East Coast	Brighton and Hove City
South East Coast	Surrey
South East Coast	East Sussex Downs and Weald
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother
South East Coast	Eastern and Coastal Kent
South East Coast	Medway
South East Coast	West Kent
South West	Bath and North East Somerset
South West	Swindon
South West	Wiltshire
South West	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
South West	South Gloucestershire
South West	North Somerset
South West	Bristol
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin
West Midlands	Herefordshire
West Midlands	South Birmingham
West Midlands	Shropshire County
West Midlands	Worcestershire
Yorkshire and the Humber	Wakefield District
Yorkshire and the Humber	Calderdale
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds
Yorkshire and the Humber	Kirklees

Dementia: Expenditure

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much expenditure his Department allocated to services for people with dementia-related illnesses resident in *(a)* Westmorland and Lonsdale, *(b)* Morecombe Bay Primary Care Trust area, *(c)* the North West region and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [224038]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Disabled Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is gathered by primary care trusts on the number and percentage of disabled children in each catchment area accessing universal and specialist services; what collation of such information his Department has undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [224092]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available centrally. However, as part of the Public Service Agreement on the health and wellbeing of children, a disability indicator is being developed. This will be measured at local level from 2009-10.

Eyesight: Voucher Schemes

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons NHS optical vouchers cannot be issued following a private sight test. [224205]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service optical vouchers provide access to public funds and can only be issued following an NHS funded sight test. Optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners who conduct NHS funded sight tests must be approved and included on a primary care trust (PCT) performers list. As part of that approved role, they will also issue NHS optical vouchers.

The issuing of an optical voucher, following an NHS sight test by practitioners on a PCT performers list, provides protection to ensure that public funds are properly spent and vouchers issued appropriately, and provides a system of accountability to the NHS. If there is evidence of malpractice, the NHS can take steps against the practitioner, including if necessary, removing them from the performers list, which would prevent them for carrying out NHS funded sight tests and issuing optical vouchers. PCTs do not have the same remedies available in the case of private practitioners.

Health Services: Finance

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average cost was of a visit to a patient by the out of hours service in the latest period for which figures are available; [223418]

(2) what the average cost was of a consultation by the out of hours service in the latest period for which figures are available; [223419]

(3) what the average cost of an out of hours service telephone call providing advice or guidance was in the latest period for which figures are available. [223420]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) now have a legal responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of a high-quality, sustainable service for their local population. Therefore, it is the responsibility of PCTs to performance-manage the provision of out of hours service.

Measles: Vaccination

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the level of immunisation against measles in east London; whether he plans to promote a programme for greater immunisation amongst those deemed most vulnerable; whether a separate measles vaccination is provided in circumstances in which parents prefer that option; what recent representations his Department has received on the computer system used to manage immunisation records; and if he will make a statement. [223995]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on vaccination uptake levels by primary care trusts is published annually by the Information Centre (a copy of the most recent report 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2006-07' has already been placed in the Library). The Department is concerned about the low levels of MMR immunisation generally, and London in particular. In order to reduce the risk of measles outbreaks, an MMR catch-up campaign for England was launched on 6 August 2008. The letter from the Chief Medical Officer to primary care trusts details the priority groups that are most in need of the MMR immunisation.

The NHS does not recommend single measles, mumps or rubella vaccines because there is no evidence to support the use of single vaccines or to suggest that they are in any way "safer" than MMR. Every independent expert group around the world (including the World Health Organisation) supports the use of MMR, and none support the use of single vaccines.

The Department is an observer on the Child Health Board which is managing the implementation of the IT system that will replace Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) or London. London primary care trusts are represented on the board and can make representations regarding CHIA at this forum.

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the deregulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense-pulsed light equipment will require *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [224243]

Mr. Bradshaw: The regulation or deregulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light equipment could be achieved using secondary legislation.

NHS Direct

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to his Department is of a telephone call to the NHS Direct line, including the cost of staffing and other overheads. [223422]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average cost of a telephone call to NHS Direct was £15.35 in 2007-08.

The figure is based on an average cost of all calls to NHS Direct, including calls to the 0845 4647 number, the Appointments Line and other services.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the maximum debt that can be taken on by each *(a)* NHS trust and *(b)* NHS foundation trusts; and what each such trust's assets were at the latest date for which figures are available. [224241]

Mr. Bradshaw: When it is necessary for a national health service trust to borrow for capital investment or working capital, the level of borrowing is primarily determined by its ability to service the debt. To inform its decision the Department calculates prudential borrowing limits for each NHS trust using a similar basis to that applied by Monitor to NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs) under its prudential borrowing code. However, for NHS trusts, the Department ultimately makes the decision about how much capital or working capital is required and the source of finance.

The following information in respect of NHS trusts has been placed in the Library:

Prudential borrowing limits relating to 2008-09 for NHS trusts based on 2007-08 annual accounts data; and

Total value of assets held at 31 March 2008 for NHS trusts in existence on that date.

The information requested in relation to NHSFTs is not held centrally and is a matter for individual organisations. However, the annual reports and accounts of NHSFTs are publicly available on Monitor's website

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

The amount that NHSFTs can borrow is calculated in accordance with the Prudential borrowing code which is also available from Monitor. Individual borrowing limits have also been published by Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) in "NHS Foundation Trusts: Review and Consolidated Accounts 2006-07". As at 31 March 2007, the long term borrowing limit for 59 NHSFTs amounted to £2.2 billion which is in addition to working capital facilities of £884 million. As at 31 March 2008, for 89 NHSFTs these amounts had increased to£3.2 billion and £1.2 billion respectively.

NHS: Intimidation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incidences of bullying of *(a)* NHS and *(b)* his Department's staff have been reported in the last 12 months. [224240]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on specific incidences of bullying within the national health service; these are investigated at a local level.

However, information from staff is available from the NHS Staff survey. The survey is a key source of information relating to a range of workforce issues in the NHS and is undertaken annually. The results of the survey are used locally to drive improvement.

The 2007 NHS Staff survey shows that 18 per cent. of staff indicated that they had experienced harassment, bullying or abuse from other staff in the previous 12 months, while 26 per cent. of staff indicated that they had experienced harassment, bullying or abuse from patients or their relatives in the previous 12 months.

Following the NHS Staff survey results, the issue of harassment, bullying and abuse is one of the five key priorities that the National Social Partnership Forum (SPF) is taking forward. The SPF (employers, NHS trade unions and Department of Health working together on workforce issues) has sponsored work with NHS staff and managers to educate and train them to recognise, prevent and deal with bullying and harassment.

Within the Department, there have been five incidences of bullying reported in the last 12 months. This represents at most 0.2 per cent. of staff.

NHS: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS spending there was in Northampton in each year between 1998 and 2008. [224111]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. However, expenditure reported by the Northampton Teaching Primary Care Trust between 2002-03 and 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

	Expenditure (£000)
2002-03	175,926
2003-04	215,924
2004-05	229,430
2005-06	254,423

Notes:
1. The Department holds no accounts figures by individual national health service organisations prior to 2000-01. In 2000-01 and 2001-02, the majority of the expenditure within Northampton was by the Northamptonshire Health Authority. Therefore, expenditure solely within Northampton cannot be separately identified.
2. Northampton Teaching PCT was established on 1 April 2002 and dissolved on 30 September 2006. Northamptonshire Teaching PCT included expenditure from the Northampton Teaching PCT in 2006-07 in its accounts and therefore cannot be separately identified.
3. Northampton Teaching PCT was merged with the Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT and the Daventry and South Northamptonshire PCT in October 2006 to form the Northamptonshire Teaching PCT.
4. This does not include all NHS spending within the Northampton area, as the element of spending by the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority within Northampton cannot be identified.
5. General dental services expenditure was accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and not by the PCT. Audited figures for Northampton cannot therefore be supplied.
6. The majority of pharmaceutical services expenditure was accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority and not by the PCT. Audited figures for Northampton cannot therefore be supplied.
7. Owing to lead commissioning arrangements where the lead PCT commissions on behalf of other consortium members, figures may not be consistent over time.

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of Northampton Teaching PCT for 2002-03 to 2005-06.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish the targets set under the NHS efficiency index; [224031]

(2) whether the NHS efficiency target index is in operation. [224032]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is not a national health service efficiency target index. As part of the last Comprehensive Spending Review settlement, the NHS is committed to delivering, over the period 2008-09-2010-11, 3 per cent. year-on-year efficiency improvements, which are cash-releasing, sustained and net of costs. This equates to annual savings of over £8 billion by 2010-11. The Department described its approach to delivering these savings in its "Value for Money Delivery Agreement", published in December 2007, and will report publicly on progress, including in its autumn performance report.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 519-22W, on NHS: Personal Records, how many nutrition-related adverse incidents were recorded in each month between January 2005 and December 2007 in each primary care trust area; [224245]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 911W, on NHS: Personal Records, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the reports of nutrition-related adverse incidents made in the last 30-day period for which such reports are available. [224246]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about nutrition-related adverse incidents in each primary care trust area is not held by the Department. The National Patient Safety Agency's National Reporting and Learning System does not capture the primary care trust area of residence of the patient involved in an adverse incident. The strategic health authority (SHA) analysis, provided in the reply to the earlier question, is based on the SHA that each NHS trust is aligned to, but those catchment areas do not map readily to primary care trust boundaries.

Reports of nutrition-related adverse incidents are not held centrally.

Slaughterhouses

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abattoirs there were in England in each of the last 20 years, broken down by *(a)* county and *(b)* size. [224217]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of abattoirs in England 1996—2008 by county

County	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2
Bedfordshire	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Berkshire	2	2	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Buckinghamshire	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Cambridgeshire	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cheshire	17	17	17	17	16	16	15	15	13	13	13	12
Cleveland	8	8	9	8	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cornwall	14	13	14	14	13	13	13	13	12	13	13	11
County Durham	7	6	6	6	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Cumbria	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	11
Derbyshire	23	23	24	23	20	19	13	13	13	13	13	12
Devon	20	20	22	19	19	19	17	19	18	19	18	16
Dorset	7	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
East Sussex	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1
East Yorkshire	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Essex	14	15	16	16	15	16	13	12	12	12	12	12
Gloucestershire	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
Greater London	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Greater Manchester	15	15	15	14	13	11	10	11	10	10	9	10
Hampshire	6	6	6	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	2
Herefordshire	8	8	10	9	6	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Hertfordshire	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Humberside	7	7	7	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Kent	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
Lancashire	24	24	24	22	19	20	18	18	15	15	14	13
Leicestershire	15	16	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	10
Lincolnshire	25	25	24	23	21	20	21	21	20	19	18	16
Merseyside	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Norfolk	25	24	26	23	23	21	19	18	19	18	14	14
North Somerset	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
North Yorkshire	27	27	26	27	21	18	19	20	18	17	15	15
Northamptonshire	8	8	7	7	6	5	4	4	3	3	2	2
Northumberland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	8	7	7	7	8	7	6	6	5	5	4	4
Oxfordshire	5	5	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shropshire	7	8	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Somerset	13	15	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	12	11	10
South Yorkshire	8	8	8	8	6	7	6	7	7	6	6	7
Staffordshire	29	28	27	25	26	23	23	23	21	21	18	17
Suffolk	17	16	16	16	15	16	14	13	13	12	12	13
Surrey	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tyne and Wear	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3
Warwickshire	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	4
West Midlands	22	22	23	23	22	21	16	17	17	15	15	16
West Sussex	3	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	1
West Yorkshire	26	27	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	17	15	15
Wiltshire	6	6	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Worcestershire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total	492	492	482	455	417	403	375	374	363	349	329	318

Table 2: Number of abattoirs in England 1996–2008 by size

	Live stock units per week	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Small	1 to 99 L.U.s	173	182	176	166	135	138	119	126	117	110	102	92
Medium	100 to 999 L.U.s	124	110	111	95	99	92	88	85	87	87	84	86
Large	1,000 to 2499 L.U.s	59	60	51	57	47	55	45	48	48	46	50	48
Very large	More than 2,500 L.U.s	136	140	144	137	136	118	123	115	111	106	93	92
Total		492	492	482	455	417	403	375	374	363	349	329	318

Notes:
1. The Meat Hygiene Service only holds data from 1996.
2.One livestock unit equals:
One bovine
Seven pigs
20 sheep (over 18 kg)
450 poultry (less than 2 kg)

Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Warwickshire Primary Care Trust on *(a)* district nurses and *(b)* management costs in 2007-08. [223421]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on management cost data will be available from the 2007-08 audited accounts. However, this information will not be available until later in the autumn. Information on district nursing spending is not held centrally.

Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in relation to the NHS IT system Cerner release zero introduced to the Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust, what benefits were expected as a result of the introduction of the system; who initiated its introduction; whether the expected benefits have been realised; what estimate he has made of the cost of the introduction; who is responsible for negotiating with contractors for the support and upgrading of the system; and if he will make a statement. [224272]

Mr. Bradshaw: Cerner was selected as a subcontractor for the provision of secondary care systems across the South of England by the then national programme for information technology (NPfIT) local service provider (LSP), Fujitsu. Contracts with LSPs under NPfIT are held and negotiated by NHS Connecting for Health on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The R0 version was the first software release in a programme of continuing releases, in accordance with the aims of the NPfIT. R0 is therefore the first step towards a clinically rich, integrated system whose benefits will include, over time, a patient administration system with integration with other systems and sophisticated reporting; order communications and diagnostics reporting, including all pathology and radiology tests and tests ordered in primary care; and scheduling for beds, tests and theatres.

The Cerner product was introduced as part of the normal system deployment process managed by a joint team from Fujitsu and the strategic health authorities with the support of NHS Connecting for Health.

The cost to Fujitsu of local deployments is covered within the overall LSP contract value. Information on any separate local costs incurred by Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust arising from the deployment is not held centrally. This is normally part of the local financial planning process and the benefits are identified in the business case, although it is not expected that the full benefits will be realised until subsequent releases have been implemented.

Responsibility for system support and software upgrading over the lifetime of the system lies with the LSP, and the cost is provided for in the LSP contract. Any additional or bespoke services requested by the trust are a matter between the trust and the LSP.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many cases the Child Support Agency has paid HM Revenue and Customs for referrals and income disclosure in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [214916]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 September 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for how many cases the Child Support Agency has paid HM Revenue and Customs for referrals and income disclosure in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [214916]

Under the Service Level Agreement between the Child Support Agency and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the Agency makes referrals to HMRC for non resident parent trace and earnings information. An agreed charge against the Agency is made for each referral to cover HMRC expenditure.

Such information as is available is set out in the attached table, which shows separately the number of requests dealt with by HMRC where the Agency has made a request for information on the non-resident parent's income, and those made to trace the non-resident parent.

Neither the Agency nor HMRC hold any details of referrals prior to 2002. Data is not available in either organisation concerning trace enquiries prior to 2005.

Financial year	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Earning enquiries	18,681	24,108	26,936	26,917	36,657	40,599	4,503
Trace enquiries	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	142,474	166,695	212,489	61,328
Total	18,681	24,108	26,936	169,391	203,352	253,088	65,831

[1] To date.
[2] Not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of a list of non-executive directors employed by his Department, including the business units or areas of expertise for which they provide oversight and brief biographical information for each individual. [219499]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221341]

Mrs. McGuire: In the last two financial years, the DWP has conducted a number of public forums or listening exercises targeted specifically at the general public. Event management services were provided by private contractors for some of these. The information that is available is set out in the following table. Amounts paid to the external contractors in each case could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As well as the public forums or listening exercises listed, DWP has engaged with a wide range of the public through online consultation and correspondence, and with stakeholder organisations.

Date	*Event purpose*	*Venue*	*Contractor*
10 January 2007	Raise awareness of the work of Equality 2025 and encourage disabled people to apply for the Northern Ireland representative's post.	Belfast City Council	Not applicable
27 March 2007	Indicators of equality consultation—How will we know we are making progress?	Edinburgh	n/a
30 March 2007	Indicators of equality consultation—How will we know we are making progress?	London	n/a
4 April 2007	Indicators of equality consultation—How will we know we are making progress?	Manchester	n/a
10 May 2007	Consultation workshop—Independent Living Review	Novotel, Bristol	Offshoot
15 May 2007	Consultation workshop—Independent Living Review	NEC, Birmingham	Offshoot
22 May 2007	Consultation workshop—Independent Living Review	Novotel, London	Offshoot
8 June 2007	Consultation workshop—Independent Living Review	NEC, Manchester	Offshoot

Fuel Direct Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many times the Fuel Direct option has been used by benefit recipients to pay their utility bills in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement; [216066]

(2) how many benefit recipients have used the Fuel Direct option to pay their utility bills in each quarter since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [214927]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Fuel Direct scheme has been in existence for over 30 years. Historical information is not available prior to 1994. The available information for the number of income support, pension credit and jobseeker's allowance claimants with deductions being made for gas and/or electricity is in the following table.

Quarter ending	*Number of claimants with deductions for gas and electricity*
February 1994	301,700
May 1994	306,700
August 1994	305,200

Quarter ending	Number of claimants with deductions for gas and electricity
November 1994	294,500
February 1995	287,000
May 1995	286,200
August 1995	280,300
November 1995	266,300
February 1996	251,600
May 1996	239,700
August 1996	227,800
November 1996	206,600
February 1997	203,400
May 1997	186,700
August 1997	170,500
November 1997	154,500
February 1998	143,200
May 1998	132,700
August 1998	122,200
November 1998	107,900
February 1999	98,800
May 1999	93,200
August 1999	86,500
November 1999	79,700
February 2000	75,600
May 2000	73,400
August 2000	72,500
November 2000	67,500
February 2001	65,400
May 2001	64,200
August 2001	62,500
November 2001	59,200
February 2002	57,000
May 2002	56,100
August 2002	55,000
November 2002	52,800
February 2003	51,200
May 2003	51,100
August 2003	51,600
November 2003	49,400
February 2004	47,300
May 2004	47,800
August 2004	48,400
November 2004	48,200
February 2005	48,000
May 2005	49,900
August 2005	52,300
November 2005	51,600
February 2006	52,400
May 2006	52,600
August 2006	53,500
November 2006	53,400
February 2007	54,300
May 2007	55,300
August 2007	54,900

Notes:
1. Case loads are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Pension credit replaced IS MIG on 6 October 2003.
3. JSA data available from November 1996.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new applications for jobseeker's allowance there were in each region in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [214965]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 325W, on National Insurance: Immigrants, how many of the 3,275 cases in which the names or national insurance numbers (NINOs) given to the Security Industry Authority appeared to be false were cases in which a NINO was issued after the introduction of the right to work test in July 2006; how many of the 3,275 cased involved *(a)* a false name and *(b)* a false NINO; and what steps have been taken to prevent the issuing of NINOs on the basis of a false name since July 2006. [221208]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* None of the national insurance numbers provided to the SIA had been issued by the Department for Work and Pensions to the 3,275 individuals concerned. In 1,873 cases the NINO provided did exist on the Department's Customer Information System (CIS) but was registered to a different name. In 1,402 cases the number did not exist on CIS at all. Where a potential criminal offence has been committed, details have been passed to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigation Service for investigation and, where appropriate, prosecution.

It remains the legal responsibility of the employer to check that all their employees have the right to work in the United Kingdom. Employers have clear guidance on the documents they can accept as evidence of the right to work, and this does not include SIA licences or, in the absence of other specified documents, a national insurance number.

Since 2001, the Department for Work and Pensions has had in place rigorous identity checking and verification procedures for all national insurance number applicants. In 2007-08, 759 applications were refused owing to suspect documentation and led to 181 successful prosecutions. Over the same period, a further 5,114 refusals were made on the basis of the applicant's failing to provide sufficient evidence of identity.

New Deal for Long-Term Unemployed

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of New Deal participants went into the 25 plus categories *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (i) two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district. [205475]

Mr. Timms: New deal has been a success helping nearly 2 million people in to work. However, the characteristics of job seekers and the labour market have changed since the introduction of the new deal 10 years ago. That is why we are introducing a new flexible new deal which will offer a personalised approach to its customers. It will tailor the support available to them to their particular needs and to that of the local labour market enabling them to increase their chances of gaining not only employment but sustainable employment in which they can progress.

The information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of New Deal for Young People participants went into the categories *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (i) two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district. [205474]

Mr. Timms: New deal has been a success helping nearly two million people in to work. However, the characteristics of job seekers and the labour market have changed since the introduction of the new deal 10 years ago. That is why we are introducing a new flexible new deal which will offer a personalised approach to its customers. It will tailor the support available to them to their particular needs and to that of the local labour market enabling them to increase their chances of gaining not only employment but sustainable employment in which they can progress.

The information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* New Deal for Young People leavers, *(b)* New Deal for 25 plus leavers and *(c)* leavers of all New Deals moved into sustained employment in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district; [205472]

(2) how many and what proportion of leavers of all his Department's employment programmes moved into sustained employment in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district. [205473]

Mr. Timms: New deal has been a success helping nearly 2 million people in to work. However, the characteristics of job seekers and the labour market have changed since the introduction of the new deal 10 years ago. That is why we are introducing a new flexible new deal which will offer a personalised approach to its customers. It will tailor the support available to them to their particular needs and to that of the local labour market enabling them to increase their chances of gaining not only employment but sustainable employment in which they can progress.

The information requested on all new deals and all employment programmes is not available.

The information on new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus has been placed in the Library.

Occupational Health: Waste Management

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report WR0217—Assessment of Occupational Health and Safety Risks of Waste Collection and Handling Systems, commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive. [219074]

Mrs. McGuire: This research report,

"Collecting, transfer, treatment and processing household waste and recyclables. Assessment of the occupational health and safety risks of systems to provide HSE, local authorities, waste/recycling companies and others with data that will assist in the selection of the most appropriate system whilst meeting environmental targets"

was published in January 2008 and is available via the Health and Safety Executives website:

www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr609.htm

where it is accompanied by an electronic database. A copy of the report has been forwarded to the House of Commons Library.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on backdated annual payments of pension credit *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [219212]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected, nor therefore is expenditure on backdating. Expenditure on backdating has been estimated using information on average awards and backdating periods. Backdating periods have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit. In 2006-07 around 60 per cent. of all successful new claims were backdated for three months or less (this includes cases with zero backdating). The information that is available is in the following table.

Expenditure on pension credit backdating, by Government Office region (£ million)

	2003-04 (October-March)	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total	80	330	190	150
North East	[—]	10	10	10
North West	10	40	20	20
Yorkshire and the Humber	10	30	20	10
East Midlands	10	30	10	10
West Midlands	10	30	20	10

Expenditure on pension credit backdating, by Government Office region (£ million)

	2003-04 (October-March)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
East of England	10	30	20	10
London	10	40	30	20
South East	10	40	20	20
South West	10	30	20	10
Wales	[1]—	20	10	10
Scotland	10	30	20	10

[1] Estimates of less than £5 million.

Notes:

1. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department does not routinely collect information on expenditure on backdated payments and it has been estimated using information on average awards and backdating periods. Backdating periods have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. Estimated backdating periods therefore include unknown periods of time that are due to processing, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
2. All figures are consistent with the 2008 Budget report.
3. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, so expenditure figures are only available from this date.
4. Estimates of the expenditure on backdating have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.. Estimates at the local authority level are not sufficiently robust for publication.
5. Estimates for regions may not sum to totals due to rounding. The total also includes a small amount of expenditure where the region is not known.

Source:

Experimental statistics of pension credit on flows and DWP accounting systems

Pensioners: Personal Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of the *(a)* top and *(b)* bottom quartile of (i) pensioners and (ii) pensioners over the age of 80 in each region was in each year since 1997. [205491]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information for those over the age of 80 is not available due to small sample sizes.

The information for all pensioners is shown in the following tables. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Users should not read too much into small differences between regions or between three-year averages, particularly for the top quartile, where estimates may be influenced by extreme values.

Average gross income of all pensioners in the top quartile of the income distribution of pensioner units in Great Britain by region

£ per week (2006-07 prices)

	1997-98 to 1999-2000	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05	2003-04 to 2005-06	2004-05 to 2006-07
North East	528	537	551	587	631	691	713	754
North West and Merseyside	585	614	586	605	653	702	742	727
Yorkshire and the Humber	635	652	683	697	737	703	712	691
East Midlands	550	563	583	619	654	689	695	737
West Midlands	605	618	626	632	629	663	704	713
East of England	655	662	667	700	711	728	720	741
London	711	795	855	820	796	770	828	901
South East	652	677	741	787	830	835	851	839
South West	576	630	643	668	654	712	747	774
Wales	521	522	551	588	653	662	680	675
Scotland	583	605	611	622	621	668	684	727
England	625	657	682	702	721	739	765	778
Great Britain	616	646	669	690	709	729	754	769

Average gross income of all pensioners in the bottom quartile of the income distribution of pensioner units in Great Britain by region

£ per week (2006-07 prices)

	1997-98 to 1999-2000	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05	2003-04 to 2005-06	2004-05 to 2006-07
North East	118	125	131	137	142	144	148	147
North West	114	118	124	129	133	138	142	143
Yorkshire and the Humber	119	124	128	133	138	142	143	144
East Midlands	114	117	122	127	133	137	140	141
West Midlands	114	119	124	128	132	135	140	141
East of England	113	117	122	126	130	135	138	139
London	108	110	115	120	123	127	128	131
South East	111	117	120	124	129	135	138	138
South West	112	116	123	126	131	135	137	138
Wales	112	117	123	129	134	138	141	142
Scotland	118	122	128	134	139	144	146	147
England	114	118	123	127	131	136	139	140

Average gross income of all pensioners in the bottom quartile of the income distribution of pensioner units in Great Britain by region

£ per week (2006-07 prices)

	1997-98 to 1999-2000	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05	2003-04 to 2005-06	2004-05 to 2006-07
Great Britain	114	118	123	128	132	137	140	141

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Figures show average income for pensioner units in each region within relevant quartile of the income distribution for Great Britain.
3. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Estimates for the highest quartile may be influenced by extreme values. Users should not read too much into small differences between regions.
4. Great Britain figures are included on the same basis for comparison: further information for single years at a national level are available in the publication "Pensioners' Income Series 2006-07".
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
6. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
7. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.

Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2006-07

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority: Consultants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many consultants are employed by the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority; and how much the authority has spent on them. [205495]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Setting up a pension scheme of the size and nature of the personal accounts scheme is a complex task and requires specialist skills. The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority needs to access a range of skills to support the development of the scheme, including skills most appropriately and efficiently provided through consultancy contracts.

The Delivery Authority took responsibility for accounting for its own expenditure from 1 March 2008.

The number of consultants employed by the Delivery Authority has varied over time in response to changing needs. During the period 1 March 2008 to 31 August 2008, PADA has engaged 21 consultants a month on average. These were recruited after a competitive tender exercise and in line with Office of Government Commerce procedures and best practice to secure value for money.

The amount spent on consultants for work for the Delivery Authority from 1 March 2008 to 31 August 2008 is estimated to be around £4.6 million.

From 1 August 2007 to 28 February 2008, the costs of the Delivery Authority were met directly from departmental budgets. The cost of consultancy in this period is estimated to be around £5.9 million.

Sight Impairment: Disability Living Allowance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of awarding disability living allowance for severe sight impairment at the higher band to all those with severe sight impairment who claim the benefit. [223551]

Mrs. McGuire: The cost of extending entitlement to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to all people with severe sight impairments depends greatly on the precise definition used. One estimate made is that such a change would cost about £45 million in 2010-11, the earliest date at which such a change could be made.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what IT contracts the Government Equalities Office has entered into since its inception. [215139]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has been based within premises, which house the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). As a result, the GEO has a rental agreement with CLG which allows it to use their IT systems. Aside from this, the GEO has not entered into any IT contracts since its inception.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with *(a)* Cabinet and *(b)* other ministerial colleagues on (i) departmental, (ii) sectoral and (iii) national strategies on age discrimination in the provision of goods and services and the promotion of age equality; and if she will make a statement. [210466]

Barbara Follett: During the development of proposals for the new Equality Bill I had discussions with Government colleagues at all levels in a number of key departments including the Department of Health, Department of Work and Pensions and the Treasury to discuss, amongst other things, our proposals to take a power in the Equality Bill to prohibit age discrimination in the provisions of goods, facilities and services and the exercise of public functions and to introduce a single public sector equality duty extended to cover age. Our proposals for the Bill were set out in the Government's response to the Discrimination Law Review consultation, which was published on July 21 this year.

Gender Discrimination

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to act upon the recommendations of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women since the 41st session of parties of 30 June to 18 July. [224211]

Barbara Follett: I will let the right hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of the £1 million emergency fund for rape crisis centres, announced in March, has been distributed; which organisations have received such funding; how much each organisation have received; and what plans the Government has to maintain the funding for the year starting April 2009. [224210]

Barbara Follett: I will let the right hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

TREASURY

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many data security breaches have been reported in his Department and its agencies in the last three months. [224259]

Angela Eagle: No data security breaches have been reported by the Treasury or its agencies.

Departmental Domestic Visits

John Howell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between *(a)* 8 June 2000 and 8 June 2001, *(b)* 8 June 2001 and 8 June 2002, *(c)* 8 June 2002 and 8 June 2003, *(d)* 8 June 2003 and 8 June 2004 and *(e)* 8 June 2004 and 6 May 2005; on what date each such visit occurred; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [224003]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Government Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country as part of the policy development process.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Aberdeen and *(f)* Dundee between 6 May 2005 and 6 May 2006; on what dates such visits occurred; and what the purpose of each visit was; [224024]

(2) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Newcastle, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Sheffield, *(g)* Liverpool and *(h)* Bristol between (i) 8 June 2001 and 6 May 2002, (ii) 6 May 2002 and 6 May 2003, (iii) 6 May 2003 and 6 May 2004 and (iv) 6 May 2004 and 6 May 2005; on what dates such visits occurred; and what the purpose of each visit was. [224025]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Government Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country as part of the policy development process.

Angela Browning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Newcastle, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Sheffield, *(g)* Liverpool and *(h)* Bristol between 6 May 2006 and 27 June 2007; on what dates such visits took place; and what the purpose of each such visit was; [224236]

(2) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Newcastle, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Sheffield, *(g)* Liverpool and *(h)* Bristol between 6 May 2005 and 6 May 2006; on what dates such visits took place; and what the purpose of each such visit was; [224238]

(3) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Aberdeen and *(f)* Dundee between 6 May 2006 and 27 June 2007; on what dates such visits occurred; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [224239]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Government Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country as part of the policy development process.

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between 8 June 1999 and 8 June 2000; on what date each such visit took place; and what the purpose of each such visit was; [224247]

(2) which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between 2 May 1997 and 8 June 1998; on what dates each such visit took place; and what the purpose of each visit was; [224253]

(3) which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between 8 June 1998 and 8 June 1999; on what dates each such visit took place; and what the purpose of each visit was. [224254]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Government Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country as part of the policy development process.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters of *(a)* 23 July 2008 with regard to Mr I Laing and *(b)* 28 July 2008, transferred to him from the Home Office, with regard to Mr Sehir Hussain from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton. [224120]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury could find no record of either correspondence being received and the right hon. Member's office has been informed.

Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to allow the transfer of property and any respective debt secured on it from one provider to another as part of the self-invested pension plan where there are no tax implications; [224113]

(2) what plans he has to allow the switching of a pension scheme's assets and debt to a new self-invested pension plan or small self-administered scheme

without having to requalify under the borrowing rules providing the condition that the property is not sold is met; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which such switching meets the aim of simplification of the process according to Government objectives; [224114]

(3) what plans he has to relax the borrowing rules for pensions under self-invested pension plans and small self-administered schemes for smaller pension funds allowing the fund owner to own property as part of that scheme providing that an element of debt is included also permitting property transactions which may be for residential property as part of those schemes. [224115]

Kitty Ussher: A self-invested or small self-administered pension scheme can transfer assets and associated borrowing to another such scheme provided these are within the limits on scheme borrowing. These limits allow borrowing of up to 50 per cent. of the value of the sums and assets held for the purposes of the member's arrangement under the scheme. This provides a prudent limit on such borrowings.

The Government support the ability to choose a diverse range of assets, including commercial property to support pension saving in registered pension schemes. It also remains open to all schemes to invest indirectly in residential property so long as this is carried out through a genuinely diverse commercial vehicle.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Meetings

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions the Cabinet has met at times other than its regular meeting times since June 2007; which Cabinet Ministers did not attend the Cabinet meeting held in Birmingham in September 2008; when the media were first informed that the Cabinet would meet in Birmingham; and what costs arose from holding the meeting in Birmingham. [224271]

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* security, *(b)* administration and *(c)* other costs were incurred as a result of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Birmingham on 8 September 2008. [224266]

The Prime Minister: Cabinet is usually held on Tuesday mornings. My spokesman announced on 4 August that Cabinet alongside a series of visits and a public engagement events would be held outside London

(http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16444).

All Cabinet Ministers and Ministers attending Cabinet were present. The costs will be published shortly.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Angela Browning: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many official visits he has made to *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Aberdeen and *(f)* Dundee since 27 June 2007; on what dates such visits occurred; and what the purpose of each such visit was; [224235]

(2) how many official visits he has made to *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Newcastle, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Sheffield, *(g)* Liverpool and *(h)* Bristol since 27 June 2007; on what dates such visits occurred; and what the purpose was of each such visit. [224237]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on Tuesday 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 103-04WS.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has had made of the effects of his Department's budget overspend in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 on (i) cashflow for payments under the Single Payment Scheme and (ii) delivery of other frontline services. [223394]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* In 2006-07, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs exceeded its capital budget by a net £17.4 million. This amount was subsequently deducted from the 2007-08 capital budget. Through normal in-year financial management, the Department was able to live within its revised budget, including coping with the emergency costs of floods and animal disease outbreaks. The Department protected ministerial priorities and avoided any additional burden on taxpayers over the two years.

Payments under the Single Payment Scheme are funded in full from the European Union, so are not affected by budget changes. Delivery of frontline services in 2007-08 was not affected as their budgets had already been set by the time the capital budget reduction was known, and those frontline services budgets were not subsequently reduced.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the evidential basis is for the statement in his Department's 2008 annual report that the Government is on course to meet the 2008 target for limiting the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [223339]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* DEFRA's statement that we are on course to achieve

"a reduction in the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) to new parishes to below the incremental trend of 17.5 confirmed new incidents per annum by the end of 2008"

was based on the latest statistics available at the time the report was written.

Our statistics show that in the 12 months up to September 2007, there were 236 confirmed new incidents of bTB in 'new' parishes i.e. those parishes where there had been no confirmed new bTB incidents during the previous four calendar years. The five-year average (mean) from October 2002 to September 2007 was 298.8 CNIs per year in new parishes compared to the previous five-year average (October 2001 to September 2006) of 316.6. So the PSA9 indicator at the end of September 2007 was 17.8 CNIs per annum. Bovine TB is cyclical in nature, with variations occurring both seasonally and

over longer time scales, so care should be taken not to read too much into such short to medium-term changes. However, taking variations into account, we would expect the projected PSA9 indicator for the end of 2008 to be below the target of +17.5 CNIs per annum.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221295]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the amount of overtime paid to staff in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. The data covers staff in core-DEFRA and agencies covered by core-DEFRA pay arrangements (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (which merged with the Health and Safety Executive on 1 April 2008)).

£

	AA	AO	EO	HEO	FS	SEO	VO	G7	G6
2007									
September	45,128	103,573	227,827	162,620	5,427	47,375	234,541	52,512	67,995
October	47,570	92,356	202,807	142,397	3,786	43,473	224,251	50,592	102,909
November	39,975	82,806	279,805	157,360	465	19,663	263,798	44,063	62,712
December	23,027	57,901	177,452	106,901	8,084	39,170	137,779	62,428	38,348
January 08	30,055	21,767	38,166	41,431	2,366	35,647	30,000	21,365	33,889
2008									
February	20,294	32,173	56,892	49,677	1,250	20,803	30,492	20,856	12,059
March	13,209	15,041	41,023	22,787	4,122	13,954	20,831	8,900	7,169
April	9,077	27,777	48,834	43,450	1,434	23,449	27,817	28,913	19,328
May	5,684	18,175	36,104	38,070	3,788	16,357	16,170	34,667	5,662
June	6,176	21,778	35,897	37,055	823	8,167	25,549	14,424	8,370
July	8,052	38,349	74,013	62,590	2,282	30,782	56,146	31,061	16,520
August	8,585	18,053	39,508	32,148	1,533	17,367	27,124	33,914	10,879

Note:
Grade equivalents:
AA—Administration Assistant
AO—Administration Officer
EO—Executive Officer
HEO—Higher Executive Officer
FS—Fast Stream
SEO—Senior Executive Officer
VO—Veterinary Officer
G7—Grade 7
G6—Grade 6

Departmental Public Participation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1327-28W, on departmental public participation, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* Navigator research study on Waste Infrastructure, *(b)* Scott Wilson research study on Public Understanding of Sustainable Transport and *(c)* Social Research and Consultancy study on Consumer attitudes to waste efficiency. [219039]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for copies of the Scott Wilson research study on Public Understanding of Sustainable Transport and the Social Research and Consultancy study on Consumer attitudes to water efficiency to be placed in the Library of the House. The Navigator Waste Infrastructure Research study has not yet been completed.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216156]

Jonathan Shaw: Tables showing the total number of staff who have received sick pay for sickness absence due to (i) stress and (ii) mental and behavioural disorders and the average length of time for which sick pay was paid in these cases, for the last four financial years is given as follows. Data prior to April 2004 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Stress

Financial year	Total number of staff	Average length of time sick pay paid (days)
1 April 2007—31 March 2008	133	25.1
1 April 2006—31 March 2007	167	25.8
1 April 2005—31 March 2006	200	22.5
1 April 2004—31 March 2005	101	32.7

Mental health and behavioural disorders

Financial year	*Total number of staff*	*Average length of time sick pay paid*
1 April 2007—31 March 2008	130	30
1 April 2006—31 March 2007	174	28.2
1 April 2005—31 March 2006	208	29.3
1 April 2004—31 March 2005	93	36.1

The data cover all staff in core-DEFRA and executive agencies covered by the core-Department's terms and conditions (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (which merged with the Health and Safety Executive on 1 April 2008)).

The data do not cover executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies which operate delegated pay arrangements, as this information could be provided, only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216157]

Jonathan Shaw: A table showing the total cost of sick pay for staff in DEFRA for the last four financial years is as follows. Data prior to April 2004 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Year (1 April to 31 March each year)	*Total cost of sick pay (£)*	*Proportion of staffing expenditure (%)*
2007-08	3,569,351	1.41
2006-07	4,146,313	1.40
2005-06	4,894,761	1.79
2004-05	3,524,208	1.40

The data cover all staff in Core-DEFRA and those Executive Agencies covered by the core-department's terms and conditions (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (which merged with the HSE on 1 Apr 08))

Further information on the Department's other agencies and non-departmental public bodies is available only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on the behaviour of breeders of dogs; and what plans he has to reduce the number of young dogs in animal sanctuaries. [223116]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, anyone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs requires a licence from their local authority. Under the legislation, local authorities have powers of entry and search and can decide whether a licence should be issued.

In addition, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides that any owner or keeper must provide for the welfare needs of their animals (this requirement applies to breeders of dogs). Failure to provide for an animal's needs can result in a penalty of £5,000 and/or six months' imprisonment. The 2006 Act, which came into force last year, placed for the first time a statutory responsibility on owners and keepers to provide for the welfare needs of their animals. Anyone considering owning or keeping a dog should ensure that they are familiar with what is required and are prepared to meet the associated costs.

I am satisfied that the existing legislation contains the necessary powers to enable enforcers to deal with any irresponsible dog breeders and owners.

My Department is working with devolved Administrations to produce a code of practice on the keeping of dogs. The code will explain the essential requirements of keeping a dog and will be approved by Parliament. We expect to consult widely on a draft code before the end of the year.

We hope this guidance will enable people to better understand the care that a dog requires and thus to reduce the number of dogs in animal sanctuaries.

Domestic Waste Management

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made of the scope for monthly collections of household residual rubbish. [223619]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Waste and Resources Action Programme has made no such assessment.

Fertilisers: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist farmers in meeting fertiliser costs; and if he will make a statement. [223215]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Current high energy prices are having a knock-on effect on the price of manufactured 'inorganic' fertilisers. Lord Rooker and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have discussed this issue with the Agricultural Industries Confederation, which represents the UK fertiliser sector. We are alert to the potential impact that high fertiliser prices may have on farmers and we will continue to monitor the situation; the fundamental cause is the rise in the price of oil.

Farmers will want to do all they can to ensure efficient fertiliser use. Some farmers will also need to consider increased use of 'organic' fertilisers such as manures. Other options include the use of digestate from Anaerobic Digestion.

Pandas

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of the Government is on the loaning of giant pandas to UK zoos for commercial purposes. [224054]

Joan Ruddock: International trade in giant pandas is strictly controlled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and trade in them is facilitated by means of an import/export certification system, which is administered by Animal Health.

Before granting a certificate to allow a captive-bred giant panda to be imported into this country, Animal Health would have to be satisfied that a number of strict conditions had first been met. For example, the UK's CITES Scientific Authority for fauna (the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) must assess whether the export would have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species. The importer would also need to demonstrate that they had the housing and husbandry skills to conserve and care for the pandas adequately.

If the giant panda was wild-caught, Animal Health would have to be satisfied that the animal would not be used for primarily commercial purposes; it could only be imported for essential biomedical research, or for breeding, research or educational purposes of benefit to the conservation of the species. There is nothing to preclude the issuing of licences to allow the commercial use of captive bred giant pandas. Applications of this nature would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Plastic Bags

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what date a full life-cycle analysis of plastic carrier bags was first commissioned; and on what date it is expected to be published; [224104]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to produce a full life-cycle analysis of plastic carrier bags. [224105]

Joan Ruddock: The life cycle analysis of carrier bags is being carried out by the Environment Agency. It was commissioned in January 2006 and is expected to be published at the end of this year.

The Environment Agency is looking at a range of carrier bags, including disposable plastic carrier bags and bio-degradable alternatives. The study is looking at their entire life-cycle from raw material extraction, through manufacture and use, to reuse, recycling and emissions from final disposal.

Waste Disposal

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what tonnage of wet waste was collected from *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in each local authority area in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [223506]

(2) what tonnage of wet waste was anaerobically digested by local authorities or their contractors in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what volume of biomethane was produced by these processes in each year. [223507]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Waste Disposal: Offenders

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalties for waste receptacle-related offences were issued in 2007-08. [223620]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* All local authorities and any other bodies with fixed penalty notice issuing powers must submit a returns form to the Local Environmental Quality division at DEFRA each year, detailing all the fixed penalty notices issued for relevant offences for that period. Data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in 2007-08 for 'waste receptacles offences' will be published later this year on the DEFRA website.

Waste Disposal: Waste Management

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds on which waste collection authorities have adopted collection policies which prohibit side waste. [223618]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Neither my Department nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme hold records of which waste collection authorities prohibit side waste.

Waste Management

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of green list wastes was exported to non-OECD countries in the last five years; and to which companies this waste was exported in the receiving countries. [223448]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Where non-hazardous wastes (such as separated recyclables) are exported, they are generally subject only to commercial controls, and not to the prior notification and consent procedures which apply to exports of hazardous wastes. Precise data on the amounts and destinations of exported recyclables are not, therefore, available.

However, by using HM Revenue and Customs trade data it is possible to estimate that 8.4 million tonnes of green list waste was exported from the UK to countries outside the EU (including non-EU OECD countries) in 2006. This data are indicative, since the categories used to collect trade data are not identical to those used to collect data on waste.

Weed Control

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many enforcement notices he has served on landowners under the Weeds Act 1959 in relation to *(a)* ragwort, *(b)* spear thistle, *(c)* creeping field thistle, *(d)* broad leaved dock and *(e)* curled dock in each year since 2004. [223592]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Separate figures for the number of enforcement notices served for each of the five weeds covered by the Weeds Act 1959 are not available, however the majority of enforcement notices served relate to Common Ragwort (*senecio jacobaea*). The total number of enforcement notices served is set out in the following table.

	Number
2004	[1]22
2005	77
2006	19
2007	52
2008 (to end August)	14

[1] This is an approximate figure because the number of enforcement notices served in the period July to December in relation to weeds complaints handled at that time by DEFRA's Crewe office, are not available.

Note:
All figures relate to England.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received in relation to ragwort in the last 12 months. [223593]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* In the last 12 months, Natural England, the Agency responsible for investigating complaints relating to the Weeds Act 1959, received 330 forms of complaint, mostly about Common Ragwort. DEFRA have also received approximately 190 pieces of general correspondence about ragwort, but we cannot give details of the specific categories of that correspondence.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to reviewing the regulations and legislation governing ragwort with a view to updating the provisions; and if he will make a statement. [223594]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The administrative procedures for investigating complaints about ragwort and the other weeds covered by the Weeds Act 1959 were reviewed and updated in 2004. We have no current plans to review the Weeds Act 1959.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to next review the code of practice on ragwort. [223595]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The "code of practice on how to prevent the spread of Ragwort" was published in July 2004 and we have no immediate plans to review it.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Capture: Operating Costs

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* operating costs of the winning carbon capture and storage demonstration project proposal. [223505]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Given the unique nature of this project it is difficult to provide a definitive assessment of costs. It is also the case that the final cost may vary significantly according to the design of the winning project. We expect to develop a much clearer picture of both capital and operating costs during the competition process as we undertake detailed negotiations with the four pre-qualified Bidders.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215225]

Mr. Thomas: Since the formation of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 28 June 2008, reimbursable expenses claimed by the Special Advisers have totalled £2,497.43.

Electricity: Meters

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on reducing the tariffs for electricity on pre-payment meters. [223452]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* We announced in Budget 2008 that the Secretary of State was prepared, to use his statutory powers with a view to reducing the differential between prepayment and other forms of payment for both gas and electricity.

Ofgem is currently investigating tariff differentials as part of its probe into the energy market. Initial findings are expected shortly.

If Ofgem's analysis does show that prepayment meter customers are suffering disadvantage then we will in the first instance expect Ofgem and the energy suppliers to provide the solution. If sufficient progress is not made by this winter 2008/09, the Secretary of State is prepared to consult on legislation, with a view to reducing unjustified tariff differentials.

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates his Department has made of the potential reduction in energy consumption by replacing D-rated and below energy circulator pumps with A-rated energy circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties in the UK. [219190]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR has not made estimates for reduced energy consumption for these products. We of course welcome efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption and encourage companies to seek guidance on reducing energy use from bodies such as the Carbon Trust. BERR works closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who, as Whitehall policy lead, is considering the energy efficiency of products particularly in relation to the Eco-design of Energy-using Products Directive.

Internet: Scottish Islands

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to provide upgrades to internet services to the Scottish Islands; and if he will make a statement. [217158]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has not been directly involved in any recent activity to upgrade internet services in the Scottish Islands.

The Scottish Government, however, announced on 26 June 2008 that it had signed a £3.3 million contract to deliver an affordable broadband service to those eligible households and businesses that registered as being "out of reach" of the technology. Avanti Caledonian Broadband Ltd, the selected supplier, aims to utilise a mix of technologies, including satellite and wireless, to deliver a broadband solution appropriate to the location and density of those that have made themselves known to the Scottish Government.

Iron and Steel: Prices

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of recent increases in steel prices on the Government's energy policy; and if he will make a statement. [220161]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We have not made an assessment of the effect of recent increases in steel prices on the Government's energy policy. It is for energy companies to decide to what extent they take account of raw materials prices when making decisions on future investments. Strong demand for metals and the consequent rise in the price of steel is a global phenomenon and energy companies in other countries have been similarly affected.

However we are aware that the rising cost of raw materials including steel is one of the factors leading to a significant rise in the cost of wind turbines. Despite this price rise global demand for wind turbines is growing 30 per cent. year on year. The Government remain committed to achieving our contribution to the EU 2020 target and launched a consultation last month which will culminate in the publication of our renewable energy strategy early next year.

Motor Sports: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Department has provided for motor sports technological development in each year since 2003. [220499]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 2003, BERR has allocated a total of £4 million towards motorsport development as part of its commitment to the work of Motorsport Development UK (MDUK). In addition, the motorsport industry has received £1.4 million from UK Trade and Investment Sectors Group. Expenditure is set out in the following table.

£000

	MDUK funding	*UKTI Sector Group funding*	*Total spend in financial year*
2003-04	0	0	0
2004-05	573	339	912
2005-06	1,122	395	1,517
2006-07	1,277	358	1,635
2007-08	982	322	1,304
Total	3,954	1,414	5,368

Motor Sports: Fuels

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent progress has been made on the Energy Efficient Motor Sport initiative, with particular reference to the development of a fuel-efficient sports car; and if he will make a statement. [218772]

Malcolm Wicks: Energy Efficient Motor Sport (EEMS) is an initiative of Motorsport Development UK, a partnership between BERR and four regional development agencies set up to sustain and grow the UK's world-leading motorsport sector. EEMS has received £1.8 million Government funding.

EEMS is actively involved in a new championship specifically designed to bring efficient sports cars into motorsport. It is working in partnership with enviroSportscar to develop the regulations for the new series that will see high-performance, fuel-efficient sports cars competing in a series of circuit, drag and endurance racing challenges. The new championship was officially launched on 21 July 2008 at the London Motor show. In addition, EEMS is working with one of the highest profile sports car championships in the UK—the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC)—to introduce regulation that will stimulate the more efficient use of fuels.

National Union of Mineworkers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have held with representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers in the last six months; what the date was of each such meeting; and if he will make a statement. [219411]

Malcolm Wicks: No bilateral meetings have taken place between Ministers from the Department and the NUM within the last six months. However, I attended a meeting at the TUC on 19 June 2008 and a representative of the NUM was present.

The NUM were also represented at the Coal Health Monitoring Group meeting on 25 June 2008 which I chaired. Also the NUM, BACM and TUC were represented at the Coal Forum which I attended on the 17 July 2008.

Power Stations: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what correspondence his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on a freedom of information

request to the Welsh Assembly Government on communications between his Department and the Welsh Assembly Government over the responsibility for granting permission for the construction of power stations over 50 MW in Wales. [213081]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has corresponded with the Welsh Assembly Government on this Freedom of Information Request request. The Welsh Assembly Government sought the views of BERR on records that fell within the scope of the request. BERR advised that as the information related to the Planning Bill which was currently before Parliament, information on interdepartmental policy discussions should be withheld.

River Severn: Tidal Power

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study of English Heritage's identification of Weston-Super-Mare as a conservation area. [223217]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study, which was launched in January 2007, is currently at its scoping phase. The Historic Environment, which includes assessment of impacts on conservation areas, has been identified as a key topic for investigation under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being carried out as part of the overall feasibility study. We will be consulting on the scope of the SEA around the turn of the year.

English Heritage is represented on the SEA Steering Group, which includes members from a wide range of stakeholders.

Telephone Systems

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of telephone lines delivered through a digital access carrier system in each region of the UK. [214580]

Malcolm Wicks: Digital access carrier system equipment is used in a limited number of areas across the country as an acceptable method of delivering two independent telephone services over a single line in areas where there is a shortage of line capacity.

BERR has been informed by BT that there are currently around 400,000 DACS (digital access carrier system) lines in the UK and the vast majority of DACS systems are operated by BT. Following further investment in new network capacity by BT, there has been a reduction of around 20 per cent. in the number of DACS lines on BT's network in the last 12 months. This number is expected to continue to fall in the coming years as BT continues to invest to deliver broadband service. BT does not analyse DACS populations by region.

Zonal Transmission Losses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with Ofgem on the effects of zonal transmission losses on environmentally beneficial projects; and if he will make a statement; [224039]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with Ofgem on zonal transmission losses (P200); and if he will make a statement. [224040]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has had no recent discussions with Ofgem, the independent regulator, on its proposals for zonal transmission losses (proposed modification P200).

TRANSPORT

Airports: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people cleared to work airside at UK airports are *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals. [206492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A survey of 29 airports to identify the number of UK and foreign nationals cleared to work in airside areas indicated that from a total of around 190,000 airside workers 78 per cent. were UK nationals and 14 per cent. were foreign nationals (including 8 per cent. from the EU). The nationality of the remainder was not recorded.

Aviation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps her Department takes to promote compliance with the provisions of the Civil Aviation (Denied Boarding, Compensation and Assistance) Regulations 2005 and European regulations in respect of payment of compensation for *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed flights; [223134]

(2) what steps her Department has taken following non-compliance on the part of airline operators with Council Regulation (EC) No. 261/2004 on duties to deliver compensation and assistance in respect of cancelled and delayed flights since the Regulation came into force. [223135]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has been designated as the enforcement body under EC Regulation 261/2004 and the Air Transport Users Council (AUC) is the designated complaints handling body.

The CAA takes a proactive approach to the promotion of air carrier compliance by ensuring that all airlines that operate from the UK are aware of their obligations under this legislation. This is supported by active monitoring of the experiences of air passengers; including unannounced airport spot checks at airports. If an actual or potential breach of the regulation is identified, the CAA will offer guidance to the carrier concerned and if appropriate, undertake enforcement action.

The AUC manages individual passenger complaints and seeks to secure a satisfactory resolution in cases where the regulation is not being appropriately applied.

If the AUC identifies a trend of apparent non-compliance, then it may refer the matter to the CAA for enforcement action.

Upon referral the CAA will undertake a comprehensive investigation and, where there is evidence that the regulation has been breached, initiate enforcement action. The CAA seeks to enforce the regulation in a proportionate and balanced manner. The nature of the action taken will depend on individual circumstances, but will seek to prevent a recurrence of the breach and that an individual passenger's rights under the legislation are upheld. In parallel passengers also have the right to take their case to the Small Claims Court, which has proven to be an effective method of enabling passengers to obtain redress.

Aviation: Cancellation Rights

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures are in place to ensure that airlines operating out of each airport within the UK comply with European rules on compensation for the cancellation of flights. [223470]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The, arrangements in the UK for promoting compliance with and enforcing regulation EC 261/2004 on compensation and assistance to air passengers in the event of denied boarding, cancellation or long delays are set out in the answer to the hon. Member's questions today (UIN 223134 and 223135).

Birmingham New Street Station

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of growth per annum in footfall at Birmingham New Street Station. [224006]

Mr. Tom Harris: Birmingham New Street handles 1,350 trains and over 120,000 passengers daily; twice what it was originally designed for. Passenger growth of 30 per cent. has been experienced over the past 10 years, with similar levels forecast over the same period in future.

Longer trains and important improvements to the station's passenger handling capacity are set to deal with this growth.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to answer the letter of 4 August 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms J. Reed. [224118]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport replied on 11 September.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many late licence penalty notices were issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each year since 1997; [210697]

(2) how many late licence penalty notices were paid *(a)* within 28 days and *(b)* after 28 days in each year since 1997; [210698]

(3) how many convictions the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has obtained for failing to pay a late licence penalty notice in each year since 1997; [210699]

(4) many late licence penalty notices were appealed against in each year since 1997; and how many appeals were successful. [210700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Agency began issuing late licensing penalty letter (LLP) with the introduction of Continuous Registration (CR) in 2004. The volumes of LLPs issued each financial year since the commencement of CR are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	1,183,544
2005-06	1,341,598
2006-07	1,272,384
2007-08	1,219,462

Over this period the volumes of penalty notices paid within 28 days are:

	Number
2004-05	233,712
2005-06	326,036
2006-07	308,897
2007-08	352,615

The volumes of penalty notices paid after 28 days are:

	Number
2004-05	61,699
2005-06	92,626
2006-07	84,027
2007-08	107,714

The number of county court judgements (CCJ's) issued since CR are:

	Number
2004-05	74,872
2005-06	114,713
2006-07	84,545
2007-08	5,626

Many offenders do not pay first time on receipt of the LLP or the reminder letter. Initially, the Agency used the Civil Court procedure to deal with non payment but this process gave poor results and costs were high.

The Agency had to have an effective and efficient mechanism for pursuing the offenders who did not pay their LLP's. Therefore, in June 2006 to August 2007, the Agency carried out a trial using debt collection agents to pursue the payment. The use of debt collectors was found to be far more efficient and effective and in February 2008, the Agency commenced external debt collection activity by passing CR cases for the period of June 2007 to its three appointed debt collection agencies.

The Agency does not hold statistics to readily identify the number of appeals received in cases for which an

LLP has been issued. These details could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the number of cases closed due to dispute and/or mitigating circumstances is:

	Number
2004-05	313,819
2005-06	397,543
2006-07	209,286
2007-08	134,746

These figures do not include other areas of closure e.g. the Agency was unable to trace the registered keeper.

During the above periods, in addition to CR, the Agency carried out other pro-active enforcement activities to tackle evaders. These included on road enforcement, wheelclamping and the use of Automated Number Plate Reader Systems (ANPR). The Agency also worked closely with other enforcement bodies such as the Police and VOSA.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1355W, on motor vehicles: testing, what consultations were conducted on options for the future conduct of the MOT scheme; what the findings of such consultations were; and if she will make a statement. [224208]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There has been no formal public consultation on changes to the MOT scheme. Officials have had informal discussions on various occasions with representatives from a number of sectors including vehicle manufacturers, testers and insurers.

Discussions with colleagues in other Government Departments have continued while we evaluate the very detailed evidence that has been gathered and we expect to make an announcement on this subject shortly.

Public Transport: Fees and Charges

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the impact of trends in fuel costs on the cost of providing *(a)* bus and *(b)* rail transport. [224068]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate of the impact of trends in fuel costs on the cost of providing rail transport has been made by the Department for Transport. The impact on public finances is uncertain as a change in fuel cost increases both the cost of operating the railway and rail patronage through modal shift. The increase in rail patronage leads to higher rail revenue, which is partially captured by the Department through lower subsidies.

The Department has not made direct estimates of the impact of fuel price trends on the cost of bus service provision. The impact on bus industry costs will depend on the rise in fuel costs and the extent to which the industry has fixed its fuel prices in advance. We have limited data on what proportion of fuel prices have been fixed in advance. However, on average around 9 per cent. of the bus operators' costs are fuel costs, so a 10 per cent. rise in fuel costs will only increase total costs by 1 per cent. The rises in labour costs are likely to have had a more significant impact on bus industry costs in recent years.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 889, on railways, and with reference to the answers of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1865W, on train usage, and 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1694W, on railways, whether equivalent data were gathered for *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and for what reasons such data are not being gathered in respect of 2008. [224000]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has never collected such information about the rolling stock fleet in the format requested in order to conduct departmental business. On request, the Department has collated and presented such information about rolling stock in the past. However, this exercise has been judged to be a poor use of departmental resources given that this information is freely available from other sources. This exercise was last carried out in reply to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell's (Chris Grayling) written question, answered on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1694W.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 891W, on railways: standards and with reference to the answers of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2914W, on C2C Line: Rail One, and 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 562W on train operating companies, whether equivalent data relating to *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 were gathered; and what the figures were in the most recent year in which the data were gathered. [224001]

Mr. Tom Harris: The most recent financial year for which the Department holds complete data is 2007-08. For this data I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 891W.

The information requested was gathered in relation to financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07. This information is shown in the following table.

Train operating company	*Number of cancellations*	
	2005-06	*2006-07*
ATW	2,837	2,214
c2c	1,343	1,152
Chiltern	1,366	938
Crosscountry[1]	1,435	1,382
East Midlands[1]	1,952	1,970
First Capital Connect	5,565	5,166
First Great Western	4,609	7,045
First Scotrail	7,546	8,532
Gatwick Express	579	535
London Midland[1]	6,203	6,198
London Overground[1]	2,753	2,301
Merseyrail	3,038	2,077
Northern	6,116	7,626
NXEA	7,261	9,207
NXEC	546	805

Train operating company	Number of cancellations 2005-06	2006-07
Southeastern	6,341	5,227
Southern	6,892	5,954
South Western	5,663	6,034
TransPennineExpress	856	981
Virgin West Coast	688	878
Network Total	73,589	76,222

[1] These train operating companies were established in their present form in 2007. Numbers shown relate to the services currently operated by these companies.

Railways: Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average energy cost of operating a train along one mile of *(a)* electrified and *(b)* diesel rail is at September 2008 fuel prices. [224065]

Mr. Tom Harris: Information on traction electricity prices for rail is published by Network Rail as part of the Appendices to Network Rail's April 2008 Strategic Business Plan. The document is on the internet at the following address:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/StrategicBusinessPlan/Update/Structure%20of%20Charges%20Appendices.pdf.

No comparable information is available on the prices paid by train operators for diesel fuel.

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilograms of carbon dioxide are emitted on average from operating a train along one mile of *(a)* electrified and *(b)* diesel, rail. [224066]

Mr. Tom Harris: The amount of CO_2 emitted by diesel and electric trains varies according to the type of train and its operating conditions. Figure 18 from Professor Roger Kemp's recent report on rail traction energy compares the carbon performance of a range of domestic diesel and electric train types. Professor Kemp's report can be found on the internet at the following address:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T618_traction-energy-tfmetrics_final.pdf

Railways: Overcrowding

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to page 35 of the National Rail Trends Yearbook, what measure his Department will use to monitor overcrowding across train operating companies; how many train operating companies will be so monitored; and when the results of such monitoring will be collated. [224007]

Mr. Tom Harris: The July 2007 White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, sets out a capacity metric in a High Level Output Specification (HLOS). The Department for Transport is currently developing a process by which it will report levels of crowding and delivery of the HLOS capacity metric.

The White Paper is available in the House Library or from the Department for Transport website:

www.dft.gov.uk.

Railways: Signals

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times railway signals were passed at danger in each month of each year between 1997 and 2008. [224067]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of times signals were passed at danger on Britain's mainline railway in each month of each year between 1997 and 2008 is shown in the following table. The information is taken from the SPAD reports published on the Office of Rail Regulation's website and copies of which are available from the House Library.

The number of signals passed at danger (SPADs) each month from January 1997 – June 2008

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1997	41	51	62	66	42	52	55	73	47	68	83	36
1998	49	45	45	51	64	45	63	58	64	80	77	36
1999	59	45	54	46	55	68	66	53	55	73	56	22
2000	36	38	52	31	35	47	31	44	46	53	52	29
2001	33	42	43	37	56	33	50	48	30	40	44	32
2002	21	28	23	21	35	41	37	40	24	60	39	27
2003	37	23	29	21	33	29	38	34	29	47	46	36
2004	25	21	26	39	31	25	44	32	37	38	30	18
2005	27	23	34	21	17	40	28	27	31	41	31	25
2006	21	24	29	25	23	30	42	24	28	41	36	32
2007	27	13	19	21	30	28	31	23	29	41	39	24
2008	21	34	38	26	23	30	—	—	—	—	—	—

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bids for road pricing demonstration projects she has received; and how many of the eight demonstration schemes will utilise satellite technology. [223305]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* On 15 September 2008 the Government confirmed the names of the companies that will run the demonstrations project on road pricing technology. Eight bids were received in response to the invitation to tender for the Road User Service Providers Framework, of which four were successful. They were T-Systems Ltd, Trafficmaster

Plc, Sanef Tolling Limited and Intelligent Mechatronic Systems (UK): Satellite technology is a feature of each of these.

As we announced in 2007 and then updated Parliament on in July this year, these trials will explore how time-distance-place charging can work accurately, reliably and affordably while safeguarding privacy. Designing an effective mechanism to achieve these aims presents a significant challenge. We believe that this project will help local authorities in the longer-term development of their plans for combining a local congestion charging scheme with major investment in public transport.

Tolls: Manchester

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether it is her policy that Greater Manchester local authorities should begin to repay the £1.2 billion of loans proposed under the Transport Innovation Fund Scheme in 2013, whether or not a congestion charge has been implemented in Manchester by that date; [224044]

(2) if she will make it her policy to indemnify Greater Manchester local authorities for the cost of repayments of proposed loans under the Transport Innovation Fund in the event that any congestion charge revenues are insufficient to meet the liability; [224045]

(3) for which public transport schemes the Association of Greater Manchester authorities has undertaken to implement at least 80 per cent. of the scheme prior to the introduction of congestion charging; and what the estimated cost of each scheme is. [224046]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government awarded Programme Entry to the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) proposals in June 2008. The £2.8 billion package that AGMA developed combined investment in public transport and a congestion charging scheme. It was produced on the basis that 80 per cent. of the public transport would be delivered by the time that the charging scheme went live in 2013. In considering whether to award Programme Entry to the Package, and commit in principle up to £1.5 billion of TIF grant, we made a thorough assessment of the financial plans that supported the package and the risks associated with its delivery. We concluded that although there was more work to do to further develop the Package, it could be awarded programme entry at this stage. Repayment of prudential borrowing associated with the Package is incorporated into Greater Manchester's financial plans and, as with any prudential borrowing, this will be a matter for the authorities that undertake the borrowing.

The grant of Programme Entry does not denote any final commitment to provide funding for the AGMA proposals. The terms of the Programme Entry decision, including financial arrangements, are set out on DfT's website.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of civilian casualties resulting from the use of air power in Afghanistan; what discussions he has had on this issue with his counterparts in nations contributing to the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom; and if he will make a statement. [223580]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The UK Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan. We are in regular contact, at all levels, with our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners to continue to ensure that our procedures to minimise the risk to civilians from the employment of Close Air Support are as effective as possible. Every effort is made by ISAF forces, including those of the UK, to avoid civilian casualties, which are always a source of profound regret.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department includes military training in its definition of military co-operation in the context of the Madrid Declaration of 1989; [223532]

(2) on what date he was first informed of proposals for members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army to attend Sandhurst; [223533]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the UK's Permanent Representation to the European Union and *(b)* the European Commission on military co-operation with China and the Madrid Declaration 1989; [223534]

(4) when his Department first arranged for students from the People's Liberation Army of China to attend Sandhurst. [223535]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The MOD's bilateral programme with the Chinese People's Liberation Army is entirely consistent with the Government's policy of seeking to influence, through positive engagement, China's emergence as a responsible global player and with key allies' policies. Any military training offered is limited in scale and content so that it will not affect the regional strategic balance or enhance the People's Liberation Army's capability for internal repression. We keep the use the People's Liberation Army makes of MOD-provided training under review and these limited engagements will stop if there is firm evidence that any skills or knowledge we provide have been misused.

The planning for a Chinese officer cadet to attend Sandhurst began in 2006 as part of the MOD's overall defence relations and security co-operation programme. China was offered the opportunity to send a cadet to Sandhurst on 13 April 2007 and the officer attended Sandhurst between 9 September 2007 and 8 August 2008. Because the cadet's attendance at Sandhurst was consistent with the pan-Whitehall China strategy, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was not made aware of this individual serial in a much wider programme, which was endorsed by officials. However, we have never sought to conceal such engagements. Indeed, I refer to the answers I gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2016-20W, and the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 6 May 2008,

Official Report, column 840W, which listed foreign students who have attended the Academy since 1997, including the one from China.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has not had any recent discussions with representatives of the United Kingdom's Permanent Representation to the European Union or the European Commission about military co-operation with China and the Madrid Declaration 1989.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Boeing-built, designed or supported *(a)* airborne platforms, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* other air systems are (i) in use, (ii) in the process of acquisition or appraisal and (iii) under consideration for use in the three services. [223406]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The following table lists the major air assets which Boeing have either built, designed or currently support.

Asset	*In use*	*Acquisition/ Appraisal*	*Under consideration*
Airborne Platforms	—	—	—
Aircraft			
Sentry	7	—	—
C-17	6	—	—
Boeing RC-135[1]	—	—	3
Helicopters	—	—	—
Apache	67	—	—
Chinook Mk2/2A	40	—	—
Chinook Mk3[2]	—	8	—
Other Air Systems	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Under consideration for the assessment phase of Project HELIX (replacement for Nimrod R1 capability.)
[2] These helicopters are being converted to a support helicopter configuration and will enter service from late 2009.
[3] I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many United States-built, designed or supported *(a)* airborne platforms, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* other air systems are (i) in use and (ii) under contract for future delivery in the three services. [223407]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The following table lists the major air assets which United States companies have either built, designed or currently support.

Asset	*In use*	*Future delivery*
Airborne platforms		
Reaper[1]	2	3
Desert Hawk III[1]	104	27
Aircraft		
Hercules C-130K/J	41	—
Sentry	7	—
C-17	6	—
TriStar	9	—
BAE 125	6	—
Beech King Air 200	9	—
Joint Combat Aircraft[2]	[2]—	[2]—
Sentinel	4	1
Beech King Air 350 ER	—	4
Helicopters		
Apache	67	—
Chinook Mk2/2A	40	—
Chinook Mk3[3]	—	8
Sea King[4]	95	—
Bell 212	7	—
Bell 412	15	—
Other air systems		
AMRAAM	[5]—	—
Maverick	[5]—	—
Sidewinder	[5]—	—
Hellfire	[5]—	—
Paveway II/III	[5]—	—

[1] Unmanned aerial vehicle.
[2] For joint combat aircraft, the MOD has contracted for long lead production materiel as an enabler for its plans to purchase, subject to internal MOD and wider Government approval, three aircraft in early 2009. This purchase is required now to enable participation in joint Operational Test with the United States.
[3] These helicopters are being converted to a support helicopter configuration and will enter service from late 2009.
[4] These were built in the UK by what is now Agusta Westland under licence from Sikorsky.
[5] I am withholding information on the number of weapons held as the disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.
Note:
Further air assets are not included in the table. I am withholding this information as the disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Police: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Royal Military Police first *(a)* reported to his Department concerns that Land Rovers were deficient vehicles for operational duty and *(b)* requested replacement armoured vehicles; [223170]

(2) when the Royal Military Police first submitted an urgent operational requirement for armoured replacements for Land Rovers. [223171]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Records indicate that the possibility of Royal Military Police units being equipped with better protected vehicles, when required to deploy in advanced positions in operational theatres, was raised in both 1999 and 2003. We have no record of any earlier suggestions of this kind.

A large number of improvements have been introduced to the vehicle fleet in recent years, with the result that commanders now have a greater choice of better protected, more capable vehicles than at any time previously. Royal Military Police personnel have benefited from these improvements as have personnel from all arms and services. There are no current issues relating to better

protected vehicles specifically for the Royal Military Police and we do not have any record of the Royal Military Police submitting an urgent operational requirement for armoured replacements for Land Rovers.

P5 Technical Laboratories

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the agenda is for the meeting of the P5 technical laboratories to be hosted by the UK; when the meeting will take place; and if he will make a statement. [224216]

Des Browne: In offering to host a P5 conference between the laboratories of the Nuclear Weapon States, I proposed that it should take place within the current Nuclear non-proliferation treaty review cycle ending in 2010. The UK preference would be to hold the conference in the second half of 2009. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasise that this will be a P5 conference hosted by the UK rather than a UK conference to which our P5 partners are simply invited. My officials are continuing to engage with our P5 partners to ensure the agenda for the conference meets each nation's requirements in terms of timing and content. I will keep the House informed of progress.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Tankers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single-skin tankers there are in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; what plans there are to replace them; and what the cost to his Department of environmental liability insurance for such tankers was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [223210]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* There are currently four single-hulled dedicated tankers in-service with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) with a further two general replenishment ships that have a tanking capability.

As part of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme, MOD is in the process of procuring up to six new double-hulled Fleet Tankers. The new Fleet Tankers will replace the dedicated tankers and, along with the two existing Wave class ships, will meet the Royal Navy's future tanking requirements, removing the need to utilise the two general replenishment ships for tanking purposes. We are working alongside four bidders in the next stage of the planned procurement process for the Fleet Tankers; the main investment decision is expected to be made during 2009.

In common with general Government policy, the MOD does not purchase insurance to cover claims arising from environmental accidents: rather, the Department bears the risk of any such claims. These arrangements apply to any incidents, including those that might arise through the use of single-hulled tankers.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean nationals *(a)* sought asylum in the UK, *(b)* were granted refugee status, *(c)* were allowed to remain in the UK and *(d)* were removed to Zimbabwe in each of the last five years. [214619]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The following tables show Zimbabwean principal asylum applications, initial decisions and removals, 2003-07, where available. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. Removals do not necessarily relate to refused applications decided in the same period. Destination data for persons removed from the UK have only been collated since 2004, so this information is not available for earlier years. Removal figures only relate to those removed to Zimbabwe and not to other destinations.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Copies of asylum publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2003 to 2007, nationals of Zimbabwe

Principal applicants

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[3]*	*2007[3]*
Applications					
Total	3,295	2,065	1,075	1,650	1,755
Port	715	395	165	165	265
In country	2,580	1,665	910	1,480	1,490
Decisions					
Total decisions	4,190	2,560	1,040	1,680	1,425
Grants of asylum	875	220	80	140	250
Grants of ELR[4]	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grants of HP[4]	5	*	*	*	*
Grants of DL[4]	20	25	15	30	20
Total refusals	3,285	2,310	945	1,510	1,155
Certified refusals	45	*	5	5	10
Other refusals	2,810	2,130	870	1,430	1,125
Third country refusals[5]	10	10	5	—	*
Non-compliance refusals[6]	420	165	70	70	20

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.
[4] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.
[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.
Source:
Immigration Research and Statistics

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1,2] of Zimbabwean asylum applicants, excluding dependants removed to Zimbabwe, 2004-07[3]

Zimbabwean asylum applicants removed to Zimbabwe	*Number of removals*
2004	100
2005	245
2006[4]	215

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1,2] of Zimbabwean asylum applicants, excluding dependants removed to Zimbabwe, 2004-07[3]

Zimbabwean asylum applicants removed to Zimbabwe	*Number of removals*
2007[4]	165

[1] Includes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration.
[2] Removals since 2005 include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage.
[4] Provisional figures
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171300]

Mr. Byrne: Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212866]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounts system does not hold the information at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the conferences hosted by her Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211698]

Mr. Byrne: The amount spent on conference activity in 2006-07 was £9,325,652. The main conferences were "Tackling Drugs—Changing Lives"; New Asylum Model; eBorders Industry events; Schools Pack and "Drugs, Alcohol and Social Work".

The amount spent on conference activity in 2007-08 was £4,020,987. The main conferences were "Victim Support—the changing landscape of crime"; "Tackling Drugs: Changing Lives"; National Identity Scheme Bidder; Young People Consultation and European Refugee Fund external stakeholder event.

Information on the cost of each conference could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not recorded separately on the Department's accounting systems.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether personal data held by her Department are always encrypted prior to being transferred to compact discs for transmission. [180400]

Mr. Byrne: In line with current Cabinet Office guidance, the Home Office does not always encrypt personal data before transferring it by disc. Since 22 November 2007, the Home Office has been undertaking a review of its technical, process and procedural arrangements to ensure that the risk of data being compromised is managed and reduced to a minimum.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179:

"...I have asked the Cabinet Secretary and security experts to ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data..."

An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. This included a recommendation to enhance the transparency with Parliament, and the public about the action taken to safeguard information and the results of that action, through publication of results Departmental annual reports and an annual report to Parliament.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen since 2001. [184321]

Mr. Byrne: We only have accurate information for the last three years.

In 2005 26 mobiles were recorded as lost, seven as stolen and four as missing. No personal digital assistants (PDAs) were recorded as lost, stolen or missing, three laptops were reported as lost and 11 laptops were reported as stolen.

In 2006 seven mobiles were recorded as lost and three as missing. Five PDAs were reported as lost and two were reported as stolen. Additionally, three laptops were reported as lost, one as missing and 10 as stolen.

In 2007 43 mobile telephones were reported as lost and four were reported as stolen. Nine PDAs were reported as lost and three stolen. Additionally, three laptops were reported as lost and 12 reported as stolen.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT contracts her Department and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215119]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department and its agencies have awarded the following information technology (IT) contracts in the last two years.

Department/ Agency	*Contractor's name*	*Description of contract*
Home Department	Sawis	Hosting of applications on the GSI for access by various desktop networks
UKBA	Trusted Borders Consortium	Delivery of a modernised border control
UKBA	Finsoft Financial Systems	Provision of a collaborative Business Portal for 3 party accommodation providers software system and support.
IPS	Datacard	Public Card Reader

Departmentl Agency	Contractor's name	Description of contract
IPS	Kallidus	Learning Tool
IPS	nCipher	Develop Cardlink and Primelink EAC 672W
IPS	Saba Solutions	Virtual Classroom SW

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the change in the number of employees in her Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217064]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office annual reports provide the staff numbers for each of the last two years.

2007-08 Annual Report, information is available on page 102, table reference 5.6

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08?view=Binary.

2006-07 Annual Report, information is available on page 112, table reference 5.6

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary.

In 2006-07 the Home Office HQ included the following departments: Communities Group, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join the new Ministry of Justice, and Communities Group transferred to Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212054]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau) spent a total of £10,208,700 on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of overtime payment paid to staff in her Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221303]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office policy is that overtime working is kept to a minimum and used only in periods of exceptional work pressure. However, because of the nature of immigration work, immigration staff in the UK Border Agency are routinely required to work shifts which attract overtime payments, including premium payments for all weekend working (whether or not it is overtime).

As immigration staff represent a significant proportion of total staff, over 75 per cent. of overtime cost is attributable to immigration staff duties, most of which will be due to the need to undertake routine shift work. Immigration staff are also required to stay beyond their usual shift working time to complete passenger casework and minimise disruption to the majority of the travelling public.

Table 1, placed in the House Library, summarises all gross overtime payments made to employees in the core Home Office, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau, for each of the last 12 months. The data are broken down by grade and also record, separately, immigration staff. It has not proved possible to include employer pension and employer national insurance costs without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Department in each of the last 10 years. [215224]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers from 1998 to 2001 is not held centrally. Information from 2002 to 2008 is as follows:

	£
2002-03	323
2003-04	226
2004-05	1,817.94
2005-06	514.29
2006-07	538.61
2007-08	1,150.77

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the staff handbook and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221491]

Mr. Byrne: For the last 12 month, the cost of mail services has been monitored at regular intervals to ensure that mail budgets are not exceeded and value for money is secured. The Department has liaised with the existing, as well as alternative, mail service providers in order to review efficiency and ensure best value.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 80 immigration routes the Government are replacing; and how many entry clearances were granted under each route in the latest year for which figures are available. [212857]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* Those routes scheduled to be replaced under the Government's points system include:

Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme
Highly Skilled Migrant programme
Innovators
International Graduates scheme
Investors

Persons intending to establish themselves in business
Self-employed lawyers
Writers, composers and artists
Airport-based operational ground staff
Intra-company transfer
Jewish agency employees
Ministers of Religion, Missionaries and Members of Religious Orders
Named researchers
Overseas qualified nurse or midwife
Overseas representatives (news media)
Sabbatical posts
Seafarers
Training and work experience scheme (also tier 5)
Work permit employment (also tier 5)
Association of American Study Abroad programme
Bar students
Exchange students
Music students
Pestalozzi Childrens' Trust
Pupillage
Resit of Examinations
Riding schools
Sandwich students
St. George's University School of Medicine
Student nurses
Students
Welbeck college (Army recruits)
Writing up a thesis
Au Pair (non EEA)
British Universities North America Club
China Graduate Work Experience programme
EU Leonardo da Vinci programme
Exchange teachers and language assistants
Gap year entrants
General Agreement on Trade and Services
International Association for the Exchange of students of Technical Expertise
International Fire Fighter Fellowship programme
Japan Youth Exchange scheme
Medical Training Initiative
Non-pastoral religious workers
Overseas domestic workers in diplomatic households
Overseas Government employees
Research assistants to Members of Parliament
Rudolf Steiner
Sponsored researchers
Training and Work Experience scheme (also Tier 2)
Vander Elst
Visiting religious workers
Voluntary workers
Work permit employment (also Tier 2)
Working Holidaymaker scheme
Overseas domestic workers in private households
Retired persons of independent means
Sole representatives
Aircrew
Civilian personnel in foreign armed forces
Nurses in supervised practice
Postgraduate doctors and dentists
Turkish European Community Association Agreement
UK Ancestry
Offshore workers
Employees of firms under contract to NATO
Seasonal agricultural workers
Sector Based schemes
Entertainers' Concession (incl PFFs)
Sportspersons' Concession
Clinical attachment or dental observer
Film Crew on Location
PLAB Test
Prospective students

It is not possible to separately identify the entry clearance for each of these routes without incurring disproportionate cost, as many are currently covered by a single entry clearance process.

Entry Clearances: Working Holidays

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearances were granted under the working holidaymakers scheme in each of the last five years; and how many were granted to applicants from each of the top 10 source countries in those years. [212855]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The total number of entry clearances issued globally under the Working Holidaymaker (WHM) Scheme in each of the last four financial years (2004-08) is shown in the table. The number of such entry clearances issued in the top 10 WHM source countries in each of these years is also shown.

In FY 2003-04, a total of 59,822 WHM visas were issued globally. However, we are unable to provide accurate figures for the numbers issued in individual countries in this or previous financial years.

The data shown in the following tables are unpublished and should therefore be treated as provisional.

Working holidaymaker visas issued: FY 2004—FY 2008

	Country	*FY 2004-05 issued*
1	Australia	23,257
2	South Africa	21,781
3	Canada	5,258
4	New Zealand	4,833
5	Ghana	3,224
6	India	2,033
7	Malaysia	1,470
8	Namibia	1,101
9	United States	674
10	Sri Lanka	639
	Total (top 10)	64,270
	Total (all countries)	69,132

	Country	*FY 2005-06 issued*
1	Australia	19,197
2	South Africa	16,773
3	Canada	4,508
4	New Zealand	4,408

	Country	FY 2005-06 issued
5	Ghana	2,231
6	India	1,550
7	United States	479
8	Trinidad and Tobago	461
9	Singapore	315
10	Irish Republic	248
	Total (top 10)	50,170
	Total (all countries)	52,598

	Country	FY 2006-07 issued
1	Australia	20,588
2	South Africa	8,946
3	New Zealand	4,664
4	Canada	3,852
5	India	2,302
6	Ghana	1,406
7	Bangladesh	548
8	United States	362
9	Malaysia	313
10	Trinidad and Tobago	301
	Total (top 10)	43,282
	Total (all countries)	46,048

	Country	FY 2007-08 issued
1	Australia	14,948
2	South Africa	6,374
3	New Zealand	3,306
4	Canada	3,060
5	India	2,686
6	Malaysia	1,016
7	Ghana	855
8	Bangladesh	602
9	Trinidad and Tobago	285
10	United States	260
	Total (top 10)	33,392
	Total (all countries)	35,641

Note:
Date range - 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008.
Source:
CRS (30 July 2008)

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of employees per sponsor likely to be applied for under tier 2 of the points-based system. [218909]

Mr. Byrne: We do not yet have projected figures for the average number of migrant employees per sponsor.

Our analysis of historic work permit data shows that an average annual figure for migrant employees per employer is not indicative of employer/migrant activity overall. It is skewed towards a very low average, and therefore we believe it is of limited use for planning or reporting purposes.

However, historical data relating to work permits show 81.6 per cent. of organisations over a four year period used less than five work permits each.

Immigration: Appeals

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target processing time has been in relation to appeals to asylum and immigration tribunals in each of the last five years. [224107]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) (prior to April 2005 the Immigration Appellate Authority) has joint target processing times with the Home Office and information covering each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Target	Performance
2007-08	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: To grant or remove 90 per cent. of asylum claimants within six months by the end of 2011 Milestone: 40 per cent. of new asylum claimants by December 2007	46 per cent. of new applications received in June 2007 were concluded within six months by the end of December 2007
2007-08[1]	Receipt in AIT to promulgation by Immigration Judge:	
	Asylum—75 per cent. in six weeks	Asylum—61 per cent. in six weeks
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)—75 per cent. in eight weeks	Managed Migration—66 per cent. in eight weeks
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)—75 per cent. within 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle	Entry Clearance—49 per cent. in 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle
	Family Visit Visa—75 per cent. within 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle	Family Visit Visas—66 per cent. in 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle
2006-07	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: To grant or remove 90 per cent. of asylum claimants within six months by the end of 2011 Milestone: 35 per cent. of new asylum claimants by April 2007	38 per cent. of new applications received in September 2006 were concluded within six months
2005-06	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 75 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including the final appeal decided within six months	74 per cent. of applications received in 2005-06 had a final decision up to and including appeal, within six months

	Target	Performance
2004-05	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 65 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including the final appeal decided within six months	67 per cent. of substantive applications in 2004-05 had a final decision up to and including appeal at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months
2004-05	75 per cent. of asylum cases, covered by the PSA, to be decided by adjudicators within 12 weeks from receipt	77 per cent. decided within 12 weeks of receipt
2003-04	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 60 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including final appeal decided within six months	64 per cent. of substantive applications in 2003-04 had a final decision up to and including appeals at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months

[1] Key Performance Indicators were introduced in April 2007 to measure the waiting times for all main AIT case types.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time has been for appeals to asylum and immigration tribunals in each of the last five years. [224108]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The average processing times for appeals to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (prior to April 2005 the Immigration Appellate Authority) in each of the last five years is available and the information is shown as follows.

	Case type[1]	Average waiting time from receipt in the IAA/AIT to promulgation by an Adjudicator/Immigration Judge[2] (weeks)
2007-08	Asylum	8
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	26
	Family Visit Visas	20
2006-07	Asylum	9
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	30
	Family Visit Visas	30
2005-06[3]	Asylum	15
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	17
	Family Visit Visas	22
2004-05	Asylum	17
	Immigration	12
	Family Visit Visas	10
2003-04	Asylum	17
	Immigration	13
	Family Visit Visas	8

[1] Separate information on In Country and Out of Country Immigration appeals is not available prior to April 2005.
[2] Average waiting time information is taken from reports produced for internal use by the IAA and AIT from their databases. It is not subject to the same quality checks as performance targets and other published data.
[3] Data for 2005-06 taken from the AIT database ARIA, and covers from commencement of AIT on 4April 2005.

Parking Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between the level of penalty imposed for parking offences and the incidence of such offences. [224056]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities in England with the power to enforce parking on the street and in local authority owned car parks may issue penalty charge notices to vehicles parked in contravention of the regulations. The primary purpose of a penalty charge is to encourage compliance with parking regulations and authorities are advised to adopt the lowest charge level consistent with a high level of public acceptability and compliance. Authorities must set levels that comply with the guidelines of the Mayor (in London) and the Secretary of State (outside London). A range of factors may influence the incidence of parking contraventions in particular areas. The Department for Transport has not commissioned or evaluated specific research on this particular factor.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* regular police officers fall into each ethnic category in each police force area. [219157]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Police community support officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2007

Percentage

Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese or Other ethnic group	Not stated
Avon and Somerset	96	1	1	1	1	1
Bedfordshire	89	4	1	6	0	0
Cambridgeshire	93	2	1	3	0	1
Cheshire	100	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	98	0	0	2	0	0

Table 1: Police community support officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2007

Percentage

Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese or Other ethnic group	Not stated
Cumbria	99	1	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	96	1	1	2	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	67	0	0	0	1	31
Dorset	98	1	0	2	0	0
Durham	99	1	0	1	0	0
Essex	95	1	1	1	0	2
Gloucestershire	87	2	0	2	1	8
Greater Manchester	96	0	1	3	0	0
Hampshire	98	0	0	0	0	1
Hertfordshire	95	0	1	2	0	2
Humberside	99	1	1	0	0	0
Kent	96	1	0	1	1	0
Lancashire	98	1	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire	90	0	0	9	0	0
Lincolnshire	99	0	1	0	0	0
London, City of	83	8	3	6	0	0
Merseyside	95	4	0	2	0	0
Metropolitan Police	67	4	11	12	4	1
Norfolk	97	0	1	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	93	4	2	1	0	0
Northumbria	98	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	0	1	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	96	1	0	3	0	0
South Yorkshire	95	0	3	1	0	0
Staffordshire	96	1	0	2	0	0
Suffolk	99	1	0	0	0	0
Surrey	93	0	1	3	0	2
Sussex	95	1	0	0	1	3
Thames Valley	93	2	0	4	0	0
Warwickshire	94	0	1	4	0	1
West Mercia	93	1	0	1	0	5
West Midlands	83	2	2	9	0	1
West Yorkshire	95	0	1	4	0	0
Wiltshire	98	1	1	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	99	0	1	0	0	0
Gwent	97	0	1	2	0	0
North Wales	96	1	0	1	0	2
South Wales	98	0	0	1	0	1

[1] Percentage figures based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Table 2: Police officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2007

Percentage

Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese or Other ethnic group	Not stated
Avon and Somerset	98	0	1	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	93	1	1	3	0	2
Cambridgeshire	96	1	0	1	0	1
Cheshire	99	1	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Police officer ethnicity[1] by police force area as at 31 March 2007

Percentage

Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese or Other ethnic group	Not stated
Cleveland	96	0	0	1	0	2
Cumbria	99	1	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	96	1	0	2	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	91	0	0	0	0	8
Dorset	99	1	0	0	0	0
Durham	98	1	0	1	0	0
Essex	98	1	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	98	1	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	96	1	1	1	0	0
Hampshire	90	1	0	1	1	8
Hertfordshire	96	1	0	1	0	1
Humberside	99	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	98	1	0	1	0	0
Lancashire	87	1	0	2	0	11
Leicestershire	93	1	1	3	0	2
Lincolnshire	99	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	95	1	2	2	0	0
Merseyside	97	1	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Police	92	1	2	3	1	0
Norfolk	98	1	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	87	1	1	1	0	9
Northumbria	98	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	1	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	96	1	1	1	0	0
South Yorkshire	97	0	1	2	0	1
Staffordshire	98	1	1	0	0	0
Suffolk	98	1	0	0	0	0
Surrey	96	2	0	1	0	1
Sussex	99	1	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	93	2	1	1	0	3
Warwickshire	95	1	0	3	0	1
West Mercia	99	0	0	1	0	0
West Midlands	92	1	2	4	0	0
West Yorkshire	96	1	1	2	0	0
Wiltshire	99	1	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	99	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	99	1	0	0	0	0
North Wales	99	0	0	0	0	1
South Wales	86	1	0	0	0	12

[1] Percentage figures based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of police officers *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* per notifiable offence in each year from 1997 in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force in England and Wales. [219110]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008

Police force	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	As at 31 March 2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226	224	218
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213	207	204
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196	187	183
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225	218
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308	315	303
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256	255	251
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212	209	212
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219	216	214
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216	217	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288	285	272
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203	203	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228	229	230
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318	314	315
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211	215	214
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208	210	204
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251	251	248
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229	227
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253	252	254
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241	237	233
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183	183	175
London, City of[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315	325	331
Metropolitan Police[5]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	428	426	430
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193	191	190
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207	200	196
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291	283	285
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216	217	202
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243	235	224
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259	256	248
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219	219	214
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191	196	188
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183	179
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207	205	201
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202	199	194
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198	199	198
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202	205	210
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318	318	324
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270	270	269
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196	192	190
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236	237
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264	268	266
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242	238	234
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271	273	264
England and Wales	241	240	237	233	234	240	254	264	267	267	266	264

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhymney Valley from South Wales Police to Gwent Police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Table 2: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	1997
Avon and Somerset	48
Bedfordshire	44
Cambridgeshire	47
Cheshire	30
Cleveland	43
Cumbria	31

Table 2: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	1997
Derbyshire	42
Devon and Cornwall	32
Dorset	34
Durham	32
Essex	31
Gloucestershire	43

Table 2: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	1997
Greater Manchester	44
Hampshire	36
Hertfordshire	29
Humberside	60
Kent	38
Lancashire	37
Leicestershire	41
Lincolnshire	36
London, City of	6
Merseyside	30
Metropolitan Police	30
Norfolk	37
Northamptonshire	46
Northumbria	37
North Yorkshire	37
Nottinghamshire	55
South Yorkshire	41
Staffordshire	39
Suffolk	30
Surrey	24
Sussex	37
Thames Valley	42
Warwickshire	39
West Mercia	38
West Midlands	39
West Yorkshire	47
Wiltshire	29
Dyfed-Powys	18
Gwent	38
North Wales	29
South Wales	44
England and Wales	37

Note:
Recorded crime statistics were collected on a calendar year basis up to 1997 and thereafter on a financial year basis. Therefore, these figures are not comparable with those for later years.
Source:
Population estimates are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Avon and Somerset	50	50	50	57
Bedfordshire	47	52	48	49
Cambridgeshire	53	56	50	51
Cheshire	31	32	32	34
Cleveland	47	46	46	49
Cumbria	36	35	31	34
Derbyshire	49	48	45	49
Devon and Cornwall	38	39	35	33
Dorset	41	40	37	40
Durham	32	31	28	32
Essex	33	37	37	38
Gloucestershire	44	46	43	43
Greater Manchester	53	55	53	53
Hampshire	37	40	39	39
Hertfordshire	29	30	33	37
Humberside	66	63	58	57
Kent	40	39	39	36
Lancashire	36	34	36	42
Leicestershire	47	47	43	42
Lincolnshire	41	41	37	42

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
London, City of	9	11	12	13
Merseyside	33	36	35	37
Metropolitan Police	36	41	40	40
Norfolk	41	43	40	40
Northamptonshire	58	55	49	50
Northumbria	39	38	33	33
North Yorkshire	41	42	40	42
Nottinghamshire	61	62	61	68
South Yorkshire	42	42	39	42
Staffordshire	41	46	49	53
Suffolk	34	38	39	42
Surrey	26	26	31	31
Sussex	46	48	48	47
Thames Valley	47	51	51	52
Warwickshire	42	43	40	44
West Mercia	40	45	40	51
West Midlands	43	51	49	48
West Yorkshire	55	54	54	61
Wiltshire	33	34	33	33
Dyfed-Powys	24	23	22	21
Gwent	47	48	45	35
North Wales	32	32	33	36
South Wales	45	43	35	36
England and Wales:	41	43	42	43

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1989-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997 and earlier.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
Source:
Population estimates are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Table 4: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2007-08

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	55	48	48	46	48	43
Bedfordshire	55	53	48	50	48	44
Cambridgeshire	61	57	53	47	50	48
Cheshire	40	42	41	44	41	37
Cleveland	47	44	41	43	40	40
Cumbria	33	32	33	33	31	29
Derbyshire	52	48	41	40	40	37
Devon and Cornwall	41	40	40	36	36	32
Dorset	44	44	40	40	37	35
Durham	31	29	27	31	32	30
Essex	46	47	42	40	39	36
Gloucestershire	45	45	41	41	40	34
Greater Manchester	52	46	40	41	42	38
Hampshire	42	48	46	47	48	43
Hertfordshire	44	46	46	45	42	38
Humberside	63	64	56	52	51	44
Kent	37	38	38	41	40	36

Table 4: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2007-08

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lancashire	39	43	43	40	38	34
Leicestershire	45	42	42	41	42	40
Lincolnshire	51	49	48	47	45	43
London, City of	12	11	10	10	9	9
Merseyside	40	41	40	41	35	29
Metropolitan Police	39	36	33	32	30	28
Norfolk	48	46	43	42	40	36
Northamptonshire	61	63	58	52	52	50
Northumbria	42	39	35	33	33	28
North Yorkshire	47	47	40	36	33	32
Nottinghamshire	67	64	57	56	57	54
South Yorkshire	48	43	43	50	49	46
Staffordshire	49	48	44	46	46	40
Suffolk	40	41	40	41	38	37
Surrey	36	38	37	36	39	36
Sussex	44	44	46	44	43	39
Thames Valley	54	52	50	48	50	48
Warwickshire	44	45	43	42	43	39
West Mercia	47	45	40	36	34	33
West Midlands	45	43	36	36	34	30
West Yorkshire	64	62	47	46	44	40
Wiltshire	38	35	33	33	37	37
Dyfed-Powys	22	27	28	26	26	22
Gwent	46	43	40	37	36	33
North Wales	42	39	33	31	34	29
South Wales	44	42	38	38	37	39
England and Wales:	45	43	40	39	38	35

Notes:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
Source:
Population estimates are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 20 non-EU nationalities received the most work permits for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses in each year since 1997; and how many such work permits were issued to non-EU nationals in each of those years. [210421]

Mr. Byrne: Tables placed in the House Library show the 20 non-EU nationalities (where applicable) with the highest number of work permits granted each year for doctors and nurses in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2007.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* couples had been assessed as suitable adoptive parents and were yet to adopt at the most recent date for which information is available; [223342]

(2) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* couples were assessed as suitable adoptive parents in each of the last 10 years; [223344]

(3) how many children who were adopted waited longer than *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interest in each of the last five years. [223345]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: The information requested is as follows:

223342

Data on how many *(a)* people and *(b)* couples have been assessed as suitable adoptive parents and were yet to adopt are not collected centrally by the Department.

223344

Data on how many *(a)* people and *(b)* couples have been assessed as suitable adoptive parents in each of the last 10 years are not collected centrally by the Department.

223345

Information on how many children who were adopted waited longer than *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interest in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

The table provides the information requested for looked after children who were adopted. The figures shown for the time between the decision that adoption was in the child's best interest and the date of adoption are cumulative.

Looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March by the time between the decision that adoption was in their best interest and adoption, 2003 to 2007[1,2]

England	Year ending 31 March in which adopted				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All Children looked after adopted	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300
Time between decision that adoption was in the best interest and adoption					
More than 1 month (30 days)	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300
More than 6 months (182 days)	3,400	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,200
More than 1 year	2,500	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,400

[1] SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how and by whom the new statutory guidance on sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 will be monitored and evaluated; and when he expects the first evaluation to be completed. [223353]

Beverley Hughes: As set out in the Children's Plan launched by the Secretary of State in December 2007, the Government are committed to publishing revised statutory guidance under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 on inter-agency co-operation to improve the well-being of children, young people and families later this year. A revised version of the statutory guidance under Section 11 on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, originally issued in 2005, was published in April 2007. The Government have no plans to issue further revised guidance at this stage.

The Government have no plans to provide specific additional funding for implementing these guidance documents, which are intended to clarify the statutory responsibilities of local authorities and other bodies, including health agencies, for which they receive mainstream funding. The Government have however commissioned an audit of the extent to which public organisations have been complying with their duties under Section 11. The results of the survey will be made public in spring 2009.

From April 2009, the performance of local authorities and their partners will be assessed under the new, multi-inspectorate Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This will focus on the delivery of key outcomes in an area, and the contribution of statutory and non-statutory partners, including health agencies, will be in scope. Inspectorates are currently consulting on CAA, and intend to publish their framework in February 2009. CAA will report annually, with the first reports in November 2009.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221169]

Jim Knight: The total amount claimed as reimbursable expenses by press officers are as follows:

	£
2005-06	2,688
2006-07	4,981
2007-08	5,036

These figures include expenses claimed by press officers who transferred to DIUS in the machinery of government changes in 2007. We do not hold records of expenses claimed by any outside agencies.

Education and Inspection Act 2006: Parenting Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting orders under section 98 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 have been issued since September 2007. [224101]

Jim Knight: To date, no local authority has applied to the courts for a parenting order following a pupil's exclusion from school or for serious misbehaviour. Use of parenting orders was always intended to be a last resort, after local authorities and schools had used a wide range of strategies to address poor behaviour in schools such as voluntary parenting contracts for behaviour. 86 local authorities have agreed over 6,500 parenting contracts for behaviour since September 2004.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science key stage 3 tests he estimates will have been marked and entered into the computer system by 15 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [217700]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 pupils who will not receive their national test results in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science by 18 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [218222]

(3) which schools will not receive their national test results by 18 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [218223]

(4) what progress has been made in marking key stage 2 and 3 national test papers; and if he will make a statement. [218225]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process within the QCA. NAA has advised that, to date, the proportion of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 English, maths and science results available to schools are as follows:

	Percentage
Key Stage 2	
English	99.4
Mathematics	99.6
Science	99.7
Key Stage 3	
English	97.4
Mathematics	98.9
Science	99.9

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) by what date he expects all key stage 2 test results to have been delivered to schools; [220484]

(2) by what date he expects all key stage 3 test results to have been delivered to schools. [220485]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process within the QCA. NAA has advised that, at present, over 99.5 per cent. of Key Stage 2 and over 98 per cent. of Key Stage 3 results have been made available to schools.

National Strategies: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget is, including monies allocated through the Standards Fund and Area-Based Agreements, for the National Strategies in 2008-09. [224222]

Jim Knight: The budget allocated for the National Strategies programmes in 2008-09 is:

£86 million for the central support and challenge function to local authorities, schools and early years settings, including substantial free resources provided through the web and in hard copy form. This central resource supports a range of programmes, for example school improvement, behaviour and attendance and early years, whose local delivery is supported from other budgets.

£60 million for local authority delivery and support to schools which is now a component part of the area based grant paid to local authorities.

£218 million standards fund grant for schools to access the national strategies' core training and support.

Pre-School Education: Disadvantaged

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to ensure that children from disadvantaged families have the same access to pre-school educational care as other children. [223557]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* All three and four-year-olds are now guaranteed free, part time early education, so that they can receive two years high quality early learning before school starting age. Local authorities are required to reach out to particularly disadvantaged and hard to reach groups within their local community to maximise take up of this free entitlement. We are also piloting free early years provision to 13,000 disadvantaged two-year-olds across 32 local authorities. As set out in the Children's Plan, we are investing £100 million over three years to extend the offer of up to 15 hours of free early education and child care to a further 20,000 two-year-olds in the most disadvantaged communities.

Since April 2008, local authorities have been under a duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents in their area, paying particular attention to the needs of families from disadvantaged backgrounds as reported in their child care sufficiency assessments. We are also doing more than ever to make good quality child care affordable, particularly through spending some £3.5 million every day on tax credits for lower and middle income working families. The Department is running an 'Affordable Childcare' media campaign, aimed at disadvantaged families in particular, informing parents of the benefits of child care for children and the financial help available through tax credits. In addition, we are pursuing an initiative to improve the take-up of child care by hard-to-reach and black and minority ethnic families, as well as a scheme to help workless families with child care as they train for work.

Schools: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal support measures his Department provides to headteachers whose school is undergoing an Ofsted inspection. [224231]

Jim Knight: The Department does not provide specific support to head teachers during a school inspection. However, Ofsted provides a helpline which head teachers can access if they need advice or have concerns about an inspection.

Ofsted aims to make the school inspection process as transparent as possible. It publishes its inspection guidance so that headteachers can benefit from a clear understanding of how their school will be inspected. It also produces the Self-evaluation Form (SEF) and jointly with Department provides schools with RAISEonline, a performance data package which allows schools to analyse their own performance. Both these link to the framework used by inspectors in assessing a school, which is published.

All schools have School Improvement Partners tasked with providing regular professional challenge and support in the process of school improvement, including help with taking forward Ofsted's recommendations.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils who have taken part in the Making Good Progress pilot did not pass the single level test at the first attempt in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science at key stage 2 (i) level 4 and (ii) level 5. [224223]

Jim Knight: National level results of the single level tests have not yet been published. They will be published as part of an independent evaluation of the Making Good Progress pilot which is being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Their interim report will be published in autumn 2008.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils who have taken part in the Making Good Progress pilot to date reached key stage 2 level 4 in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science by the end of year 6. [224224]

Jim Knight: We are not able to provide results from the 2008 Key Stage 2 National Curriculum assessments for schools involved in the Making Good Progress pilot. These results are currently provisional and have been published at national and local authority level only.

The percentage of pupils achieving level 4 in Key Stage 2 National Curriculum assessments in English, mathematics and science will be published at school level, including schools involved in the Making Good Progress pilot, in the 2008 Primary Achievement and Attainment Tables.

National level results of the single level tests have not yet been published. They will be published as part of an independent evaluation of the Making Good Progress pilot which is being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Their interim report will be published in autumn 2008.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many schools *(a)* 75 per cent. or more and *(b)* 50 per cent. or more of pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not achieve a single GCSE above grade D in the latest academic year for which figures are available; [224226]

(2) in how many schools 50 per cent. or more of pupils did not achieve a single GCSE above grade D in the latest academic year for which figures are available. [224225]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows.

In 103 schools 75 per cent. or more of the pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE and equivalent grades higher than a D in 2006/07.

In 754 schools 50 per cent. or more of the pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE and equivalent grades higher than a D in 2006/07.

Of the 76,568 pupils eligible for FSM attending maintained secondary schools who took any GCSE and equivalent in 2006/07, 30,881 (40.3 per cent.) did not attain grades higher than a D.

In 483 schools 50 per cent. or more of the pupils did not attain any GCSE and equivalent grades higher than a D in 2006/07.

These figures relate to GCSE and equivalent and based on pupils at the end of KS4 in all maintained schools.

Only schools with 10 or more pupils are included in the answer.

Sure Start Programme: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the total *(a)* number and *(b)* cost was of health visitors, midwives and community nursery nurses employed by Sure Start local programmes and paid for by the Sure Start Local Programme Block in 2007-08; and what the allocations are for these services in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; [223642]

(2) what the total *(a)* number and *(b)* cost was of dedicated outreach workers employed by Sure Start local programmes and paid for by the Sure Start Local Programme Block in 2007-08; and what the allocations are for these services in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [223643]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Department does not collect information on the total number and cost of staff employed in Sure Start children's centres and paid for by the Sure Start children's centre revenue funding in 2007-08 (Sure Start local programmes have all become children's centres). That is a matter for local management by local authorities and their partner agencies. We allocate revenue funding to local authorities for Sure Start children's centres through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. Local authorities determine how much individual centres receive to meet the needs of the local community. We notified local authorities of their Sure Start children's centres funding allocations for each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 in August 2007 and these are available on the Sure Start website at

http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications/index.cfm?document=1925

The majority of health visitors, midwives and community nursery nurses who work from children's centres are employed by the local health service and would not be funded by the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. We do not collect information on how many health visitors, midwives and community nursery nurses work from children's centres.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to increase the financial penalty arising from the issuance of a penalty notice for disorder. [223502]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to increase the financial penalty arising from the issue of a PND, at present.

Under the PND Scheme, the police can issue a fixed penalty of £50 or £80 for a specified range of anti-social behaviour offences including minor shoplifting and criminal damage. Penalty levels are kept under review.

Community Orders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time between the passing of a sentence for a community order and the defendant's becoming engaged in the activity or requirement ordered was in each criminal justice area in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [223516]

Mr. Hanson: National Standards for the Management of Offenders require that community orders begin in a timely manner and this is monitored by Probation Areas. Full year data are only available for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in relation to the start of unpaid work, drug rehabilitation and specific activity requirements are shown in tables 1 and 2. National Standards state that these requirements commence within 10 working days, two working days and 15 working days respectively.

In respect of all community orders, with the exception of stand alone curfew and attendance centre requirements, offender managers are required to initiate contact with offenders within five working days of sentence. The extent to which this was achieved by probation areas during 2007-08 and 2006-07[1] is shown in tables 3 and 4.

Figures relating to the start of community orders are not available for each criminal justice area, but are instead broken down by probation areas. The tables[2] provide a summary of National Standards monitoring in 2007-08 and 2006-07[1].

National Standard requirements may not be met in some occasions as a result of operational pressures within probation areas or as a result of offenders failing to report as instructed.

[1] Full year data is unavailable prior to this period.

[2] Figures are extracted from large scale administrative systems, which may be subject to data input errors.

Table 1: Unpaid work requirements, drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements and specific activity requirements 2007-08

	Percentage of unpaid work requirements commenced within 10 working days		Percentage of drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements commenced within two working days		Percentage of specified activity requirements commenced within 15 working days	
Probation area	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within 10 wkdays	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within two wkdays	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within 15 wkdays
Avon and Somerset	246	53	40	68	36	56
Bedfordshire	165	79	30	63	9	56
Cambridgeshire	163	61	24	54	21	48
Cheshire	315	72	35	66	5	80
County Durham	156	89	26	65	11	64
Cumbria	247	85	21	76	0	—
Derbyshire	276	66	83	86	29	76
Devon and Cornwall	327	77	109	68	5	60
Dorset	151	83	14	71	20	65
Dyfed Powys	122	87	27	70	0	—
Essex	455	77	38	47	64	64
Gloucestershire	107	69	24	71	24	58
Greater Manchester	1,438	75	244	61	10	40
Gwent	208	75	48	65	95	58
Hampshire	598	60	87	63	112	45
Hertfordshire	246	78	19	42	85	33
Humberside	302	72	66	76	66	55
Kent	513	74	46	72	118	58
Lancashire	538	69	107	63	3	33
Leicestershire	456	84	71	85	44	34
Lincolnshire	135	75	39	62	59	31
London	2,202	45	408	48	160	48
Merseyside	525	86	140	78	87	29
Norfolk	289	85	50	74	8	50
North Wales	229	90	37	51	26	56
North Yorkshire	202	83	16	50	69	43
Northamptonshire	285	88	69	86	70	73
Northumbria	511	70	113	80	64	55
Nottinghamshire	402	82	69	86	31	74
South Wales	451	78	64	69	25	56
South Yorkshire	464	84	113	68	17	47
Staffordshire	276	70	104	77	120	32
Suffolk	243	80	27	85	1	0
Surrey	180	86	21	76	3	67
Sussex	456	83	68	72	40	38
Teesside	185	79	54	57	35	63
Thames Valley	651	48	1090	72	—	—
Warwickshire	158	71	22	59	22	36
West Mercia	429	77	67	67	13	62
West Midlands	734	68	193	66	47	47
West Yorkshire	877	82	158	61	15	20
Wiltshire	136	82	22	64	32	66
England and Wales	12,154	71	3,084	66	1,802	50

Table 2: Unpaid work requirements, drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements and specific activity requirements 2006-07

	Percentage of unpaid work requirements commenced within 10 working days		Percentage of drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements commenced within two working days		Percentage of specified activity requirements commenced within 15 working days	
Probation area	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within required 10 wkdays	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within two wkdays	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases commenced within 15 wkdays
Avon and Somerset	302	60	69	62	32	53
Bedfordshire	156	62	30	57	13	31
Cambridgeshire	178	56	22	41	17	41
Cheshire	259	75	57	56	9	56
County Durham	171	86	11	64	18	39

Table 2: Unpaid work requirements, drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements and specific activity requirements 2006-07

	Percentage of unpaid work requirements commenced within 10 working days		*Percentage of drug testing and treatment orders/drug rehabilitation requirements commenced within two working days*		*Percentage of specified activity requirements commenced within 15 working days*	
Probation area	*Number of cases in sample*	*Percentage of cases commenced within required 10 w/days*	*Number of cases in sample*	*Percentage of cases commenced within two w/days*	*Number of cases in sample*	*Percentage of cases commenced within 15 w/days*
Cumbria	188	86	20	70	0	—
Derbyshire	339	66	75	77	31	48
Devon and Cornwall	368	71	82	63	1	100
Dorset	140	81	18	89	16	81
Dyfed Powys	96	76	28	93	0	—
Essex	214	51	14	64	32	44
Gloucestershire	105	75	10	80	30	57
Greater Manchester	1,392	80	291	59	11	82
Gwent	201	79	58	79	68	60
Hampshire	575	63	77	73	118	52
Hertfordshire	242	69	34	62	37	43
Humberside	319	74	67	63	49	53
Kent	497	78	55	60	77	77
Lancashire	494	70	119	69	3	67
Leicestershire	443	84	93	83	28	43
Lincolnshire	113	66	50	66	47	40
London	2,359	45	456	51	145	49
Merseyside	504	88	97	72	50	28
Norfolk	265	77	34	62	7	43
North Wales	204	83	24	46	61	36
North Yorkshire	263	82	30	90	67	54
Northamptonshire	163	80	33	73	50	38
Northumbria	448	70	107	57	55	44
Nottinghamshire	419	66	89	72	23	78
South Wales	443	86	64	66	32	66
South Yorkshire	453	78	77	90	13	38
Staffordshire	268	79	83	72	133	38
Suffolk	105	79	8	63	1	0
Surrey	163	88	44	77	2	50
Sussex	376	83	67	73	14	29
Teesside	235	77	47	66	44	61
Thames Valley	605	48	81	51	50	58
Warwickshire	139	68	34	76	16	13
West Mercia	390	70	50	54	15	67
West Midlands	584	46	248	70	81	47
West Yorkshire	762	74	191	61	2	100
Wiltshire	139	78	34	79	14	36
England and Wales	16,082	69	3,178	65	1,512	49

Table 3: First appointment arranged with offender manager within five working days of sentence 2007-08

Probation area	*Number of cases in sample*	*Percentage of cases in which first appointment was arranged with offender manager within five working days*
Avon and Somerset	452	83
Bedfordshire	287	95
Cambridgeshire	276	76
Cheshire	549	91
County Durham	346	95
Cumbria	393	94
Derbyshire	365	94
Devon and Cornwall	550	96
Dorset	219	89
Dyfed Powys	247	97
Essex	663	89
Gloucestershire	211	86

Table 3: First appointment arranged with offender manager within five working days of sentence 2007-08

Probation area	*Number of cases in sample*	*Percentage of cases in which first appointment was arranged with offender manager within five working days*
Greater Manchester	2,520	96
Gwent	377	95
Hampshire	954	83
Hertfordshire	495	87
Humberside	526	98
Kent	741	97
Lancashire	1,091	95
Leicestershire	720	94
Lincolnshire	260	80
London	3,024	58
Merseyside	964	94
Norfolk	414	97
North Wales	438	95

Table 3: First appointment arranged with offender manager within five working days of sentence 2007-08

Probation area	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases in which first appointment was arranged with offender manager within five working days
North Yorkshire	367	96
Northamptonshire	461	96
Northumbria	1,127	94
Nottinghamshire	788	95
South Wales	777	94
South Yorkshire	944	96
Staffordshire	565	87
Suffolk	360	97
Surrey	332	95
Sussex	821	88
Teesside	418	98
Thames Valley	1,027	82
Warwickshire	288	94
West Mercia	801	90
West Midlands	1,657	86
West Yorkshire	1,607	98
Wiltshire	221	87
England and Wales	29,741	89

Table 4: First appointment arranged with offender manager within five working days of sentence 2006-07

Probation area	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases in which first appointment was arranged with offender manager within five working days
Avon and Somerset	505	91
Bedfordshire	314	91
Cambridgeshire	263	71
Cheshire	510	89
County Durham	333	97
Cumbria	323	90
Derbyshire	503	93
Devon and Cornwall	605	94
Dorset	217	91
Dyfed Powys	220	96
Essex	327	90
Gloucestershire	218	89
Greater Manchester	2,445	94
Gwent	356	97
Hampshire	823	86
Hertfordshire	467	80
Humberside	542	96
Kent	747	95
Lancashire	960	95
Leicestershire	681	88
Lincolnshire	242	92
London	3,405	57
Merseyside	968	96
Norfolk	415	92
North Wales	379	95
North Yorkshire	416	95
Northamptonshire	294	84
Northumbria	1,051	94
Nottinghamshire	787	94
South Wales	751	93

Table 4: First appointment arranged with offender manager within five working days of sentence 2006-07

Probation area	Number of cases in sample	Percentage of cases in which first appointment was arranged with offender manager within five working days
South Yorkshire	987	90
Staffordshire	569	90
Suffolk	178	96
Surrey	292	87
Sussex	666	89
Teesside	478	93
Thames Valley	977	76
Warwickshire	261	92
West Mercia	685	93
West Midlands	1,420	83
West Yorkshire	1,606	95
Wiltshire	263	85
England and Wales	28,567	87

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take following the comments regarding the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) made by the tribunal in the action brought by Halima Aziz against the CPS. [224203]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has accepted the recommendations contained in the tribunal's judgment and is taking steps to implement them. The CPS does not accept certain elements of the judgment in relation to its conduct of the litigation and the internal investigation following the decision of the Court of Appeal. On those elements it is seeking a review and appeal. In light of this continued litigation, it is not appropriate to comment further until the matter is concluded.

Curfews: Monitoring

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons his Department decided to put in place arrangements for the remote monitoring of compliance with curfew conditions of certain offenders who have transferred to England and Wales from Scotland, as determined by Schedule 2 of Statutory Instrument No. 1788. [223999]

Mr. Hanson: The Scotland Act 1998 (Agency Arrangements) (Specification) (No 2) Order 2008 is part of the legislative framework which will facilitate the cross border transfer of prisoners. It will allow prisoners serving a prison sentence in Scotland who would be released under the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme there to be released, on a restricted transfer basis, to an address in England or Wales and vice versa.

Officials in my Department and the Scottish Executive are working together to put the contractual arrangements with the electronic monitoring contractors in place to enable full cross border arrangements to come into effect on 20 October 2008.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions his Department and its predecessor instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220815]

Mr. Wills: Neither the Treasury Solicitor nor the Ministry keep central records and we have not been able to identify any cases to which the Minister of Justice, Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs or the Lord Chancellor was a party, where the Treasury Solicitor applied for leave to appeal to the House of Lords and was refused. We cannot, therefore, say whether there were any such cases and, if so, how many.

We are aware that the Court of Appeal granted the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs leave to appeal to the House of Lords in two cases. In one of those cases, the House of Lords gave Secretary of State of Justice permission to appeal.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what incidents of data loss by or from his Department there have been since 1 July 2007; and what instructions or protocols there are in his Department to prevent such losses. [224013]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has published details of significant personal data related incidents in 2007-08 in its resource accounts laid before this House on 21 July 2008. For the year 2008-09 to date there has been one significant incident, involving the loss of an inadequately protected storage device from the premises of an IT contractor. Other data losses will be handled at local level and compiling information on these could be done only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 26WS, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

The Ministry of Justice has procedures and guidance covering security, information security and data protection designed to identify and control the risk of the unauthorised release of personal data taking place. They include:

Ensuring our sites are physically secure and protected from unauthorised access

Ensuring our employees are reliable through checks on background

Providing guidance to staff on general security with separate guidance on IT security and data protection issues

Procedures for assessing IT systems

We also have systems, for monitoring and checking compliance

These policies and procedures extend to our contracted suppliers.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years; [218970]

(2) how many and what percentage of staff in his Department and its predecessor have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218714]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and National Offender Management Service, including the Prison and Probation Services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Figures for the National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service were the responsibility of the Home Office until the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

Information for HM Prison Service, the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are available separately for the year April 2007 to March 2008, however any previous figures are integrated within the Home Office data.

Sickness absence data as held by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs cannot be broken down to the level of detail requested. However, the general trend of sickness levels in the Ministry overall is downwards. Concerted management attention has been given to attendance across the Ministry over the last 18 months and the Q1/2008 average working days lost (AWDL) per employee was 10.4 days—with HMCS 11.3 days and Tribunal Services 8.2 days. The latest working records indicate the year to date sickness levels to July equate to an annualised AWDL of 9.9 days, reflecting the downward trend. It should be noted that 50 per cent. of the absence figure is made up of 'long-term' cases where absence is greater than 20 working days.

Within Her Majesty's Prison Service 361 staff have taken five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days duration in two or more of the years between 2003-04 and 2007-08. An absence of less than five days is defined as an absence where the return to work is less than five days after the first day of absence.

The Ministry is currently developing a new Attendance Management Policy which, subject to remaining consultations with unions, is intended for launch before the end of this calendar year. The introduction of the new policy will upgrade and standardise the procedures for recording absence across the former DCA so that more detailed analysis of attendance trends and case management can be conducted in future.

Staff taking more than two periods of sick absence of less than five days duration

	Staff taking more than 2 periods of sick absence of less than 5 days duration	*Percentage of staff in post*
2007-08		
HM Prison Service	3,114	6.2
National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform	172	10.0
Former DCA	1—	—
2006-07		
HM Prison Service	3,531	7.2

Staff taking more than two periods of sick absence of less than five days duration

	Staff taking more than 2 periods of sick absence of less than 5 days duration	*Percentage of staff in post*
National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform	Included in Home Office Figures	—
Former DCA	-[1]	—
2005-06		
HM Prison Service	3,749	7.7
National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform	Included in Home Office Figures	—
Former DCA	1	—

[1] See aforementioned note: data not available at this level of detail

Domestic Violence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 July, *Official Report*, column 1217W, on domestic violence, how many people have commenced, but not completed, the CDVP and IDAP programmes; and how many people ordered to attend a domestic violence programme have failed to *(a)* commence and *(b)* complete such a programme. [224209]

Mr. Hanson: Information on delivery of the CDVP (Community Domestic Violence Programme) and IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme) is given in the following table. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

	2007-08[1, 2, 3]
Number enrolled[3]	4,927
Number commenced	4,388
Failure to commence	539
Number of completion	2,800
Failure to complete (of enrolled)	1,588

[1] Data subject to occasional updating.
[2] Reassignment to programmes, leads to some multiple starts per offender.
[3] Equivalent to "ordered".

Legal Services Commission: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department incurred on bonuses for the Legal Services Commission's *(a)* Executive Team, *(b)* staff and (c) directors in the last two years. [224015]

Maria Eagle: As a non-departmental public body, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for its own administrative budget which includes staff pay. The Ministry of Justice and HM Treasury approve the LSC's annual pay remit. The expenditure incurred by the LSC as bonuses is shown in the following table.

£000

	2007-08	*2006-07*
Executive team	137,000	95,000
Staff other than the executive team and directors	685,000	416,000
Directors	168,000	146,000

Bonuses paid relate to performance for the previous financial year. A breakdown of bonuses paid to individual executive team members in the past two years is shown in remuneration reports contained within the LSC's annual reports for 2007-08 and 2006-07, which can be found at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will remove any bonuses paid to the staff at the Legal Services Commission involved with setting up community legal advice centres and community legal advice networks. [224016]

Maria Eagle: Bonus payments for senior LSC staff (Executive Directors and directors) are determined by the achievement of shared and individual objectives which are linked to the LSC's corporate priorities as set out in its corporate/strategic plans. This approach means that bonus payments are made only when a corporate target or priority is achieved. The LSC's performance against its targets is reported on its annual reports, (available at www.legalservices.gov.uk).

For staff below director level, the LSC operates a performance related non-consolidated bonus system. Non-consolidated bonuses are usually used to target one-off in-year contributions that are particularly significant but unlikely to be repeated and are therefore not something that the LSC would pay for year on year.

Any bonuses paid to staff at the LSC involved with setting up community legal advice centres and community legal advice networks would have been paid in accordance with the criteria set out above.

National Offender Management Information System: Expenditure

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the procurement, development and commissioning of the IT system, C-NOMIS, in each of the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. [224011]

Mr. Hanson: The expenditure on C-NOMIS was £56 million in 2005-06 (including a small proportion incurred in earlier years), £69 million in 2006-07 and £52 million in 2007-08.

Until December 2007, the active element of the NOMIS Programme was C-NOMIS. From January 2008, following a strategic review, C-NOMIS became Prison NOMIS, one of the projects in the revised NOMIS Programme.

National Offender Management Service: Buildings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on the development of the National Offender Management Service's Headquarters to date. [224012]

Mr. Hanson: As at the end of July 2008, a total of £699,000 had been spent on the development of the National Offender Management Service headquarters. This is not additional expenditure but a re-allocation of existing resources to this very important programme of work. £232,000 relates to permanent staff which have been seconded to the programme in either project management or subject matter expert roles, but their substantive roles have not been filled. £467,000 covers the use of specialist IT and consultancy support, predominantly using resources from the agency IT provider.

The first phase of the programme covers the fundamental merger type aspects of transferring staff into the Headquarters, Areas and Regions of the NOMS agency and the associated issues around their terms and conditions, accommodation needs, IT requirements and the necessary transfer of data from Home Office to NOMS. The programme then consists mainly of an organisation design phase where the structures will be designed to be fit-for-purpose to meet the financial and operational challenges to March 2011.

PA Consulting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department has with PA Consulting; and what the *(a)* estimated value and *(b)* expected duration of each such contract is. [224008]

Mr. Wills: The information requested regarding the Ministry of Justice's current contracts with PA Consulting is shown in the following table.

Ministry of Justice: current PA contracts

Business group/details of contract	*Date*	*Cost (£)*
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)		
Workforce Reform Management Consulting	1. July to December 2008	[1]424,000
	2. September 2008 to March 2009	[1]—
NOMIS (a single interactive database underpinning the reform programme in NOMS by supporting end-to-end offender management)		
(a) Commercial advice to the NOMIS project	March to October 2008	(a) 338,000
(b) Consultancy on Probation Case Management System	August to October 2008	(b) 49,000
ICT Group		
Technical Design Authority	January to November 2008	590,000
Access to Justice		
Confiscation Order Support 2008/09	Apr 2008 to March 2009	299,000
Hearing Centre Standard Operating Model and Administrative Support Centre Design	June to December 2008	499,000
Assurance Programme	August 2008 to February 2009	106,000
Corporate Performance Group		
MOJ Transition Strategy, Planning and Performance, Change Programme	April to September 2008	143,000
Democracy Constitution and Law		
Change Management framework	December 2007 to December 2008	499,500
OCJR		
Virtual Courts Evaluation Framework	July to September 2008	42,000

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether Electoral Commission guidance on trigger rules associated with the Political Parties and Elections Bill will be subject to delegated legislation procedures. [224081]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill provides that the Electoral Commission may give guidance on triggering (clause 11 of the Bill). This guidance would form part of the code of practice on candidate spending definitions which the Commission has been empowered to produce since the Electoral Administration Act 2006 inserted provision into paragraph 14 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under that provision, any code of practice produced by the Commission must be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. It must then be laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State (unmodified, or with his explanation of the modifications he has made to it). Parliament then has 40 days to annul the draft if it chooses to do so, and if no such resolution is made, the code shall be published by the Commission to take effect on a date appointed by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the provisions within the Political Parties and Elections Bill on the introduction of new trigger rules will apply to candidates for election to the *(a)* European Parliament, *(b)* London Assembly, *(c)* post of London Mayor, *(d)* Welsh Assembly *(e)* Scottish Parliament, *(f)* Northern Ireland Assembly and *(g)* posts of directly elected mayors in local authorities; and what plans he has to include mechanisms to apply such provisions to future elected assemblies in the UK. [224082]

Mr. Wills: No. The changes that re-introduce triggering will apply to candidates at general elections only, as described in the Explanatory Notes to the Political Parties and Elections Bill.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the provisions within the Political Parties and Elections Bill on the introduction of new trigger rules are intended to apply to local campaign expenditure by hon. Members who are reselected as candidates by their local association prior to the dissolution of Parliament; and whether the trigger rules will apply to Communications Allowance expenditure by hon. Members in their constituencies. [224083]

Mr. Wills: Incumbent Members of Parliament seeking re-election will be subject to the new regulations governing candidate expenditure in the same way as non-MPs. The date of Dissolution of Parliament, or adoption as a candidate (whichever is later) will no longer be the determining factor as to when the candidate spending limits contained in section 76 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 start to apply in a parliamentary general election.

Once the provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill take effect, those limits will apply to any spending for the purposes of the candidate's election on the matters set out in schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, whenever it is incurred.

MPs receive parliamentary allowances to enable them to fulfil their duties as an MP. The Communications Allowance is provided to MPs to enable them to communicate proactively with their constituents and inform them about their parliamentary duties. The rules governing use of the Communications Allowance are very clear: the allowance must not be used for personal benefit or for party political campaigning. Provided the allowance is used in accordance with parliamentary rules, this means that expenditure of it would not trigger the candidate spending restrictions. Changes to the rules governing use of the Communications Allowance, further strengthening the prohibition on spending for political purposes, were approved by this House in July, and will come into force in spring 2009.

Prisoners

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the effect of the size of the prison population on levels of crime. [223443]

Mr. Straw: Since 1997, the prison population has increased by 35 per cent. (from 61,500 in June 1997 to 83,200 in June 2008). Crime as measured by the British crime survey has decreased by 39 per cent. (2007-08 compared to 1997). As I have said on a number of occasions it is highly probable there is a link between these two trends, but there are no reliable estimates of the precise connection. Crime levels are affected by a range of factors, including demographic, social economic, crime prevention measures (for example, 'target handling' of premises and vehicles), more effective policing, the use of modern techniques (including CCTV) and the area crime reduction approach adopted by local authorities and communities. There is no accepted methodology for disaggregating these factors, either here or abroad. Some further information is available in the "Managing Offenders, Reducing Crime" report December 2003 by Lord Carter, and in "Modelling Crime Reduction" (Home Office online report 38/04).

Prisoners: Females

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of female prisoners he estimates have experienced *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* sexual abuse and *(c)* mental illness in each of the last five years. [224098]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service and the Department of Health do not routinely keep information on the number of female prisoners who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse and/or mental illness. The findings from research indicate that up to half of women in prison may have experienced domestic violence; that up to a third may have been victims of sexual abuse; and that four fifths have diagnosable mental health problems.

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders *(a)* released from prisons and *(b)* who completed community sentences had already served one or more (i) custodial and (ii) community sentence, broken down by the number of previous sentences, in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [223515]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available. However, published statistics on reoffending include information on offenders who have completed their prison sentence or began a community sentence for the 1st quarter of 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. These statistics show the number of previous custodial sentences and the number of previous convictions.

The following table shows how many offenders (released from prisons or commencing community sentences) had received at least one previous custodial sentence broken down by the number of previous custodial sentences

		Offenders released from prison	*Offenders commencing court orders*
Number previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	5,662	18,607
	2002 Q1	5,140	18,318
	2003 Q1	4,616	18,621
	2004 Q1	4,779	19,272
	2005 Q1	4,511	18,222
	2006 Q1	4,647	22,687
One previous custodial sentence	2000 Q1	2,478	3,689
	2002 Q1	2,345	3,699
	2003 Q1	2,042	4,034
	2004 Q1	2,235	4,060
	2005 Q1	2,000	3,591
	2006 Q1	1,931	4,322
Between two and five previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	4,614	4,696
	2002 Q1	4,742	4,874
	2003 Q1	4,340	5,369
	2004 Q1	4,763	5,500
	2005 Q1	4,320	5,038
	2006 Q1	4,017	6,137
Between six and 10 previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	2,044	1,415
	2002 Q1	2,182	1,555
	2003 Q1	2,194	1,975
	2004 Q1	2,530	2,038
	2005 Q1	2,258	1,957

		Offenders released from prison	Offenders commencing court orders
	2006 Q1	2,201	2,377
More than 10 previous custodial sentences	2000 Q1	929	452
	2002 Q1	1,169	568
	2003 Q1	1,166	758
	2004 Q1	1,454	850
	2005 Q1	1,506	920
	2006 Q1	1,584	1,254

The following table shows how many offenders (released from prisons or commencing community sentences) had received at least one previous court conviction broken down by the number of previous convictions.

		Offenders released from prison	Offenders commencing court orders
Number previous convictions	2000 Q1	1,475	6,062
	2002 Q1	1,353	6,047
	2003 Q1	1,322	5,655
	2004 Q1	1,416	5,831
	2005 Q1	1,409	5,592
	2006 Q1	1,576	7,111
One previous conviction	2000 Q1	1,047	3,758
	2002 Q1	874	3,557
	2003 Q1	790	3,701
	2004 Q1	857	3,834
	2005 Q1	817	3,662
	2006 Q1	814	4,569
Between two and five previous convictions	2000 Q1	3,601	8,418
	2002 Q1	3,201	8,251
	2003 Q1	2,785	8,549
	2004 Q1	2,903	8,792
	2005 Q1	2,645	7,944
	2006 Q1	2,660	9,857
Between six and 10 previous convictions	2000 Q1	3,557	5,070
	2002 Q1	3,667	5,187
	2003 Q1	3,133	5,693
	2004 Q1	3,211	5,601
	2005 Q1	2,940	5,194
	2006 Q1	2,680	6,068
More than 10 previous convictions	2000 Q1	6,047	5,551
	2002 Q1	6,483	5,972
	2003 Q1	6,328	7,159
	2004 Q1	7,374	7,662
	2005 Q1	6,784	7,336
	2006 Q1	6,650	9,172

Shoplifting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people *(a)* were cautioned for, *(b)* received a penalty notice for disorder relating to and *(c)* were convicted of shoplifting in 2007; [224102]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in 2007, broken down by *(a)* offence committed and *(b)* police force area. [224103]

Maria Eagle: The information requested for 2007 will be available when it is published at the end of November 2008.

Women's Prisons: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many violent incidents have been recorded in women's prisons over the last five years; and how many assaults on staff have been recorded in women's prisons in that time. [224097]

Maria Eagle: The term 'violent incident' is not used in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) data. The nearest equivalent to 'violent incidents' in NOMS data is incidents of assault. Information on incidents of assault is set out in the following table but is subject to important qualifications. Assault data cover a range of behaviour and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids, other non-contact incidents and allegations. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The Prison Service incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assaults in women's prisons over the past five years

	Number
2003	521
2004	566
2005	637
2006	697
2007	658

Note:
The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents.

Assaults on staff in women's prisons over the past five years

Assault information is recorded at establishment level where it is categorised into one of four categories: prisoner on prisoner, prisoner on officer, prisoner on other and other (including assaults or allegations of assault by non prisoners). The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category. The category prisoner on other contains few entries but these may include prison staff as well as visitors, legal visitors etc. This reply combines prisoner on officer and prisoner on other data categories.

	Number
2003	214
2004	208
2005	257
2006	314
2007	270

Women's Prisons: Equipment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the routine carrying of batons by prison officers in women's prisons. [224095]

Maria Eagle: Current Prison Service policy is that batons are not routinely carried by prison officers in the women's estate, the young people's estate or the open estate. However, they may be used in these areas as part of planned interventions by control and restraint teams in response to very serious incidents of disorder. The review into the use of batons in the women's and open estate is currently under way.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the recommendations were of the review on the use of batons in women's prisons; if he will place in the Library a copy of the conclusions of the review; and what alternatives are under examination to address violence in women's prisons other than equipping staff with batons. [224096]

Maria Eagle: The review into the use of batons in the women's and open estates is under way and due to report at the end of the year. A copy of the report of the review will be placed in the Library on its conclusion. A number of accredited programmes for women have been developed, or are in advanced stages of development, which are appropriate to violence reduction in the women's estate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221707]

Paul Goggins: In the last five years no information technology projects initiated by the Northern Ireland Office have been cancelled prior to completion.

Homicide

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were killed by a current or former partner in *(a)* A District Command Unit area, *(b)* B District Command Unit area and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) age of victim. [207760]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following tables detail the number of recorded murders with a domestic motivation as requested for the period 2004-05 to 2007-08. Figures prior to 2004 were counted and categorised according to Home Office Counting Rules, therefore any crime figures with domestic motivations from 2004-05 onwards are not comparable with those collected in previous years.

Recorded crimes with a domestic motivation: Offences of Murder[1] A and B Districts and Northern Ireland 2004-05 to 2007-08

2004-05

District	*Number of murders*	*Age/Gender of victim*	*Clearance Method*
A	1	One Female age 17 and over	One Charge/ summons
B	2	Two Female age 17 and over	One Charge/ summons; one died before proceedings
NI Total	7	Six Female age 17 and over; one Male age 17 and over	Five Charge/ summons; two died before proceedings

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

2005-06

District	*Number of murders*	*Age/Gender of victim*	*Clearance Method*
A	0	—	—
B	1	One Female age 17 and over	One Charge/ summons
NI Total	2	One Female age 17 and over; one Male age 17 and over	Two Charge/ summons

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

2006-07

District	*Number of murders*	*Age/Gender of victim*	*Clearance Method*
A	0	—	—
B	0	—	—
NI Total	1	One Male age 17 and over	One Charge/ summons

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

2007-08

District	*Number of murders*[1]	*Age/Gender of victim*	*Clearance Method*
A	0	-	-
B	0	-	-
NI Total	3	Two Female age 17 and over; one Male age 17 and over	Two Charge/ summons; one Died before proceedings

[1] The figures include those murders where the relationship identified was spouse -wife, spouse - husband, common law wife, common law husband, boyfriend, girlfriend (this is the terminology used in PSNI crime recording system). It also includes where the offence resulted in a clearance method of charge/summons or offender died before proceedings.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Speed Limits: Cameras

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland speed camera operations were carried out in each District Command Unit area in each of the last 12 months; and how much accrued from fines arising from these operations in each area over the same period. [220388]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following response:

Table 1: Number of speed camera operations and detections April 2007 to March 2008

	April 2007		May 2007		June 2007		July 2007	
District	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera Operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections
A	42	24	37	37	32	12	11	21
B	36	44	32	24	24	9	18	25
C	44	72	59	197	68	246	80	211
D	7	0	11	0	5	1	6	5
E	23	359	19	328	17	254	22	278
F	1	27	34	358	27	341	28	196
G	7	85	29	155	29	154	35	204
H	22	89	17	85	23	211	30	143

	August 2007		September 2007		October 2007		November 2007	
District	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera Operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections
A	27	9	19	13	34	31	10	0
B	25	20	39	30	28	11	30	11
C	75	250	60	124	66	181	75	182
D	6	0	11	5	10	0	10	1
E	17	320	23	327	13	224	20	207
F	36	354	38	281	28	239	22	159
G	37	235	29	215	38	255	22	114
H	35	187	13	76	26	123	33	134

	December 2007		January 2008		February 2008		March 2008	
District	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera Operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections	Number of camera operations	Number of detections
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
B	8	9	20	4	6	2	26	28
C	30	132	42	66	38	51	56	126
D	3	1	21	3	6	3	5	0
E	16	237	28	312	21	261	22	482
F	48	242	30	126	26	151	31	167
G	24	158	28	131	29	288	40	178
H	29	145	16	40	34	90	26	89

Table 2: Total detections and revenue in financial year 2007-08

District	Total number of camera operations	Total number of detections	Revenue total (£)
A	213	147	7,200
B	292	217	10,080
C	693	1,838	96,300
D	101	19	2,940
E	241	3,589	161,100
F	349	2,641	94,560
G	347	2,172	95,400
H	304	1,412	68,400
Total	2,540	12,035	535,980

Note:
Detections in any given year may not be directly related to revenue due to:
motorists having up to 4 months in which to pay from detection;
if case heard in court revenue not collected by PSNI; and
small number of cases may be cancelled.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Wednesday 17 September and Friday 26 September 2008

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions on age discrimination against children and young people in the provision of goods, facilities and services Ministers and officials in the Government Equalities Office have held with *(a)* non-governmental organisations and *(b)* UK children's commissioners since 2005. [221125]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Prior to this date the Discrimination Law Review Project was the responsibility of the women and equality unit in the Department of Communities and Local Government. Since 2005, Ministers for women and equality have met the Children's Rights Alliance for England on two occasions; one of those meetings was attended by a group of young people. In late 2006, the women and equality unit hosted a roundtable discussion on children and young people, which was attended by non-governmental organisations and the children's commissioners for England and Scotland. During the consultation period for the Equality Bill, the Children's Rights Alliance for England organised a consultation event on behalf of the women and equality unit. Officials also met the Children's Rights Alliance for England in August 2007 and the children's commissioners for England and Scotland in March 2008.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what written representations concerning age discrimination against children and young people in the provision of goods, facilities and services Ministers and officials in the Government Equalities Office have received from *(a)* non-governmental organisations, *(b)* UK Children's Commissioners and *(c)* members of the public since 2005. [221126]

Barbara Follett: The consultation paper on proposals for the Equality Bill, "A Framework for Fairness", signalled that the Government was considering the case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services and for a single public sector duty extended to cover age. Over 4,000 organisations and individuals responded to the consultation, of which over 700 addressed the issue of prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services and over 50 of these responded specifically on the issue of children. The list of organisations that responded to the consultation is available on the Government Equalities Office website.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many refuges for women and children have a dedicated indoor play area for children. [221654]

Barbara Follett: The Government do not hold information centrally on the number of refuges for women and children which have a dedicated indoor play area for children.

Decisions about the provision of refuge spaces and what these should contain are a matter for local authorities, but we would expect them to build services based on the needs of their communities.

Commission for Racial Equality: Leave

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many days leave the chair of the Commission for Racial Equality took in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [220721]

Barbara Follett: The chair of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) was Trevor Phillips from February 2003 until November 2006 and Kay Hampton from November 2006 until the CRE became part of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 1 October 2007. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not inherited records from the CRE about leave taken but it is clear that the chair was entitled to 24 days annual leave, in addition to public holidays and two and half privilege days per annum.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what measures are in place in the Government Equalities Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219585]

Barbara Follett: Expenditure from the Government Equalities Office's official hospitality account is monitored internally by its finance team and externally by the National Audit Office. It is also subject to internal audit. The GEO's directors and deputy directors (six in total) can claim for alcohol purchased for official events and functions.

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what purchasing process is used by the Government Equalities Office for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219935]

Barbara Follett: The directors and deputy directors (six in number) of the Government Equalities Office can claim expenses for alcohol purchased for hospitality at official working lunches and business gatherings. The reimbursement of these is dependent upon the provision and scrutiny of detailed receipts. Such reimbursement is subject to official departmental limits. Since the GEO was established on 12 October 2007 one such claim has been made.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of the Government Equalities Office since its creation; and at what cost. [215564]

Barbara Follett: Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has paid for one domestic flight for a member of its staff. This was a return flight to Glasgow and cost £246.40.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many contracts the offices now comprising the Government's Equalities Office awarded to consultants in 2006-07; how many contracts went out to tender in 2006-07; what the value of each was; and which contracts were not put out to tender. [219633]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. It has taken over responsibility for equality issues from a number of different teams and Departments, including: the Disability Rights Commission Sponsorship team, based in 2006-07 in the Department for Work and Pensions; the Commission for Racial Equality Sponsorship Team, based in the Home Office in the first part of 2006-07, then transferred to the Department of Communities and Local Government; the Women and Equality Unit, based in the Department for Trade and Industry until May 2006, then in Communities and Local Government; and lawyers from DTI and HO, who transferred to CLG in May 2006. To answer the question accurately would therefore require investigation of records that are widely dispersed in a number of different Departments and locations and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204386]

Barbara Follett: The Minister for Women and Equality visited Scotland once in February 2008 and Wales once in March 2008

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by the Government Equalities Office has been from recycled sources. [220736]

Barbara Follett: In the Government Equalities Office (GEO) all of the paper used for photocopying contains 100 per cent. recycled content. All GEO's publications are printed on paper containing a minimum of 75 per cent. recycled fibre content. This is in line with the mandatory 'Buy Sustainable—Quick Wins' minimum environmental product standards developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of staff in the Government Equalities Office have received bonus payments since the office was established; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment has been; and if she will make a statement. [213280]

Barbara Follett: Since the establishment of the Government Equalities Office on 12 October 2007, 26 staff (32 per cent. of work force) have received special bonus payments. The total amount of special bonuses paid was £11,700, with the largest single payment being £1,000.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services since its establishment. [221476]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established on 12 October 2007. Since then it has been based in Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) buildings and CLG have been providing mail services for GEO as part of wider rental agreements. CLG monitor these mail services and are concerned to minimise costs. For example, all post is sent second class.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many reviews of regulation the Government Equalities Office has conducted or commenced since its establishment, and in which areas. [215629]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office has carried out a far-reaching review of the entire discrimination legislative framework in the Discrimination Law Review. We announced the headline results last month, and published a comprehensive response on 21 July (The Equality Bill: Government Response to the consultation). The Equality Bill to streamline and strengthen discrimination law, decluttering the current complexity of legislation and guidance.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the standard retirement age in the Government Equalities Office is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age since the Office's inception. [214136]

Barbara Follett: Until the Government Equalities Office agrees its own set of terms and conditions its staff are on loan from other Departments and they, therefore, work under the terms and conditions they agreed with in their parent Departments. However the majority of GEO staff are drawn from the Departments for Communities and Local Government and Work and Pensions both of which have removed the retirement age for all staff below senior civil servant (SCS) grade. At present the latter can continue to work until they reach the age of 65 but this age limit is due to be reviewed in 2011. To date, the GEO has not received any requests from SCS staff who want to work beyond the mandatory retirement age.

Departmental Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to the Government Equalities Office received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190292]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established in October 2007. However, it has been answering parliamentary written questions on issues relating to women and equality since July 2007. A total of 30 named day questions have been answered in that time, of which six (20 per cent.) received a substantive reply by the named day and 24 (80 per cent.) received a holding reply on the named day.

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how long on average the Government Equalities Office took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions since its creation. [215475]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was officially established in October 2007, but it has been answering parliamentary written questions since July 2007. Since then, it has taken an average of 12.6 working days (days when the House is sitting and when parliamentary questions can be tabled) and 9.5 working days to answer named day questions.

Equal Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the pay gap between men and women in each of the last three years. [219925]

Barbara Follett: The gender pay gap is calculated annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), using information from their Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. The ONS recommends measuring the pay gap using the median value of hourly earnings.

The full-time gender pay gap is the percentage difference between men and women's median hourly pay (excluding overtime) for full-time jobs. The full-time gender pay gap over the last three years is in the following table:

	Percentage
2005	13.0
2006	[1]12.8
2007	12.6

The part-time pay gap is the percentage difference between women's median hourly part-time pay (excluding overtime) and men's median hourly full-time pay (excluding overtime. The part-time gender pay gap figures for the last three years is in the following table:

	Percentage
2005	40.4
2006	[1]39.8
2007	39.1

[1] The figures given for 2006 are a revision of the original figures for that year. The revised figures reflect a small number of methodological changes to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, which improve the quality of its results.

Equality

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 283,1W, on equality, whether individual commissioners are required to give assurances that they support each of the objectives and statutory duties of the Equality and Human Rights Commission as a requirement of *(a)* appointment and *(b)* re-appointment. [220005]

Barbara Follett: Commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission have a collective responsibility clause in their code of conduct and, when speaking as representatives of the Commission, are required to express the views of the Commission as a whole.

Single Equality Bill (Draft)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the draft single Equality Bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny in the House. [201392]

Barbara Follett: No. The Government are committed to introducing an Equality Bill during this Parliament. The further policy consideration that our comprehensive consultation provoked, and our ongoing engagement with stakeholders, means that we have no plans to publish the Bill in draft.

TREASURY

Banks

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with representatives of the banking industry since the onset of the credit crunch; what agreements were reached at such meetings; what steps the *(a)* Government and *(b)* banking industry undertook to take at those meetings; whether proposals to (i) restructure the remuneration packages of banking industry employees and (ii) amend the accountability regime affecting banking activities were made at such meetings; and if he will make a statement. [223997]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Treasury Ministers regularly meet with representatives of the banking industry. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government support the April 2008 Financial Stability Forum report recommendation that the financial services industry should take steps, working with regulators and supervisors, to adjust compensation models so as to mitigate the risks arising from inappropriate incentive structures.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's local authority liaison meeting of 23 July, what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency has made of the effect of council tax backdating on budgeting by billing authorities. [224078]

Kitty Ussher: No such assessments have been made.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Gambling Commission has (i) commissioned and (ii) published since March 2008 on the effects of the availability of high-stake, high-prize gaming machines on problem gamblers. [224047]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

On 14 March 2008 my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport wrote to the chair of the Gambling Commission, asking the Commission to prioritise its planned research into the impact of high-stake, high-prize gaming machines on problem gambling. The Gambling Commission replied on 31 July 2008, setting out the outcomes of some internal research which looked at the evidence surrounding this issue. A summary of the evidence reviewed will be published later in 2008. In the letter the Commission set out a programme of small projects that it would undertake to help establish a better understanding of the evidence. Among other things it will set up an expert panel and work with the gambling industry to explore player data, with a view to understanding how this data can be used in future research. The Commission will report to my Department again in June 2009 on progress with this programme of work.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised in national insurance contributions in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 11 years. [224076]

Kitty Ussher: Information on UK receipts of national insurance contributions is published in National Statistics Table 1.2 on the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website.

Estimates of national insurance contribution receipts for Scotland are prepared by the Scottish Government.

No other estimates are available of national insurance contribution receipts in the separate countries of the UK.

National Minimum Wage: Agriculture

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the level of compliance with national minimum wage requirements in the agricultural sector; and if he will make a statement. [224234]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Statistics Digest for 2008 provides data on farm labour and wages. This includes data on workers paid below the statutory agricultural minimum wage rate. The table below shows the proportion of people according to the grades set out in the Agricultural Wages Order being paid below the set minima during the last full AWO year (October 2006-September 2006).

Grade	*AWB minimum (£)*	*Below minimum (percentage)*
Grade 1	5.35	6
Grade 2	5.74	18
Grade 3	6.31	19
Grade 4	6.77	8
Grade 5	7.18	10
Grade 6	7.75	13

These data are collected from the Department for Environment' Food and Rural Affairs's Earnings and Hours Survey and are based on a sample of 939 workers and only include people who are 20 years or over.

DEFRA is responsible for enforcing the Agricultural Wages Order and will investigate complaints about underpayment of the minimum wages rate.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will arrange for a substantive reply to be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall, North to his letter of 13 August to the tax credit office, Preston, concerning a constituent, ref JA121568A. [224017]

Kitty Ussher: I have arranged for the Tax Credit Office to send a substantive reply to my hon. Friend about his constituent by 19 September.

Revenue and Customs: Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each HM Revenue and Customs office spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last three months, broken down by region. [224260]

Kitty Ussher: Expenditure, including that on entertaining, is subject to audit and the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. £2,192 was spent within HMRC (excluding the Valuation Office Agency) on entertaining during the three months June 2008 to August 2008. Obtaining information on the amount spent on alcohol within this figure is available only at disproportionate cost.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage of home purchase transactions that will benefit from the stamp duty exemption for properties between £175,000 and £125,000 in each of the next two years. [224207]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2155-56W.

Tax Incentives: Energy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to use tax incentives to encourage energy conservation. [224057]

Kitty Ussher: Government use a range of policy instruments to encourage energy efficiency, including spending, regulatory and voluntary approaches.

The Government keeps all taxes and reliefs under review.

Taxation: Energy

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the introduction of a tax on energy companies in relation to windfall profits. [224212]

Kitty Ussher: The Government keep all taxes under review.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an invitation to tender document has been published for the Valuation Office Agency's new geographic information system. [224085]

Kitty Ussher: No.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the specification for the Valuation Office Agency's new geographic information system, redacting any commercially sensitive information. [224079]

Kitty Ussher: The specification for the geographic information system is still being finalised.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Management Board meeting minutes of 19 June 2008, what conclusion the Board reached in relation to *(a)* the renewal of the Rightmove contract and *(b)* the use of third party information to support the automated valuation model. [224080]

Kitty Ussher: The Valuation Office Agency Management Board approved further work to identify cost-effective approaches to gathering information to support its work.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1106-07W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, what the contractual deadline and timetable are for the Agency to make a decision on whether to extend or continue with the contract. [224084]

Kitty Ussher: The initial term of the contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk Ltd. expired on 31 March 2008. On the question of a timetable for a decision on whether to extend or continue with the contract, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225W.

Valuation Office: Travel

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what overseas countries and cities have been visited by representatives of the Valuation Office Agency during the last 12 months at public expense; and what the cost of such visits was. [224086]

Kitty Ussher: During the last 12 months Valuation Office Agency staff have visited the following overseas cities and countries at public expense:

Cities	*Purpose of visit*
Kutching, Malaysia	Speaker at international valuation conference
Dublin, Ireland	Annual meeting to discuss valuation practice and procedures across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland
Toronto, Canada	Valuation Symposium
Warsaw, Poland	Attendance at valuation conference

The cost of these visits was £7,006.

VAT: Energy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the revenue that will be raised from VAT on domestic energy as a result of increases in fuel prices in 2008-09. [224043]

Kitty Ussher: No estimate has been made.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219944]

Mr. Malik: DFID does not encourage expenditure on or consumption of alcohol in relation to hospitality. Therefore there are no specific processes for the purchase of alcohol. All entertainment and hospitality expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221109]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has only two buildings in the United Kingdom, and has not taken on any properties in the last seven years. We have no plans to rent or purchase further properties.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what IT contracts his Department has entered into in the last two years. [215137]

Mr. Malik: Copies of the document entitled "IT Contracts Awarded 2006-07 and 2007-08" which provides details of IT contracts entered into by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the last two years, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

A limited number of low value IT purchases made by our overseas offices are not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221484]

Mr. Malik: All items sent through the UK post are through the Royal Mail, or in the case of items sent directly between our two offices, under a contract with TNT (Express) UK Ltd. Expenditure is monitored against budget in each location, and last year reduced overall by 12 per cent. over the preceding year.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218969]

Gillian Merron: There have been 90 home civil service staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) who have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more years since 2003.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214648]

Mr. Malik: Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to work in partnership on AIDS prevention with government bodies in those countries to which his Department provides aid to reduce the incidence of AIDS. [215414]

Gillian Merron: National Governments have responsibility for resourcing, coordinating and delivering effective AIDS responses, but they need support from a wide range of other stakeholders. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports countries to develop and implement evidence-informed HIV prevention strategies that promote and protect human rights; that are relevant to the local epidemic context; and that promote comprehensive approaches to HIV prevention based on the realities of people's lives.

There is strong evidence for the effectiveness of many approaches to HIV prevention, including condom use, family planning, methods to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), and for people who inject drugs, comprehensive harm reduction services, particularly needle and syringe exchange and drug treatment programmes, including non-injectable substitutes.

In countries with strong commitments to development, we focus on supporting the implementation of comprehensive country-led HIV and AIDS strategies, directly funding governments and working with civil society partners and donor agencies. In more fragile states, where governments are less effective, we provide technical support to strengthen government capacity as well as direct support for service delivery by civil society organisations.

A copy of the updated strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in developing world" and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects and programmes his Department funds *(a)* to address critical health worker shortages and *(b)* to secure long-term sustainable financing to strengthen health systems in countries where HIV positive and AIDS are endemic. [215485]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides flexible funding to back national plans and priorities and to help strengthen health systems as a whole. UK Government health spend in developing countries was £750 million in 2006-07. Addressing the shortage of health workers in these countries is a high priority for DFID. For example, in Ethiopia DFID is contributing to the massive scale-up of community health workers—from fewer that 3,000 in 2004 to 24,000 now and 30,000 by 2009. In Malawi, DFID is contributing to the Emergency Human Resources Programme, which aims to double the number of nurses and triple the number of doctors. DFID has also provided £1 million to the Global Health Workforce Alliance from 2007-09.

In "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's Strategy for Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV in the Developing World" the Government have committed £6 billion to strengthen health systems and services over seven years to 2015 in poor countries where HIV and AIDS are a major problem. We have also committed £1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2015. A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for Halting and

Reversing the Spread of HIV in the Developing World' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214881]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has budgeted to spend £279,000 on food through our catering contracts for our two UK offices in the current year. Information on the breakdown of food based on country of origin is not collated, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. Information for previous years is not available as DFID changed its catering contractors at the beginning of 2008.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214882]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development is unable to answer this question as we do not require our catering contractors to maintain records of the country of origin of food procured, and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Kenya: Asylum

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to enable Kenyan families displaced by post-election violence to return to their homes. [215410]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government's Department for International Development has committed £2.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Kenya for those displaced by the crisis.

In May, the Government of Kenya launched an operation to assist those who voluntarily wished to return home, providing transport, food, shelter and household items.

Although DFID has currently not committed funds to the resettlement of internally displaced people, we are working with the international community and the Government of Kenya to ensure resources are allocated to meeting the needs of those displaced and in finding ways of successful resettlement.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to paragraph 7.53 of his Department's 2008 Annual Report, which Millennium Development Goals his Department is not on track to meet by 2015. [217228]

Mr. Malik: The official assessment of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is made by the United Nations (UN) each year. The last assessment was published last autumn in the UN's annual report "The Millennium Development Goal Report 2007", which is available at:

http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2007/UNSD_MDG_Report_2007e.pdf.

This assessment of progress was also reproduced in Annex 3 of the Department's 2008 annual report. The next update of global progress towards the MDGs is expected to be published later in September by the United Nations.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what scenario and contingency planning his Department has employed in its country programmes relating to fragile states; what the cost of such planning was; and what dialogue it has promoted with other Government departments, with reference to paragraph 8.10 of his Department's Annual Report 2008. [220384]

Gillian Merron: Scenario and contingency planning has been carried out by Department for International Development (DFID) country offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. DFID has also participated in joint UK Government scenario planning exercises in Kosovo and Iraq. Scenario and contingency planning has helped DFID develop a better, shared understanding of context within country offices and with other Government Departments, particularly the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD). It has helped DFID think through the mix of aid instruments and partnerships we should use, improve risk assessment and management, and define and test options for country plans and HMG strategies.

Six DFID country offices have drawn on some support from external experts as part of the work (Bangladesh, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan) and the estimated cost of this work has been £130,500. The majority of country offices have carried out the work in-house. A cross-Whitehall scenario planning group (comprising DFID, FCO, MOD, Stabilisation Unit and the Horizon Scanning Centre) has also been established centrally, and this group is sharing lessons and experiences of scenario planning work. DFID's new country planning guidance (issued on 14 July 2008) requires all country offices to include scenario and contingency planning as part of the process.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in meeting the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals Call to Action; what steps have been taken to increase the number of countries supporting the Call to Action; how much his Department has spent on Call to Action; what administrative costs his Department has incurred; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Call to Action. [220496]

Mr. Thomas: Progress to date against objectives on the Call to Action has included:

45 countries and the EC have signed up to the Call to Action, showing their dedication to achieving the MDGs. We expect the number of signatories will continue to grow.

The G8 and the EU in its Agenda for Action have reaffirmed their commitments on aid and agreed ways of accelerating progress on the MDGs.

Over 60 private sector leaders have signed up to the Business Call to Action. Some of these set out in the Business Call to Action event organised with UNDP in May how they will contribute through their core business to reaching the MDGs. Others will do the same at the UN meeting on the MDGs in September.

Civil society and faith groups are engaging in support of the Call to Action.

We have seen close co-operation by countries and others in co-ordinating partnership events that will help shape a common vision of how to accelerate action on the MDGs.

In order to help increase the number of signatory countries, UK Government representatives, working closely with our partners, have sought to raise the Call to Action with bilateral partners in a range of meetings over the past year.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far spent approximately £375,000 from its programme budget.

Based on salary costs, the administrative spend so far on the CtA, has been approximately £300,000 for the core team. In addition to this there are unquantified costs for the time of a range of other staff, who provide support as part of their wider responsibilities, and in-country costs incurred by the UK Mission in New York.

The CtA has been very effective in engaging a broad set of players to harness their potential to help achieve the MDGs. However there is still much to be done and we will continue to work closely with the UN and others.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent to support the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in each of the last five years. [223151]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Home Office allocated the following sums of money in each of the last five years to support the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs:

	Sum allocated to the ACMD (£)
2003-04	80,000
2004-05	135,000
2005-06	165,000
2006-07	152,000
2007-08	152,800

In addition the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs secretariat staff and other civil servant costs have not been allocated as such costs are subsumed within normal salaried remuneration and within existing budgets.

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the Airwave system will be implemented for police forces in the London area. [223508]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Airwave service is already being used operationally throughout both City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police Service. Migration to Airwave from the previous radio systems was completed by September 2007.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the guaranteed lifespan of the aerials used in the Airwave project is; and what preventative maintenance programme for these aerials has been put in place. [223509]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Airwave service is provided by Airwave Solutions Ltd. (ASL) and is paid for by the National Policing Improvement Agency and police authorities by means of a service charge. The responsibility for aerials and any associated preventative maintenance rests with ASL. The Airwave contract does not make specific reference to either aerial life or aerial maintenance but ASL are obliged to maintain service levels as specified in the Airwave contract.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what options her Department has considered for integrating talk groups within the Airwave system; and what estimate it has made of the cost of implementing the preferred option. [223510]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Talk groups are a basic component of the Airwave service and as such are included in the core charge for the service. They exist within every police force and have been implemented progressively ever since Lancashire Constabulary first started using Airwave in September 2001.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with construction industry representatives on the inclusion of Airwave technology in large construction projects. [223511]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* There is no legal requirement for Airwave to be installed within large construction projects and the service is usually provided on a bespoke basis at the behest of the local force under a provision in the Airwave contract for Special Coverage Solutions. In such situations, the cost is borne by the appropriate police authority. We are not aware of any discussions that have been held on this issue with the construction industry.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* supplying, *(b)* breeding and *(c)* scientific procedure establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 there were in Scotland on 31 December 2007. [223096]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As at the 31 December 2007 in Scotland there were 11 supplying, 18 breeding and 32 user establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Scotland in 2007. [223196]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* During 2007, in Scotland there were 392,671 regulated procedures carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences were *(a)* granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2007 and *(b)* in force at the end of 2007 in respect of work to be carried out in Scotland. [223197]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* During 2007 102 project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland. On 31 December 2007 there were 482 project licences in force in Scotland.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in 2007 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* national health service hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations. [223198]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* During 2007, in Scotland, based on the numbers of procedures, universities and medical schools carried out 68 per cent. of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Government Departments 1 per cent., other public bodies 13 per cent. and commercial organisations 18 per cent.

Non-profit making organisations accounted for less than ½ per cent of procedures whilst public health laboratories and NHS hospitals did not carry out any regulated procedures.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in 2007 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation. [223199]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* During 2007, in Scotland, 84 per cent. of the regulated procedures conducted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out for fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and 16 per cent. for toxicity tests or other safety or efficacy evaluation.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individual support orders were issued in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and what proportion of all antisocial behaviour orders issued to 10 to 17 year olds individual support orders represented in each year; [223153]

(2) how many intervention orders have been made since 1 October 2006; and what proportion this represents of all antisocial behaviour orders issued in this period. [223154]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 September 2008]:* The available information on the number of Individual Support Orders (ISOs) issued is shown in the following table. ISO Data for 2007 will be available in 2009.

Intervention Orders became available in October 2006. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform started collecting data on the number of Intervention Orders from 1 October 2007. Data for 2007 are due to be published in early 2009.

Number of Individual Support Orders[1] given at the magistrates court, in addition to an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO), as reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform by the Court Service, from 1 January to 31 December 2006, England and Wales

All persons aged 10-17

Period	*Individual Support Orders*	*ASBOs issued on application*	*ASBOs issued on conviction*	*Percentage of ASBOs issued on application with an ISO attached*
Total 2006	75	423	631	18

[1] Available at magistrates courts only for juveniles (aged 10-17) with ASBOs issued on application. Commencement date 1 May 2004.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Prepared by OCJR-Evidence & Analysis Unit.

Antisocial Behaviour: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce antisocial behaviour in Blackpool since 2005. [223128]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* We are strongly committed to tackling, not tolerating, antisocial behaviour. That is why local crime and disorder reduction partnerships were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These enable the police, local authorities and other agencies representing the local community to work together to identify the crime and disorder problems in their area and take action to tackle them.

Blackpool was confirmed as one of 40 areas in January 2007 to lead the Respect Area programme by the strong track record in tackling antisocial behaviour and a willingness and capacity to do more.

As a Respect Area, Blackpool signed up to:

Family Intervention Projects

More Parenting Classes for parents struggling with troublesome children.

Face the People sessions where the police, local authorities and others can be accountable to their local public.

Keep up the relentless action to tackle anti-social behaviour by using the full range of tools and powers available.

Using the Respect Housing Standard to prevent and deal with any problems in social housing.

The work of the Respect Task Force is now being undertaken by the Youth Taskforce—established at the Department for Children, Schools and Families to focus on delivering positive outcomes for young.

Blackpool utilises the full range of the tools and powers available to tackle antisocial behaviour as set out in their ASB strategy.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against decisions made in legacy asylum claims had been heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal as of 31st July 2008. [223994]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The reference to "legacy asylum claims" is taken to mean those which have not been processed through the new asylum model since the former Home Secretary John Reid's legacy announcement on 19 July 2006. Our records show that there have been 5,545 such appeals heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Note:

The information provided in this response is taken from local management data and is not a national statistic. It should therefore be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Asylum: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of asylum seekers who had been waiting more than two months to be paid section 4 support at 31 July 2008. [223328]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Provision for failed asylum seekers eligible for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is in the form of accommodation and vouchers. Cash payments are not made.

No decision was recorded on or before 31 July in respect of 101 applications made before 1 June 2008 for support under section 4.

This is based on management information which is subject to change.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Zimbabwean and *(b)* Darfuri asylum seekers of each (i) age group and (ii) sex are in each UK immigration removal centre; and how long each has been there. [219964]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following table shows the number of Zimbabwean and Sudanese asylum seekers (including dependants) detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 29 March 2008, broken down by centre and sex; all detainees were adults.

Following a change in the system in which information is collected, published statistics on all persons detained under sole Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available.

The UK Border Agency does not electronically record the region from which asylum applicants originate; this information would only be available by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

It is therefore not possible to say how many Darfuri asylum seekers are in immigration detention centres.

Further national statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The decision to detain is made on a case by case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the following circumstances: to effect removal; to establish a person's identity and claim; where a person presents a risk of abscond or where the application is capable of being considered quickly.

Zimbabwean and Sudanese adult[1] asylum seekers[2] recorded as being detained in Immigration Service Removal Centres in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers as at 29 March 2008, by place of detention and sex[3]

Number of individuals

	Zimbabwean nationals detained			*Sudanese nationals detained*		
Place of detention	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Immigration Service Removal Centres						
Campsfield House	—	*	*	—	*	*
Colnbrook Long Term	—	5	5	—	5	5
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	—	5	5	—	*	*
Dungavel	*	*	5	—	5	5
Harmondsworth	—	*	*	—	*	*
Haslar	—	5	5	—	*	*
Lindholme	—	*	*	—	—	—
Oakington Reception Centre	—	*	*	—	*	*
Tinsley House	—	*	*	—	*	*
Yarl's Wood	*	—	*	—	—	—
Total	5	25	30	—	20	20

[1] Persons recorded as being aged 18 or over as at 29 March 2008.
[2] Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

Biometrics: Airports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use the UK Border Agency will make of data collected during biometric fingerprint checks at airports. [214145]

Mr. Byrne: A broad range of biometrically enabled measures have already been introduced or are planned for deployment by the UK Border Agency. These include:

The processing of 1st and 2nd generation e-travel documents (passports and ID cards) at the Border;

The recording of the biometrics of all individuals applying for a visa or entry clearance to travel to the UK;

The enrolment of biometrics of foreign nationals in the UK and issuance of biometric residence permits;

The verification of visa holders' identity by the scanning and checking of their fingerprints; and

The issuing of biometric identity documents to individuals recognised as refugees, granted humanitarian protection etc.

The enhanced use of biometrics will enable individuals to be locked down to a single identity, preventing the opportunity for multiple identities to be created and used, and helping to ensure that UKBA's strategic objectives to secure our border and tackle immigration crime are met.

Legal powers have extended our capability to capture fingerprints from other categories of passengers. This includes, among others, those who have been detained; those for whom removal directions have been set and those who have been granted temporary admission, and where there have been doubts about their compliance with such a grant.

The use of biometrics in border control processes supports UKBA's strategic objectives to strengthen our borders. Increasingly, biometrics are used to confirm a person's identity for law enforcement purposes.

British Nationality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any circumstances in which it makes a material difference to the inheritance of British citizenship by descent whether the citizenship is inherited from the maternal or the paternal side. [224106]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The British Nationality Act 1981 makes no distinction between men and women in terms of their ability to pass on the benefits of their status under the Act to their children. Nor does it distinguish, so far as British citizens by descent are concerned, between those whose ancestral connection with the United Kingdom is traced through the male line and those whose connection is traced through the female line.

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers *(a)* private companies and *(b)* other organisations participating in community safety accreditation schemes have in each police force area. [223545]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* It is for the Chief Constable of a police force to decide which of the powers available under the community safety accreditation scheme are given to individuals working for private companies and other organisations. The Home Office has carried out an audit of the powers accredited under CSAS in each police force which can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitypolicing/citizenfocusedpolicing/communitysafety-accredit-scheme/.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* private companies and *(b)* other organisations are in the community safety accreditation scheme in each police force area; and how many people have been accredited by each such scheme to date. [223546]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Home Office does not collect data on which private companies and other organisations are in the community safety accreditation scheme (CSAS). However, a Home Office audit on the CSAS found there to be 1,406 people accredited under the scheme across England and Wales.

The audit shows, among other things, the number of accredited people per force and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitypolicing/citizenfocusedpolicing/communitysafetyaccredit-scheme/.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK citizens have been accredited under community safety accreditation schemes since the inception of such schemes, broken down by nationality. [223548]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Home Office does not collect information on the number of non-UK citizens accredited under community safety accreditation schemes.

Community Support Officers: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in the London boroughs of *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Hackney and *(c)* Tower Hamlets in each of the last five years. [223531]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Information on the number of Police Community Support Officers has been collected since 2005 and the figures for Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets are set out in the following table.

Police community support officers[1]

London Borough Operational Command Unit	*31 March 2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[2]
Hackney	51	51	66	86
Newham	76	82	105	122
Tower Hamlets	59	79	86	94

[1] Full-time equivalent numbers.
[2] Provisional data provided by Metropolitan Police.

Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the British economy of crime. [223555]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 1537W.

Crime: Business

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of crimes committed against business in each of the last three years. [223152]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The term "business crime" is not specifically used within the recorded crime offence series. The offences that may be attributed to business crime are: robbery of business property, theft by an employee, shoplifting, and fraud by a company director. The available statistics are given in the following table.

Our strategy is to encourage business to work closely in partnership with the police and local authorities through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to inform local crime reduction strategies.

Partnership working is perhaps the single biggest success in tackling crime over the past 10 years. We funded the Action Against Business Crime Group to set up and maintain 200 business crime reduction partnerships in towns and cities across England and Wales. These partnerships have proved remarkably successful.

The Home Office is committed to working with our retail partners to ensure that we find effective solutions and responses to retail crime.

Shops and stores are at the heart of most of our communities and crime against those outlets affects us all.

A key strand of the work to address business crime is to ensure that partnerships and stakeholders have the right "tools" and knowledge to deal with retail crime effectively.

As an example of this, the Home Office has funded the Perpetuity Group, which is led by Professor Gill, to devise an audit tool which retailers can apply to their stores and significantly lower the opportunities for shop thieves to operate.

Recorded crime statistics: number of offences recorded for offence classifications that may be attributed to "business crime", 2005-06 to 2007-08

Offence	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage change 2005-06 to 2007-08*
Robbery of business property	8,760	9,454	9,141	4
Theft by an employee	17,048	16,323	15,858	-7
Shoplifting	295,999	294,282	290,625	-2
Fraud by company director[1]	626	101	197	-69

[1] The large increase in this offence in 2005-06 was due to one large-scale fraud recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the large rise in 2007-08 was due to fraud recorded by the North Yorkshire Constabulary.

Crime: Waste Disposal

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many waste disposal offences were recorded in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* type of offence and *(b)* police force area. [223666]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. Offences prohibiting the unlicensed disposal of waste come under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and are summary offences. As such they do not form part of the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Criminal Records: International Cooperation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals are under discussion at EU level to enable access to the criminal records of one EU member state by the authorities of another. [217321]

Jacqui Smith: We welcome EU-wide initiatives to exchange criminal record information for criminal investigation and vetting purposes.

The European Union is currently discussing a proposal for a Council decision on the establishment of the European Criminal Record Information System (ECRIS). The ECRIS proposal is designed to provide a standardised format for the electronic exchange of information extracted from criminal records, in particular information on the offence for which a person has been convicted and the sentence passed by the court. When adopted the ECRIS proposal will allow swifter exchange of criminal conviction information between member states than is the case now.

The ECRIS proposal will allow the application of Article 11 of Framework Decision 2008/xx/JHA on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from criminal records between member states. The EU has agreed a general approach on this proposal and we expect it to be adopted by the end of 2008 with an implementation deadline of three years from the date of agreement. When the Framework Decision comes into force it will be mandatory to notify other EU countries of convictions of its nationals and it will also be mandatory to respond to requests for the criminal records of EU national being proceeded against in another member state.

The United Kingdom already can, in the context of criminal proceedings in the UK, request the criminal record of an EU National using Council Decision 2005/876/JHA of 21 November 2005. While the Council Decision is not mandatory a number of EU member states, including the UK, Germany and Poland are already using the Council Decision to obtain criminal record information from other member states.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether her Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221083]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is committed to the Sustainable Operations on the Government (SOGE) targets which include a requirement to improve energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010, and then

30 per cent. by 2020, based on 1999-2000 levels. Energy efficiency performance in 2006-07, the latest year for which data is available, compared to 1999-2000 is given in the following table. No earlier data is available. This shows a 12.9 per cent. improvement in energy efficiency over the period.

	1999-2000[1]	*2006-07*[1]
Energy per m^2 (kWh/m^2)	458	400

[1] Includes core Home Office, UK Borders Agency, Identity and Passport Service as well as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), including the prison service, since transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

The reporting period 2007-08 is the first for which we will have performance data on the much reduced departmental estate, following the transfer of the National Offender Management Service, incorporating the probation and prisons estates, to the Ministry of Justice. Once this data is finalised we will use it to assess current performance and to identify what improvement activity may be required to enable us to achieve the SOGE energy efficiency targets by 2010 and then 2020, as well as actions required to reduce emissions from energy use in the same period.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221099]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is committed to acquiring accommodation which minimises carbon emissions and provide lowest achievable energy costs. When purchasing or leasing buildings, the Department seeks to choose those that offer the best available certification under the BRE environmental assessment method which also meet operational needs and provide best value for money.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether personal data for which her Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if she will make a statement. [176019]

Mr. Byrne: Some personal data provided by individuals to the Criminal Records Bureau and to UK Visas is temporarily stored for processing purposes overseas.

The CRB data processed overseas is only stored for the duration of time taken to input it, determine that quality criteria are met and transfer it back to the United Kingdom. Thereafter, the data is destroyed. The overseas site in India is ISO27001 certified and is subject to CRB audit and accreditation reviews.

The processing of visa applicant data overseas is carried out either by Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in diplomatic or consular premises or, in certain countries, by commercial partners. In these countries, commercial partners are only responsible for the basic collection of visa application data, under the supervision of UK-visas staff.

In all circumstances the Home Office seeks to handle personal data in a way that complies with our obligations under UK law.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether personal data held by her Department has been transferred to compact discs and sent to external agencies in the last 12 months. [180399]

Mr. Byrne: In line with current Cabinet Office guidance, the Home Office has used compact discs to transfer personal data to external agencies in the last year. Since 22 November 2007, the Home Office has been undertaking a review of its technical, process and procedural arrangements to ensure the risk of data being compromised is managed and reduced to a minimum.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179:

"...I have asked the Cabinet Secretary and security experts to ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data.."

An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. This included a recommendation to enhance the transparency with Parliament and the public about the action taken to safeguard information, and the results of that action, through publication of results, departmental annual reports and an annual report to Parliament.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what instructions are issued to staff in her Department on how to *(a)* collect, *(b)* use and *(c)* delete personal information on members of the public. [219354]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows:

(a) and (b)

Data collected by the Home Office are held on systems secured to Government standards and are managed according to the Data Protection Act (1998). Those managing these information assets are "trusted stewards" with an obligation to protect it. Any transmission of protected personal information is performed according to the Data Handling Review recommendations and with the security of the of the information in mind.

(c)

The Home Office disposal of personal information is governed by the Data Protection Act and the Home Office review and retention policies. These policies are based on the standards set by The National Archive, which specifies time limits for the retention of information. The Department's security policy governs the classification of information and the disposal policies that control the appropriate methods of destruction.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by her Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188219]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office including its agencies has engaged UK subsidiaries of US-registered service providers to manage aspects of storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European Economic Area by UK data controllers. Contracts are based on UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* made subject to disciplinary procedures short of dismissal, *(c)* moved to different duties as a result of a performance assessment and *(d)* offered early retirement in each of the last five years. [219182]

Mr. Byrne: The number of staff *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* subject to formal disciplinary procedures for poor performance within Home Office headquarters, the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and the Criminal Records Bureau, is set out in the following table.

Table 1

	Dismissed	*Disciplined short of dismissal*	*Moved to different duties*
2003	—	—	—
2004	0	15	—
2005	—	13	—
2006	5	38	—
2007	12	40	—
2008 (to 30 June 2008)	8	37	—

The information contained in the table has been drawn from centrally held databases at this time.

Information prior to 2005, or on the number of staff moved to different duties as a result of poor performance, is not held centrally within Home Office HQ or the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Where fewer than five members of staff were dismissed, disciplined or moved to different duties, further information has been withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The number of staff given early retirement within Home Office headquarters, the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table.

Table 2

	Number
2002-03	10
2003-04	18
2004-05	13
2005-06	141
2006-07	125
2007-08	84
2008-09 (to 11 July 2008)	112

The numbers are calculated on the basis of last day of service.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies have taken early retirement in the last two years. [217381]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the numbers of staff in the Home Office and its agencies who have taken early retirement in the last two full financial years and the current year to date.

The numbers are calculated on the basis of last day of service.

A more detailed breakdown, including distinguishing between Home Office headquarters and the UK Border Agency and between different types of retirement, could be obtained only by running additional, tailored, reports and this would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of staff taking early retirement from the Home Office and its agencies by financial year since 2006-07.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
HO headquarters and UK Border Agency	107	70	110
Criminal Records Bureau	0	1	1
Identity and Passport Service	18	13	1

[1] 1 April to 11 July 2008.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by her Department and its agencies; and if she will make a statement. [180570]

Mr. Byrne: Following is a table of information technology projects currently being undertaken by the Home Office and its agencies. Please note that, due to the large number of IT projects run by the Home Office we have limited the scope of this response to projects valued at more than £5 million.

Business owner	*Programme*	*Start date*	*Original planned completion*	*Current expected completion*	*Planned cost (£)*	*Current estimated cost (£)*
UK Border Agency	eBorders	14 November 2007	1 March 2014	1 March 2014	849.5 million	827.3 million
IPS	National Identity Scheme—IPS element	24 October 2006	2012	2012	[1]5.43 billion	[2]4.74 billion

Business owner	Programme	Start date	Original planned completion	Current expected completion	Planned cost (£)	Current estimated cost (£)
UKBA	Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals (formerly BRP)	April 2007	March 2009	August 2010	[1]9.6	12.4 million
UK Border Agency	Immigration Casework (ICW)[4]	April 2008	June 2015	June 2015	370 million	370 million
UK Border Agency	Points Based System (PBS)	July 2008	March 2011	March 2011	33 million	33 million
Shared Services	SBS Programme	2005	2011	2011	[5] 32 million	[5]41 million
CRCSG/ Independent Safeguarding Authority	Vetting and Barring Scheme	January 2007	April 2009	October 2009	[6]84 million	[6]84 million

[1] 10 year period October 2007 to October 2017) consisting of: set up costs £0.24 billion, operational costs £5.19 billion (2007-08 prices).
[2] 10 year period April 2008 to April 2018) consisting of: set up costs £0.32 billion, operational costs £4 42 billion (2008-09 prices).
[3] For IT costs only high level estimate at start of project.
[4] These figures are estimates developed for the ICW OBC. They have not yet been baselined.
[5] Including costs of enhanced technology and Procurement Centre of Excellence.
[6] Set up £246 million operational costs over five years.

In addition to the above, the Home Office is also the lead department for the cross Government Interception Modernisation Programme, announced by the Prime Minister in February 2008

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185283]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2005, Home Office IT Shared Services have enabled access to the Home Office IT infrastructure via the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) for personnel in Home Office HQ and UKBA.—the UK Border Agency.

Numbers reported lost and stolen are given in the following table.

The devices are provided by a third party supplier, to whom the Department pays a service charge. Hence, the value of any losses would be borne by the supplier.

The devices are security protected. Attempted use by unauthorised persons results in the device being locked or the data being completely erased after three failed-password attempts.

We do not have comprehensive central records for any devices issued prior to 2005.

	Lost	Stolen	Value (£)
2005	0	0	0
2006	6	1	[1]—
2007	10	2	[1]—
2008	8	3	[1]—

[1] Cost borne by third party.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure that counterfeit routers and other hardware are not utilised in her Department's computer networks. [203248]

Mr. Byrne: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm whether they hold information about malicious attacks against their IT systems.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost of the PentiP computer system; and if she will make a statement on the timetable for its introduction. [223556]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The estimated cost of designing, developing and implementing the PentiP system is £19.3 million.

PentiP will introduce a number of improvements to the current working processes involved in dealing with penalty notices. The net effect of which will be a more efficient overall process for the police staff who input tickets to the system and for the courts' staff who process the payment of fines.

The first stage of PentiP, which supports the National Driver Improvement Scheme (NDORS), has now been delivered. It is planned that the contract for the delivery of the remainder of the PentiP system will be awarded in March 2009. Implementation of PentiP in all forces in England and Wales will be completed by May 2012.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191772]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to safety online for all users, including children. The Central Office for Information is preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government web estate and we will implement what they mandate.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many jobs her Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213413]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has a target to locate 2,200 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts in the regions, to contribute to the cross-Government target of 20,000 FTE posts by 2010. Progress is reported in my Department's annual report (Cm 7396).

Despite meeting this target in June 2007 we have still continued to relocate staff out of London and the south east. To date, the number of staff that we have relocated stands at 2,707. The policy of relocation makes use of diverse and valuable skills that can be found across all regions of the UK as well as in London and the South East.

Over the next 18 months we shall continue to relocate posts in the most cost effective manner. We currently have plans in place to relocate a further 250 posts, this figure may rise as and when we make further relocations, depending on the needs of the business.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of her Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214715]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible for the Home Office to calculate the costs of print media design without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220724]

Mr. Byrne: 100 per cent. of the paper used by the core Home Office for photocopying is from recycled sources, and has been for the last two years. The Department also has a policy of using paper from recycled sources for its printed publications where practicable, although we do not have information on the percentage used.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of her Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171403]

Mr. Byrne: The data is in presented (tables 1 and 2) by grade bands rather than by the requested salary bands. They provide average age, gender and ethnicity information. To provide the information by salary bands would incur a disproportionate cost due to the way the databases are organised.

The Home Office Headquarters (HOHQ) and the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) do not centrally record the title and role of each employee; to provide this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Bonuses[1]

Bonuses are funded from the existing pay bill. As part of the annual salary award, non-consolidated (cash) bonuses may be awarded to staff below SCS who have demonstrated exceptional performance. Special bonuses may also be awarded to recognise outstanding achievements.

Bonus arrangements for the SCS are set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report which can be found at:

http://www.home.uk.com/downloads/30thpercent20Report percent20onpercent20Seniorpercent20Salariespercent20-percent202008.pdf

[1] Applies to UK Border Agency and Home Office Headquarters.

Retirement provision

Those eligible for a retirement provision are covered by the terms of the Principle Civil Service Scheme. This scheme is administered by the Civil Service Pensions Division of the Cabinet Office. The following link may be useful:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/publications.aspx

Reimbursement of expenses incurred in the course of official work Permanent Home Office staff and others (such as contractors (when specified in their contract) who are employed by the Home Office) are entitled to reimbursement for expenses that are necessarily incurred in the course of their duties including, for example travel and accommodation. When no extra expense is incurred, no reimbursement is due.

HO HQ and UKBA are unable to provide expenses paid to staff in civil service salary bands only, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1: HO HQ staff breakdown by grade, gender, ethnicity and average age data as at 31 March 2008

Grade	Title	Full time equivalent	Headcount	Percentage headcount	Male	Female	BME	Prefer not to say	White	Unknown	Average age
AA	Administrative Assistant	113.51	119	3	68	51	7	1	24	87	39
AO	Administrative Officer	471.58	500	14	176	324	92	8	176	224	41
EO	Executive Officer	545.33	566	16	232	334	125	12	246	183	40
HEO	Higher Executive Officer	608.66	624	17	326	298	59	4	297	264	37
SEO	Senior Executive Officer	533.77	550	15	308	242	58	7	301	184	41
G7	Grade 7	492.31	506	14	297	209	32	20	266	188	41

Table 1: HO HQ staff breakdown by grade, gender, ethnicity and average age data as at 31 March 2008

Grade	Title	Full time equivalent	Headcount	Percentage headcount	Male	Female	BME	Prefer not to say	White	Unknown	Average age
G6	Grade 6	204.97	210	6	122	88	10	5	158	57	46
SCS	Senior Civil Servant	147.35	149	4	113	36	4	1	90	54	48
Other	—	401.5	402	11	248	154	1	1	18	382	33
Total		3,519	3,626	100	1,890	1,736	388	59	1,556	1,623	41
Percentage		100	100	—	52	48	11	2	43	45	—

Table 2: UKBA staff breakdown by grade, gender, ethnicity and average age data as at 31 March 2008

Grade	Title	Full time equivalent	Headcount	Percentage headcount	Male	Female	BME	Prefer not to say	White	Unknown	Average age
AA	Administrative Assistant	2,003.6	2,180	11.33	695	1,048	228	10	422	1,082	39
AO/AIO	Administrative Officer/ Assistant Immigration Officer	4,793.9	5,174	26.90	2,115	2,942	970	27	1,693	2,368	38
EO/IO	Executive Officer/ Immigration Officer	6,781.6	7,137	37.10	3,179	3,838	1,302	58	3,074	2,583	39
HEO/I CIO	Higher Executive Officer/Chief Immigration Officer	2,793.6	2,905	15.10	1,341	1,471	302	21	1,408	1,081	34
SEO/ IMM INSP	Senior Executive Officer/HM Immigration Inspector	1,153.6	1,196	6.22	556	576	132	11	727	262	42
G7	Grade 7	402.27	416	2.16	197	195	19	6	265	102	43
G6	Grade 6	133.77	137	0.71	86	47	3	0	92	38	44
SCS	Senior Civil Servant	51.6	52	0.27	31	15	0	0	29	17	46
NA[1]	—	40	40	0.21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		18,153.94	19,237	100.00	8,200	10,132	2,956	133	7,710	7,533	40
Percentage		100	100	—	45	55	16	1	42	41	—

[1] A small number of new or temporary staff were held on the date in question without a grade recorded, on the personnel information management system.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of staff in her Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193562]

Mr. Byrne: In February 2007, 965 staff were contributing to recognised AVC schemes, partnership pension schemes and stakeholder pension schemes. This total represented 1.28 per cent. of employees. These figures are for staff in core Home Office, Prison Service, Borders and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

In February 2008, 398 staff were making contributions to recognised AVC schemes, partnership pension schemes and stakeholder pension schemes, which represents 1.40 per cent. of employees. The figures are for staff in core Home Office, Borders and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. They do not include Prison Service, which became part of Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in her Department and its executive agencies; and if she will make a statement. [200745]

Mr. Byrne: It is not appropriate to disclose values for staff, other than those whose details are reported on in Remuneration Reports in the Department's Resource Accounts. A copy of the Resource Accounts for the financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library. The document can be accessed electronically by the following link.

Home Office Resource Accounts 2007-08 (pages 29 to 32 refer):

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08?view=Binary

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the mandatory retirement age in her Department is; and how many people were allowed to work beyond the mandatory retirement age in each of the last five years. [214126]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of staff who have worked beyond the mandatory retirement age in each of the last five years.

In 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Home Office HQ included the following Departments; Communities Group, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join the new Ministry of Justice, and Communities Group transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

From 1 October 2006—in line with the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006—the retirement age for all staff became 65 (before that, it was 60). Staff still have the option to take their pension and retire from the age of 60 and can, exceptionally, work until the age of 70 subject to certain conditions.

	Retirement age				
	60			*65*	
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Home Office Headquarters (HO HQ)[1]	n/a	n/a	91	4	23
United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)[1]	n/a	n/a	454	26	43
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	1	0	1	2	6
Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)[2]	n/a	7	7	8	15
Total	1	7	553	40	87

[1] Data for HO HQ and UKBA is not available for 2003-05 without incurring a disproportionate cost.
[2] CRB is unable to provide 2003-04 data without incurring a disproportionate cost

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218960]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office headquarters and United Kingdom Border Agency are unable to provide the requested sickness data without incurring a disproportionate cost. The period concerned will require manual checks for each record. This is due to the move from the old personnel information manpower management system (PIMMS) database to the current Oracle (Adelphi) database in 2004-05.

55 staff in the Criminal Records Bureau and 326 in the Identity and Passport Service have taken five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if she will make a statement. [216107]

Mr. Byrne: Prior to 1 April 2007 annual sick absence reporting across Government Departments was published by the Cabinet Office. Data for Government Departments was not analysed and reported at the time against the criteria outlined in the question and it is not possible for the Home Office to do so now, retrospectively, without incurring disproportionate cost.

From 1 April 2007 sick absence reporting across Government Departments was standardised and reported via quarterly surveys to Cabinet Office. Figures are reported as paid days lost to sickness by length of sick absence (short and medium term) and by absence reason.

One category of absence reason is "Mental Disorders" which includes all mental health and behavioural disorders as well as stress, anxiety and depression. The Home Office currently does not analyse and report figures against the full criteria outlined in the question and is not possible now without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Home Office is currently piloting a new standardised data source for its HR reporting; the intention is to move to this new data source by the end of this financial year so that it will be in a position to answer future questions about its staff more fully than has been the case in the past.

Figures for the Home Office and its Agencies for the financial year 2006-07 for those receiving sick pay for Mental Disorders, and as reported to Cabinet Office, are as follows:

Summary	*Days lost (short term)*	*Days lost (long term)*	*Total days lost (12 month period)*
Home Office Headquarters	498	4,242.00	4,740.00
Home Office UKBA	7,395.70	40,325.60	47,721.30
Home Office IPS	1,696.50	9,279.00	10,975.50
Home Office CRB	861	1,113.00	1,947.00
Home Department Grand To	10,451.20	54,959.60	65,410.80[1]

[1] Grand totals vary due to rounding on Cabinet Office spreadsheets used by Departments for Quarterly Returns.

The Home Office does not analyse and report HR information on its non-departmental public bodies against the criteria outlined in the question and to do so now would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of staff recruited to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were

required to have a Criminal Records Bureau check before an offer of employment was made in each year since 2002. [219042]

Mr. Byrne: A Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check is primarily a requirement for posts that involve working with children and/or vulnerable adults. Home Office headquarters and the Criminal Records Bureau do not require staff to undergo CRB checks prior to being offered employment. The UK Border Agency has carried out 1,449 CRB checks in total for staff since 2002. A breakdown by year could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) only require staff within the Interview Office Network to undergo CRB checks. The network has been in place for three years. Table 1 shows the percentage of IPS staff employed who had CRB checks before being made an offer of employment in each year was as follows:

Table 1

	Percentage of staff
2005-06	1.6
2006-07	13.5
2007-08	1.4

Detention Centres: Translation Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what appointment procedures individuals, organisations or companies providing interpretation services in detention or immigration centres are subject to; what account is taken of the specific needs of those in detention and immigration centres in such appointment procedures; whether specific training is provided for those working as interpreters; and if she will make a statement. [223573]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Immigration Removal and Detained Fast Track Centres will either call on the services of an interpreter from the United Kingdom Border Agency panel of freelance interpreters for face to face interpretation or a commercial supplier for telephone interpretation. Detainee needs vary but are taken into account when arranging an interpreter as far as practicably possible.

Asylum seekers are offered the option of an interviewer and interpreter of a specific gender. Applicants are made aware of this during screening procedures and this is acted on as far as operationally possible.

Interpreters registered with the United Kingdom Border Agency panel of interpreters do receive training which is either one or two day in duration depending on the level of public service interpreting experience they hold.

Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which she is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in her (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220176]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available for all staff because the declaration of disability is not mandatory: 'prefer not to say responses are available to staff.

Home Office Headquarters and its agencies are unable to provide all of the information requested without incurring a disproportionate cost[1]; that which is available is presented in the following table.

We are unable to provide average salary information for disabled and non-disabled staff without incurring disproportionate cost.

[1] Information on the proportion of staff recorded as having a disability has been obtained from the personnel information systems as at 31 May 2008. Information is only available for the proportion of staff that have chosen to declare themselves as disabled.

Staff in the Home Office and its agencies who have declared themselves as disabled

	Percentage
Home Office Headquarters (HQ)	4
UK Border Agency	4.12
Criminal Records Bureau	3.10

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of testing people committing trigger offences as defined in Schedule 6 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 for the presence of a specified class A drug was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the annual cost of extending testing for class A drugs to those committing other public order offences. [223262]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Drug testing of people who have committed trigger offences as defined in Schedule 6 of the Criminal and Court Services Act 2000 for specified Class A drugs is conducted in authorised police stations across England and Wales as part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP).

This drug testing is funded directly by the Home Office to the 23 police force areas authorised to carry out DIP drug testing.

In 2007-08 the Government invested some £26.5 million in DIP drug testing. Over 80 per cent. of this investment funded the police to run DIP drug testing operations and the remaining 20 per cent. is spent on the provision of drug screening kits and confirmatory test analysis.

Around 224,000 tests were carried out in 2007-08 including 1,232 tests authorised by a police officer of inspector rank or above for public order offences.

The Home Office has not made any estimates on the annual cost of extending DIP drug testing to those committing public order offences.

Emergency Calls: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many emergency calls were received by the police regarding incidents in *(a)* the London borough of Newham, *(b)* the London borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in each of the last five years. [223528]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on emergency call handling is available at the police force level only, and data for the Metropolitan Police Service are given in the table.

The requested data are collected on behalf of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and were published each year in their Annual Report up to 2004-05. The available data are given in the table.

Emergency calls received[1] by the Metropolitan Police service for 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[2]	2006-07[2]	2007-08[2]
Metropolitan Police	2,288,519	2,154,876	2,124,000	2,278,003	2,444,417

[1] Data on the number of emergency calls are collected on behalf of HMIC, who previously published this Information in their Annual Report, HMIC have advised that it will no longer release this data and that the data for 2004-05 Is the last series to be published.
[2] Provisional data that have not been validated by police forces.

Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hoax 999 calls to the police there were in each of the last three years in *(a)* Bolton, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England and Wales. [223672]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants by *(a)* 31 July 2008 and *(b)* 31 August 2008. [223329]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The number of businesses which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants by *(a)* 31 July 2008 is 469 and *(b)* 1 August 2008 is 799.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage refusal rate was for UK visas applied for by Iraqi citizens *(a)* at the British Embassy in Jordan and *(b)* overall in the latest period for which figures are available. [223493]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The refusal rate for visa applications submitted by Iraqi nationals in the FY—financial year—2007-08 at the British embassy in Amman and globally was 51 per cent. and 43 per cent. respectively.

Please note that these figures have not been previously published and should therefore be treated as provisional.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 15, (ii) 15 to 24, (iii) 25 to 34, (iv) 35 to 44, (v) 45 to 54, (iv) 55 to 64 and (viii) over 65 years in each ethnic appearance category were registered on the national DNA database in each of the last five years. [200244]

Meg Hillier: Data on the number of males whose profiles have been added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by English and Welsh police forces, as at 16 July 2008, broken down by sex and the age groups requested, is shown in table 1. Equivalent data for females is given in table 2. Age is defined as the person's age at the time DNA was taken from them, not their current age. This data could only be further broken down to show which profiles were added in each of the last five years at disproportionate cost.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates.

Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong to. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

Table 1: Male

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of subject profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3 per cent. estimated replication rate*
Unknown	Under 15	11,340	9,832
	15 to 24	71,251	61,775
	25 to 34	50,416	43,711
	35 to 44	36,863	31,960
	45 to 54	21,654	18,774
	55 to 64	10,347	8,971
	65 and over	4,186	3,629
	Unknown age on load	810	702
Total unknown	—	206,867	179,354
Black	Under 15	20,531	17,800
	15 to 24	116,685	101,166
	25 to 34	79,665	69,070
	35 to 44	56,347	48,853
	45 to 54	16,045	13,911
	55 to 64	3,631	3,148
	65 and over	1,681	1,457
	Unknown age on load	6,451	5,593
Total black	—	301,036	260,998
Middle Eastern	Under 15	804	697

Table 1: Male

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of subject profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3 per cent. estimated replication rate*
	15 to 24	12,278	10,645
	25 to 34	12,003	10,407
	35 to 44	5,069	4,395
	45 to 54	1,829	1,586
	55 to 64	434	376
	65 and over	102	88
	Unknown age on load	288	250
Total Middle Eastern	—	32,807	28,444
Asian	Under 15	10,905	9,455
	15 to 24	99,171	85,981
	25 to 34	66,185	57,382
	35 to 44	31,105	26,968
	45 to 54	14,508	12,578
	55 to 64	4,000	3,468
	65 and over	1,408	1,221
	Unknown age on load	2,166	1,878
Total Asian	—	229,448	198,931
White South European	Under 15	3,751	3,252
	15 to 24	27,937	24,221
	25 to 34	24,250	21,025
	35 to 44	12,462	10,805
	45 to 54	3,972	3,444
	55 to 64	998	865
	65 and over	246	213
	Unknown age on load	1,091	946
Total white South European	—	74,707	64,771
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	Under 15	533	462
	15 to 24	7,641	6,625
	25 to 34	7,078	6,137
	35 to 44	4,381	3,798
	45 to 54	1,741	1,509
	55 to 64	393	341
	65 and over	100	87
	Unknown age on load	113	98
Total Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	—	21,980	19,057
White North European	Under 15	227,880	197,572
	15 to 24	1,195,063	1,036,120
	25 to 34	664,089	575,765
	35 to 44	479,342	415,590
	45 to 54	234,760	203,537
	55 to 64	100,249	86,916
	65 and over	32,960	28,576
	Unknown age on load	53,243	46,162
Total white North European	—	2,987,586	2,590,237
Total male	—	3,854,431	3,341,792

Table 2: Female

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of subject profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3 per cent. estimated replication rate*
Unknown	Under 14	5,333	4,624
	15 to 24	22,839	19,801
	25 to 34	13,389	11,608
	35 to 44	10,491	9,096
	45 to 54	4,971	4,310
	55 to 64	1,706	1,479
	Over 65	519	450
	Unknown age on load	53	46
Total unknown	—	59,301	51,414
Black	Under 14	7,976	6,915
	15 to 24	31,087	26,952
	25 to 34	18,897	16,384
	35 to 44	11,904	10,321
	45 to 54	3,063	2,656
	55 to 64	492	427
	Over 65	133	115
	Unknown age on load	294	255
Total black	—	73,846	64,024
Middle Eastern	Under 14	144	125
	15 to 24	960	832
	25 to 34	844	732
	35 to 44	602	522
	45 to 54	288	250
	55 to 64	84	73
	Over 65	29	25
	Unknown age on load	7	6
Total Middle Eastern	—	2,958	2,565
Asian	Under 14	2,166	1,878
	15 to 24	13,579	11,773
	25 to 34	8,751	7,587

Table 2: Female

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of subject profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3 per cent. estimated replication rate*
	35 to 44	4,519	3,918
	45 to 54	1,973	1,711
	55 to 64	588	510
	Over 65	128	111
	Unknown age on load	66	57
Total Asian	—	31,770	27,545
White South European	Under 14	1,815	1,574
	15 to 24	6,741	5,844
	25 to 34	4,241,	3,677
	35 to 44	2,336	2,025
	45 to 54	808	701
	55 to 64	195	169
	Over 65	46	40
	Unknown age on load	76	66
Total white South European	—	16,258	14,096
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	Under 14	267	231
	15 to 24	2,927	2,538
	25 to 34	2,609	2,262
	35 to 44	1,587	1,376
	45 to 54	678	588
	55 to 64	165	143
	Over 65	31	27
	Unknown age on load	14	12
Total Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	—	8,278	7,177
White North European	Under 14	99,852	86,572
	15 to 24	321,176	278,460,
	25 to 34	166,925	144,724
	35 to 44	134,767	116,843
	45 to 54	58,131	50,400
	55 to 64	19,347	16,774
	Over 65	4,976	4,314
	Unknown age on load	2,807	2,434
Total white North European	—	807,981	700,520
Total female	—	1,000,392	867,340

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W, on DNA database, what the projected growth is for the number of individuals with a DNA profile on the national DNA database over the next five years. [212354]

Meg Hillier: Updated figures for the projected growth in the number of individuals on the National DNA Database are not yet available.

Work on revising the figures is in progress. It will also take account of the judgment in the S and Marper case before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on the proportionality of retaining biometric data for those charged but not convicted of an offence. The ECtHR judgment is expected later this year. Revised projections should be available in early 2009.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people with DNA profiles held on the national DNA database living in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK are of (i) Asian, (ii) Black and (iii) Eastern European ethnic origin and are under 18 years old. [213352]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the residence of the person sampled. Information is, therefore, not available on the number of residents of Leeds, West constituency or Leeds metropolitan district who have had a DNA profile added to the NDNAD, but is available on the number of profiles loaded by West Yorkshire police. The people from whom these profiles were taken may not be resident in the area where they were sampled.

The NDNAD holds records on the ethnic appearance of persons who have DNA taken, based on the judgment of the police officer completing the record about which of six broad ethnic categories the person belongs to. These categories are white—north European; white—south European; middle eastern; Asian; black; and Chinese, Japanese or other south east Asian. There is no separate category for eastern Europeans. If the police officer does not make an entry for ethnic appearance, this is recorded as 'unknown'.

It is not, therefore, possible to provide the information requested. However, it is possible to provide information on the number of profiles added to the NDNAD by West Yorkshire police, and by all English and Welsh police forces, broken down by age and the ethnic appearance categories used. The age shown is the person's current age, not the age they were when the DNA sample was taken. This is shown in the following table.

The number of profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

At present, the national replication rate is 13.3 per cent., that is, the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.3 per cent. fewer than the number of profiles. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals whose profiles have been loaded are not given for specific forces.

End August 2008	Subject Profiles under 18s				Subject Profiles all ages			
Ethnic appearance	English and Welsh forces	Per cent. in each ethnic appearance group	West Yorkshire	Per cent. in each ethnic appearance group	English and Welsh forces	Per cent. in each ethnic appearance group	West Yorkshire	Per cent. in each ethnic appearance group
Unknown	18,323	5.3	406	2.2	299,141	6.0	5,087	2.3
Asian	14,507	4.2	1,876	9.9	268,896	5.4	24,591	10.9
Black	25,897	7.5	1,108	5.9	383,859	7.7	11,529	5.1
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	921	0.3	39	0.2	31,392	0.6	971	0.4
Middle Eastern	1,306	0.4	28	0.1	36,947	0.7	1,293	0.6
White-North European	279,031	81.0	15,264	80.9	3,870,526	77.7	179,358	79.8
White-South European	4,341	1.3	155	0.8	93,098	1.9	2,003	0.9
Total, profiles	344,326	—	18,876	—	4,983,859	—	224,832	—
Total individuals	298,531	—	—	—	4,321,006	—	—	—

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many DNA profiles on the national DNA database are of people resident in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Leeds West constituency, *(c)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(d)* Yorkshire and Humberside; [213353]

(2) what proportion of the population in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District has a profile on the national DNA database. [220709]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the residence of the person sampled. Information is, therefore, not available on the number of residents of Leeds, West constituency or Leeds metropolitan district, or the proportion of the population of those areas, who have had a DNA profile added to the NDNAD. Information is, however, available on the number of profiles loaded by the Yorkshire and Humberside police forces, as shown in the following table.

The people from whom these profiles were taken may not be resident in the area where they were sampled.

The number of profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

At present, the national replication rate is 13.3 per cent., that is, the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.3 per cent. fewer than the number of profiles. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals whose profiles have been loaded are not given for specific police forces.

The total number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD for all police forces at 30 June 2008 was 5,193,986. Allowing for replication, this equates to approximately 4,503,186 individuals. The corresponding figures for English and Welsh police forces are 4,872,376 profiles and approximately 4,224,350 individuals.

Force	Number of subject profiles
Humberside	84,014
North Yorkshire	57,799
South Yorkshire	121,007
West Yorkshire	220,649

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals' data were held on the National DNA Database in each financial year for which records are available; [214979]

(2) how many social profiles were held on the National DNA Database in each financial year for which records are available. [214980]

Meg Hillier: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is a continually changing database, so it is not possible to give the total number of profiles held on it at the end of each year retrospectively. However, the number of profiles added to it by English and Welsh police forces in each year since its inception is available. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W.

As it is possible for a person's profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

Therefore, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is the number of subject profiles reduced by the replication rate. At present, the replication rate is 13.3 per cent., so the 541,920 subject profiles added to the NDNAD in 2007-08 equates to an estimated 469,845 individuals. However, the replication rate has varied over time, so it is not possible to provide a figure for the number of individuals added to the NDNAD for all years since 1995.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests she has received from other European member states for a crosscheck of a DNA sample against profiles on the national DNA database in the last five years. [219322]

Jacqui Smith: The number of requests received from all other countries to check profiles from unsolved serious crimes, or for the identification of an unknown deceased person believed to be a United Kingdom national, carried out by the National DNA Database (NDNAD) Custodian in each year since 2004-05, is shown in the table.

	Number of searches
2004-05	149
2005-06	249
2006-07	498
2007-08	727

Before 2004, requests were rare, so no data was collated. The figures do not include the country of origin of the request, so it is not possible to tell which were from EU member states and which from other countries.

The figures do not include requests which were received but not approved and processed.

Most requests for the exchange of DNA information between the United Kingdom and other countries are routed through the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Other channels may include bilateral direct liaison between law enforcement authorities and formal mutual legal assistance channels. Exchanges of DNA information via these channels will almost always be a response to the needs of a specific criminal investigation.

Requests from international law enforcement agencies for a search of the NDNAD are only processed where it is clear that the request is in the interest of prevention and detection of crime, national security or the data subject. They are also subject to a risk assessment, taking into account the justification for and proportionality of disclosure of the information in line with human rights. If cleared for processing, a one-off speculative search of NDNAD is made by the Custodian and information fed back to UK NCB.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the probability of an adventitious match between DNA profiles submitted by law enforcement agencies of other member states and DNA profiles held on the national DNA database arising from the use of the six loci standard; [219480]

(2) what assessment she has made of the accuracy of the Interpol Standard Set of Loci (ISSOL) in comparing DNA profiles; and what assessment she has made of the differences between ISSOL and the standard in use in the UK; [219481]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the accuracy of the six loci DNA comparison standard for sharing of DNA data. [219487]

Jacqui Smith: The greater the number of different areas of DNA (loci) examined by a DNA profiling system, the higher the level of accuracy.

When the United Kingdom National DNA Database (NDNAD) was set up in 1995, the SGM system was used, which looked at six loci plus amelogenin (the area showing the person's gender). In 1999, SGM was replaced by SGM Plus, which looks at 10 loci plus the gender area. The probability of an adventitious (chance) match between full SGM DNA profiles of unrelated individuals is of the order of one in 50 million. The quoted probability of a match between full SGM Plus DNA profiles of unrelated individuals is one in one billion (i.e. one in a thousand million). The NDNAD Custodian carefully monitors replicate DNA profiles loaded to the NDNAD, and a key reason for doing this is to identify potential adventitious matches between SGM Plus DNA profiles derived from unrelated individuals. To date, no such adventitious match has been found. This indicates the SGM Plus match probability to be significantly lower than the figure quoted—it is probably better than one in one trillion (that is, one in a million million).

It was decided when SGM Plus was introduced that it was not value for money to reanalyse all the samples taken between 1995 and 1999 to upgrade them from SGM to SGM Plus. However, if a match occurs involving an SGM profile, or a partial crime scene profile, the original samples are routinely reanalysed using SGM Plus to provide the best possible match.

The Interpol Standard Set of Loci include seven loci plus amelogenin. Six of the seven loci are the same as in the SGM system. In order to carry out an Interpol search, six out of these seven loci plus amelogenin should be present. The Interpol Standard Set of Loci is therefore equivalent to SGM, with a discriminating power of approximately one in 50 million for full profiles from unrelated individuals.

If a DNA profile submitted by an overseas police force matches a profile on the NDNAD, the information supplied to that force is limited to notification that a match has occurred. The match is only followed up by the requesting member state using existing mutual legal assistance arrangements where additional DNA profiling and scientific expertise are used to exclude the possibility of an adventitious match prior to any criminal proceedings.

Government Departments: Personal Records

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government services require individuals to provide personal information to Government departments and agencies. [203703]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected *(a)* people traffickers and *(b)* trafficking victims have been intercepted in maritime operations by (i) the UK Border Agency and (ii) other agencies engaged in border patrol in each of the last three years. [220114]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Identity Cards: Aviation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential advantages and disadvantages of the use of identity cards in the airline industry against existing security arrangements. [223368]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Stephen Boys Smith's report on personnel security in the transport sector considered the use of identity cards

in the aviation industry and concluded that identity cards are a useful addition to identity assurance, which is a key factor in personnel security regimes.

The Government are working closely with the aviation industries and trade unions to ensure that the identity card complements the existing pre-employment checking arrangements and we will be publishing an Impact Assessment in the next few months.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of foreign nationals in the UK who will hold a biometric registration document by June 2010. [218887]

Mr. Byrne: The exact numbers of cards held by foreign nationals in June 2010 will depend on individual applications, the categories included in the scheme and the speed of implementation.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected illegal immigrants have been apprehended in British waters as a result of boarding inspections carried out by boats used by *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* other agencies in each year since 1997. [220117]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many known overstayers *(a)* were deported, *(b)* were removed, *(c)* left of their own accord and *(d)* had no action taken against them in the last 12 months. [223415]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The information requested on known overstayers could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December.2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

On 19 June 2008, the Government set out its plans to more robustly enforce the immigration rules including the removal of those not entitled to be here. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/?requestType=form&view=Search+results&simpleOrAdvanced=simple&page=1&contentType=All&searchTerm=enforcing+the+deal&Submit=Go

Illegal Immigrants: Aviation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines her Department issued to airlines for carrying illegal immigrants into the UK in the last 12 months; and which airlines were fined. [223331]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Under Section 40 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (as amended by the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002), air and sea carriers are liable to a fixed charge of £2,000 for each inadequately documented passenger brought to the UK.

Between 31 August 2007 and 1 September 2008 a total of 2,767 charges were imposed on 163 different carriers. I am unable to disclose details of individual carriers for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Immigration

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what service standards for the processing of leave to remain applications are in place. [219430]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is as follows:

General Casework Leave to Remain and Employment Leave to Remain

Our current published service standards for deciding charged applications are:

Applications made by post: we aim to decide 70 per cent. of applications within four weeks (20 working days) and 90 per cent. within 14 weeks (70 working days).

Applications made in person: we aim to decide 90 per cent. within 24 hours.

Immigration Officers: Pay

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much sick pay was paid to immigration officers in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the immigration officer staffing budget this amount represented in each of those years. [218893]

Mr. Byrne: The figures cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Immigration Rules

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she used to determine which of the 19,000 foreign nationals, dealt with as old cases, have been granted leave to remain; how many of these have previous convictions either in the UK or another country; what checks were made in the UK, or sought in other countries, in respect of such convictions; how many of these foreign nationals have dependants who are eligible for, or have received, leave to remain; if she will break down the 19,000 foreign nationals by *(a)* nationality and *(b)* type of case; and if she will make a statement. [176053]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Individuals' entitlement to stay in the UK is considered in accordance with the immigration rules. Before entitlement to stay is

confirmed, including for any dependants aged 10 or over, details are checked against the Police National Computer to establish whether there is a criminal record. The checking process may also indicate if an individual is wanted for crimes outside the UK.

The cases of any individuals with a serious criminal conviction are considered as a high priority. Any outstanding applications may be refused and consideration will be given to deportation.

Obtaining figures on the number of applicants and dependants with criminal convictions would be possible only by examination of individual files and this would incur disproportionate cost.

The original figure of 19,000 has now been updated and the breakdown of the figures you have requested is contained in the UK Border Agency Chief Executive's letter, dated 23 July 2008, updating the Home Affairs Select Committee, copies of which are in the House Library.

Immigration: Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken of gallantry awards for service in the armed forces in determining applications for settlement in the UK. [206167]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* Discretion may be exercised to waive certain requirements of the immigration rules applicable to former members of the armed forces, including the requirement for an application for indefinite leave to be made within two years of the date of discharge. Discretion may be exercised in individual cases if there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate and account is taken of all relevant factors. Gallantry awards may be one factor in whether discretion is exercised.

Internet: Security

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's budget for cyber-security measures is. [201676]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office takes cyber-security very seriously. It is an integral part of every Home Office IT system but is not costed separately, hence it is not feasible to give a total budget figure.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter to her dated 29 May 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Viviea Duhaned. [218873]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 July 2008.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the hon. Member for Walsall, North's letter of 8 July 2008 on a constituent, reference M12920/8; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [223189]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* I have asked for further details on the case to be obtained by visa staff in New Delhi, and will reply to the letter by 30 September. I apologise for the delay.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 26 February, 4 March and 4 June from the hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling regarding Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kelly. [224005]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I wrote to the right hon. Member on 16 September 2008.

National Security: Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on national security grounds since August 2005, broken down by quarter. [224123]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The figures are as follows:

	Number
(a) Deportations	
2006	
2nd quarter	2
3rd quarter	1
2007	
1st quarter	4
2nd quarter	1
3rd quarter	1
No deportations in other quarters	
Total	9
(b) Exclusions	
2005	
3rd quarter	12
4th quarter	5
2006	
1st quarter	4
2nd quarter	5
3rd quarter	5
4th quarter	26
2007	
1st quarter	1
2nd quarter	73
3rd quarter	4
4th quarter	2
Total	127

[1] From August 2005

Neighbourhood Wardens: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the non-UK citizens who do not have a right to work in the UK but are licensed to work in the security industry by the Security Industry Authority have been accredited to perform community safety functions under the Police Reform Act 2002. [223146]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Home Office does not collect data centrally on individual accreditations made under the Police Reform Act 2002.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on the accreditation of *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU citizens under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme; what checks her Department performs to establish whether applicants from overseas have criminal records in countries other than the UK; and what estimate she has made of the number of foreign nationals accredited under the scheme to date. [223147]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have both produced guidance on Community Safety Accreditation Schemes (CSAS). The guidance is available on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-policing/citizen-focused-policing/community-safety-accredit-scheme/.

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes are established at the discretion of chief constables and, as the ACPO guidance makes clear, it is the chief constable who decides on the checks required of a person seeking accreditation. The Home Office does not collect data centrally on individual accreditations made under the Police Reform Act 2002.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 1,013 foreign nationals released from prison without being considered for deportation originally identified as *(a)* the more serious and *(b)* the most serious cases (i) have been deported, (ii) have been granted leave to remain in the UK, (iii) are outstanding cases and (iv) have yet to be located. [206264]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee in order to provide the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Her letter of 23 July has been placed in the House Library.

Passports: China

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce measures to ensure that all passport details of unaccompanied children travelling on flights from China and Vietnam are sent to the Immigration Office of the UK airport prior to the aircraft's arrival; and if she will make a statement. [182075]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The majority of passengers travelling on flights from China and Vietnam to the United Kingdom are likely to be visa nationals. Biometrics are taken from all visa nationals over the age of five as part of the entry clearance process. The passport details and biometric information is available to immigration staff working at ports of entry.

In addition to this UKBA—the Uk Border Agency—has a network of airline liaison officers (ALOs) based in key source and transit locations which are targeted by those who may seek to abuse the UK's immigration controls. ALOs provide a comprehensive programme of formal training for carriers in UK passport and visa requirements and forgery awareness. This training incorporates a session about the smuggling and trafficking of children and adults, and the means of identifying vulnerable children and their traffickers by their demeanour and the documents they may present.

Finally, the e-Borders Programme will check and screen against watchlists 60 per cent. of all passenger and crew movements, including children, in and out of the UK by December 2009, 95 per cent. by December 2010 and 100 per cent. by 2014.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time spent by a police officer on street patrol in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England and Wales was in each of the last 10 years. [224072]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Information on time spent on patrol by police officers has only been collected since 2003-04. Values for Northamptonshire are set out in table A and values for England and Wales in table B.

Time spent on patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling, but engaged in no other duty. Activity (such as advice to a member of the public) carried out while on patrol is recorded separately. The percentage of time spent on patrol needs to be considered alongside other activities. We use the front-line policing measure to provide a fuller picture of police officer activity, and figures for this measure for England and Wales are also given in the tables.

The measure assesses time spent by police officers on core policing duties such as patrol, responding to 999 calls, as well as activities of CID and specialist officers. While these officers are not always visible to the public, they are none the less carrying out core policing duties.

I am told by Northamptonshire police that they have invested significantly in proactive crime fighting activities to address serious and organised crime, major crime and terrorism. This focused activity has contributed to a reduction in crime for the people of Northamptonshire, but is not included in time on patrol.

I am also told that in Northamptonshire, police responses to incidents requiring a rapid emergency response have risen by 20 per cent. This represents almost 9,000 more prioritised emergency responses to the public in 2007-08 compared to 2004-05. Public satisfaction at police response to incidents in Northamptonshire is also rising, and public confidence in policing in

Northamptonshire (as measured by the British crime survey) has risen by almost 10 per cent. in the past 18 months.

Table A: Time spent on patrol and front-line policing measure, Northamptonshire, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Time spent on patrol[1, 2]	*Percentage Front-line policing measure*[3]
2003-04	13.9	66.7
2004-05	15.0	59.7
2005-06	13.1	65.4
2006-07	11.5	64.3
2007-08	10.2	—

Table B: Time spent on patrol and front-line policing measure, England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Time spent on patrol[1, 2]	*Percentage Front-line policing measure*[3]
2003-04	14.2	63.6
2004-05	15.3	62.3
2005-06	14.0	63.6
2006-07	13.6	64.2
2007-08	[4]13.8	—

[1] Data was not collected before 2003. The information is taken from activity analysis, which is collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.

[2] Includes only officers on foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic officers. These values exclude PCSOs.

[3] Data was not collected before 2003. 2007-08 data not yet available.

[4] Data does not include Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Police: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much on average it costs to employ a police constable in the London borough of *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Hackney and *(c)* Tower Hamlets annually. [223527]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Average pay and pay-related cost of employing a full-time police officer (of rank sergeant or below) are calculated based on the 2006-07 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) at regional level. This information is not available at police force area level.

It has been estimated that the average pay and pay related cost of employing a full-time police officer in 2006-07 was approximately £45,830 in England and Wales.

The cost of training and non-pay related costs such as premises, supplies and transport are not included in this estimate.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the capital spend on the police service in the London boroughs of *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Hackney and *(c)* Tower Hamlets was in each of the last five years. [223530]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Commissioner, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: International Co-operation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 119-21WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, (1) how many times UK officers have been part of joint investigation teams performing operations in other member states in the last five years; [219490]

(2) how many times joint investigation teams have performed operations in the UK in the last five years; [219491]

(3) what powers European police officers acting as part of the joint investigation teams have on UK territory. [219492]

Jacqui Smith: We are aware of just one joint investigation team operation having been established under the provisions of the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters 2000 involving United Kingdom law enforcement. This was a joint United Kingdom and Netherlands drugs investigation which took place in 2005, to which there was a successful outcome.

All members of a joint investigation team would be subject to the laws of the country in which the team is operating. Law enforcement officials from another member state act in a support and advisory capacity and would not have police powers when the team is operating in the United Kingdom. Teams operating in the United Kingdom would be under the strict control of a United Kingdom team leader.

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the number of full-time police officers in Bolton North East has been since 1997. [223670]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on police personnel strength are collected by police force area, and have additionally been collected by Basic Command Unit (BCU) level from 2003 onwards.

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in Greater Manchester police has increased by 14.6 per cent., between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2008.

The number of FTE police officers in the Bolton BCU has increased by 3.0 per cent., between 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2008.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police force in each of the last 10 years; and how many police officers there were per 1,000 population in each police force area in each year. [223630]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is published in the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

The latest bulletin contains data correct as at 31 March 2008, and can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808.pdf

Table 4 shows police officer strength by force and the number of police officers per 100,000 population.

Police: Public Participation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent she plans to implement the recommendations contained in the report by Louise Casey, "Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime". [223503]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Following the Casey review, the Home Secretary announced that we will immediately take forward Community Champions, and the Policing Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together" sets out our response in more detail. This includes the police service commitment to implement crime maps for every area and the new standard for the police service—The Policing Pledge—by the end of the year. The Government have appointed Louise Casey to a new role of Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Adviser based in the Home Office to help implement her proposals.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were recorded in each police force area in each of the last five years. [223522]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The available statistics relate to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police and are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify those of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Total racially or religiously aggravated offences[1] recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number

Police force area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	1,256	1,431	1,326	1,337	1,027
Bedfordshire	207	266	339	308	292
British Transport Police	652	946	1,088	1,188	1,316
Cambridgeshire	384	398	322	351	365
Cheshire	400	438	569	557	536
Cleveland	251	288	528	464	390
Cumbria	116	186	232	219	187
Derbyshire	600	474	494	492	554
Devon and Cornwall	588	694	818	809	696
Dorset	166	254	214	291	294
Durham	138	154	258	304	245
Dyfed-Powys	126	154	118	167	125
Essex	760	807	796	922	913
Gloucestershire	167	215	283	326	264
Greater Manchester	2,864	3,203	3,398	3,677	3,637
Gwent	240	233	289	269	234
Hampshire	415	570	1,120	1,326	1,320
Hertfordshire	730	859	985	954	846
Humberside	438	488	417	655	407
Kent	480	609	798	935	858
Lancashire	1,085	1,183	1,363	1,238	1,042
Leicestershire	809	980	1,007	1,055	941
Lincolnshire	179	169	200	143	101
London, City of	60	48	75	83	73
Merseyside	943	1,061	1,420	1,423	1,100
Metropolitan Police	9,468	9,444	8,769	8,226	7,353
Norfolk	268	333	343	340	265
Northamptonshire	413	389	455	422	455
Northumbria	974	886	834	924	729
North Wales	278	331	396	356	316
North Yorkshire	54	133	205	234	172
Nottinghamshire	619	551	566	715	793
South Wales	794	735	713	555	611
South Yorkshire	259	471	1,032	1,037	927
Staffordshire	600	646	805	889	760
Suffolk	297	244	240	329	328
Surrey	482	510	845	588	305
Sussex	552	575	710	991	776
Thames Valley	1,104	1,154	1,128	1,483	1,233
Warwickshire	187	222	293	379	416
West Mercia	674	609	527	499	503
West Midlands	2,479	2,413	3,071	3,338	3,249
West Yorkshire	1,874	2,140	2,898	2,691	2,493
Wiltshire	244	220	260	253	196
England and Wales total	35,674	38,114	42,547	43,742	39,643

[1] There are currently seven racially or religiously aggravated offence classifications within the recorded crime series. They are as follows: less serious wounding, harassment, assault without injury, criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle and other criminal damage.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were based at each *(a)* port of entry and *(b)* airport as at 31 December 2007. [223109]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As at 31 December 2007, HM Revenue and Customs had approximately 4,500 frontline operational staff deployed at entry points across the UK. Officers are deployed to tackle smuggling at the frontier on an intelligence-led basis where risk is greatest.

HM Revenue and Customs does not disclose the numbers of staff deployed to specific locations, as to do so could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Security: European Union

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Council of Europe member states on the development of a European Union Standing Committee on Internal Security; and what powers are proposed for the committee. [219488]

Jacqui Smith: There have been no ministerial discussions on the development of a Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) with European Union member states.

COSI would be created under Article 61D of the Lisbon Treaty which specifies that 'a standing committee shall be set up within the Council to ensure that operational cooperation on internal security is promoted and strengthened within the Union'. Under the Lisbon Treaty the exact role and remit of COSI would have to be agreed by the member states. The Government believe that the Committee should ensure that work to promote EU law enforcement co-operation, judicial cooperation in criminal matters and border management cooperation is coherent and effective in supporting the delivery of member states' public protection priorities.

Surveillance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unauthorised surveillances were discovered by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in each of the last five years. [223294]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Covert surveillance activities which are unlikely to result in the obtaining of private information about a person do not require authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and figures for these operations are not obtained by the OSC.

Since 2004-05, law enforcement agencies have been required to report to the Chief Surveillance Commissioner "all covert operations in which statutory requirements have not been observed and also cases which fail in court on account of defects in covert surveillance". Figures for these have been published in the last two annual reports, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08, and are 67 and 56 respectively.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to require local authorities to publish their inspection reports from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners. [223625]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* We have no plans to do so. The Office of Surveillance Commissioners is independent of Government. The disclosure of inspection reports, including those relating to local authorities, is a matter for the Chief Surveillance Commissioner.

Terrorism: Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been denied asylum on the grounds of participation in terrorism since the announcement of the then Prime Minister's 12 point plan in August 2005. [224125]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The UK Border Agency achieves this by excluding those who have participated in terrorism from asylum under article 1F of the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The statistics relating to exclusion from the 1951 Convention under article 1F do not differentiate between those who are refused asylum on grounds of participation in terrorism or for other grounds which are covered within article 1F. It is therefore not possible to give a precise figure in answer to the hon. Gentleman's question, except at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: British Nationality

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been stripped of UK citizenship under the provisions of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2005 as outlined in the 12-point plan announced by the then Prime Minister in August 2005. [224124]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Orders depriving individuals of their British citizenship have been issued in two cases under section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981, since its amendment by section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

Terrorism: Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the grounds of fomenting extremism under the 12-point plan announced by the then Prime Minister in August 2005, broken down by quarter. [224121]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* We have taken the term "fomenting extremism" as equating to unacceptable behaviour under the policy announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary on 24 August 2005. On this basis, the figures are:

	Number
(a) Deportations	
2006	
4th quarter	1
(b) Exclusions	
2005	
3rd quarter	14
4th quarter	18
2006	
1st quarter	8
2nd quarter	10
3rd quarter	3
4th quarter	11
2007	
1st quarter	0
2nd quarter	7
3rd quarter	5
4th quarter	9
2008	
1st quarter	4

	Number
2nd quarter	0
3rd quarter	[2]0
Total	79

[1] From August 2005
[2] To 16 September 2008

Terrorism: Extradition

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been extradited for terrorism-related offences since the announcement of the then Prime Minister's 12-point plan in August 2005, broken down by quarter; and how many requests for extradition for terrorism-related offences *(a)* are outstanding and *(b)* have been made since August 2005. [224122]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* As a matter of policy and practice, the Home Office will neither confirm nor deny the existence of any extradition request ahead of a person's arrest.

Since August 2005, 13 people have been extradited by the UK for terrorism-related offences; five people have been discharged by UK courts; five cases are ongoing and one case was withdrawn by the Requesting State. The following table gives a breakdown of these figures.

The UK has not issued any extradition requests for people suspected of terrorist-related offences in this time.

Extradition requests for terrorist-related offences since August 2005

	Number	Arrested	Status as at 17 September 2008
2005	1	Pre-August 2005	Withdrawn by Requesting State
	1	3rd quarter	Ongoing
	2	Pre-August 2005	Extradited
2006	1	Pre-August 2005	Discharged
	3	Pre-August 2005	Extradited
	1	1st quarter	Discharged
	1	2nd quarter	Extradited
	1	3rd quarter	Extradited
	1	3rd quarter	Ongoing
2007	1	Pre-August 2005	Extradited
	3	2nd quarter	Extradited
	1	2nd quarter	Ongoing
	2	4th quarter	Ongoing
	2	4th quarter	Discharged
2008	1	Pre-August 2005	Extradited
	1	1st quarter	Extradited

Note:
There are currently four other cases before the courts which were received before August 2005.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct the UK Border Agency to provide a substantive response to the hon. Member for Walsall, North's letter of 11 August concerning a constituent, ref. B27195/8. [224018]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 12 September.

UK Border Agency: Drug Seizures

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what drug seizures have been made by or with the operational involvement of the revenue cutters operating in the Maritime Section of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each year since 1996-97; and what the *(a)* date of seizure, *(b)* type of drug seized, *(c)* quantity of drug seized, *(d)* location of operation, *(e)* vessel intercepted and *(f)* designation of cutter was in each case. [223113]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* UK Border Agency cutters are deployed on an intelligence-led basis to areas of highest identified risk. It is longstanding HM Revenue and Customs policy not to divulge details of operational deployments, locations and seizures as these could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent relevant controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

UK Border Agency: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what revenue protection targets have been set for the UK Border Agency. [223102]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Revenue protection targets for the UK Border Agency were published on the 3 April 2008 as part of the UK Border Agency Business Plan, April 2008 to March 2011.

The targets are to:

1. Seize in the range of 1.4 to 1.9 billion illicit cigarettes targeted on the UK.

2. Seize in the range of 175 to 375 tonnes of illicit hand rolling tobacco targeted on the UK.

3. Increase by 5 per cent. over 2007-08 totals the number of frontier interceptions of high risk alcohol consignments which are referred for sanctions.

4. Increase by 10 per cent. over 2007-08 totals the number of seizures of commercial consignments of spirits referred for additional sanctions.

Video Games: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers were recorded in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997; how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* fines were issued to such retailers in each year; and what the average fine imposed was in each year. [223525]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fine have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table for 1997-2006.

Offenders[1] cautioned[2] and fined for supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification[3], England and Wales

	Number of police cautions issued	*Number of fines imposed*	*Average fine amount (£)*
1997	1	15	519
1998	—	18	440
1999	—	33	798
2000	—	16	1,028
2001	—	9	1,378
2002	—	12	1,079
2003	1	14	921
2004	—	6	775
2005	—	8	489
2006	—	8	1,244

[1] Companies, public bodies, etc.
[2] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[3] Video Recording Act 1984 S.11 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.88 (4).
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 162680, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on English language requirements. [171146]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1562W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Car Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mileage allowance is provided to each category of entitled worker by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [218480]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department ensures that staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel and that they are reimbursed only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of their official business. All members of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions are entitled to the same rates of mileage allowance, regardless of grade.

The rates differ according to the type of journey and type of vehicle used.

Staff driving their own vehicles are entitled to the following rates:

	Rate per mile (pence)
Standard rate higher (up to 6,000 miles per annum[1])	40
Standard rate lower (over 6,000 miles per annum[1])	25
Motor cycle	24
Pedal cycle	20

[1] Reimbursement of expenses incurred on mileage in excess of 1,000 miles per annum is subject to approval of a satisfactory business case.

Staff driving private user scheme vehicles are entitled to the following rates:

	Rate per mile (pence)
Petrol vehicles	15
Diesel vehicles	13
Liquid petroleum gas vehicles	9

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff worked for the Child Support Agency *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1997. [220621]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Children: Maintenance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals' postal addresses have been disclosed by the Child Support Agency to their former partners; and if he will make a statement. [213819]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individuals' postal addresses have been disclosed by the Child Support Agency to their former partners; and if he will make a statement. [213819]

It is not the practice of the Child Support Agency to provide details of an individual's postal address to former partners. However, on occasion errors do occur and the Agency investigates each incident thoroughly and considers financial redress where appropriate. The Agency does not centrally collate records of these investigations.

The Agency's records do show however that since January 2007, of the 1.3 million open child maintenance cases, the Information Commissioner's Office have informed the Agency of just three complaints from our clients alleging unlawful disclosure. These complaints were investigated by the Child Support Agency and, where appropriate, consolatory payments were made by way of an apology for the inconvenience, worry and distress caused.

It is worth noting that there are also occasions where, with the consent of both parents, it may be in the interests of the child for the Agency to pass on contact details to either parent. The Agency is currently looking at how it can facilitate this transfer of information within the framework of the Data Protection Act.

The Agency takes the protection of personal information very seriously. If you have any concerns relating to a particular case, I would be happy to investigate and respond accordingly.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps are taken when child support payments are wrongly awarded because of faults in computer systems; and if he will make a statement; [221194]

(2) how many child support overpayments there have been due to computer errors in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wakefield District and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency; [221214]

(3) what account is taken of the financial situation of the families involved when Child Support Agency overpayments are collected. [221215]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, 29 September 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps are taken when child support payments are wrongly awarded because of faults in computer systems; and if he will make a statement [221194]; and

How many child support overpayments there have been due to computer errors in *(a)* England *(b)* Wakefield District and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency [221214]; and

What account is taken of the financial situation of the families involved when Child Support Agency overpayments are collected. [221215]

Section 41B of the Child Support Act 1991 enables the Secretary of State to recover payments of child maintenance from the parent with care, where those payments are not validly made due to a computer fault or any other error, or where the non-resident parent has overpaid. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State will provide the parent with care with a written demand for repayment. In some cases, it may be possible to recover overpayments by temporarily reducing any ongoing maintenance due to the parent with care.

In the event that a parent with care is required to repay any overpaid child maintenance in accordance with Section 41B, the Secretary of State must have first considered the impact on any child affected by the decision. The Secretary of State may decide not to pursue recovery in the event that taking such action would have a seriously adverse impact on any child within the parent with care's household.

Information on the number of child support overpayments made due to computer error is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Commercial Directorate

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* organisational charts for the structure of the Commercial Directorate below divisional level, *(b)* organisational charts showing the relationships between the Commercial Directorate and the Provision Delivery and Performance Division (WWEG—Work, Welfare and Equality Group—Delivery Directorate) and *(c)* a sample role description of a (i) Field Financial Appraisal and Monitoring (FAM) team member, (ii) Third Party Provision Manager, as referred to in chapter 2, paragraph 37 of DWP Provider Guidance and (iii) Contract Manager, as referred to in q.206, Flexible New Deal Question and Answer Log. [219495]

Mrs. McGuire: An organisational chart for the structure of the Commercial Directorate has been placed in the Library.

The relationships between the Commercial Directorate and the Provision Delivery and Performance Division (Work, Welfare and Equality Group Delivery Directorate) cannot be explained through an organisational chart. However, the Provision Delivery and Performance Division is the primary link to the Commercial Directorate for the sourcing and management of commercially delivered employment programmes.

The Provision Delivery and Performance Division has responsibility for:

development of the Work, Welfare and Equality Group's commissioning and market strategy for employment programmes;

financial allocations for third party programme provision;

monitoring contracted employment programmes;

Department for Work and Pensions' input to the European Social Fund programme; and

delivering ongoing product support to existing programmes.

Within the Commercial Directorate, the relationship with the Work, Welfare and Equality Group is led by the Commercial Employment Provision team. This has the role of:

providing commercial advice on the development of new welfare to work initiatives that involve commercial delivery;

developing and leading sourcing approaches for individual programmes;

managing performance by suppliers throughout the life of contracts; and

managing the development of the supplier market in line with the Commissioning Strategy, published in February 2008 (Cmnd 7330).

Sample role descriptions for the following posts have been placed in the Library:

Field Financial Appraisal and Monitoring (FAM) team member;

Third Party Provision Manager; and

Contract Manager.

Council Tax Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was received in council tax benefit on average by claimant families with a child *(a)* claiming and *(b)* not claiming disability living allowance in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [216549]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at May 2004, the most recent available information, the average amount of council tax benefit paid to families with one or more children, where disability living allowance was in payment to a member of the family was £15.23. For families with one or more children where nobody in the family received disability living allowance, the average amount of council tax benefit was £13.27.

Notes:

1. Council tax benefit excludes any second adult rebate cases.
2. Average weekly amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.

3. A family refers to a lone claimant or couple with responsibility for at least one child.

Source:

Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent sample, taken in May 2004.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion and number of council tax benefit recipients receive less than 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [224088]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 16 September 2008]:* The available information is in the table.

Number and proportion of council tax benefit recipients in receipt of less than 100 per cent. benefit: Great Britain May 2004

	Number/proportion
All recipients	4,759,000
In receipt of 100 per cent. benefit	3,826,000
In receipt of less than 100 per cent. benefit	933,000
Proportion of those receiving less than 100 per cent. benefit	19.61

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand and may not sum due to rounding.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
5. This is the latest available data containing the necessary breakdown.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Annual 1 per cent. sample taken in May 2004.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219584]

Mrs. McGuire: The purchase of alcohol for hospitality purposes is provided as an exception only and then with the specific written authority only of a small number of designated senior civil servants. The Department for Work and Pensions does not currently monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account.

All expenditure on alcohol and entertaining falls within the classification "Hospitality" and is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what purchasing process is used by his Department for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219934]

Mrs. McGuire: There is no purchasing process in use by the Department for Work and Pensions for the purchase of alcohol for hospitality purposes due to the fact that alcohol is provided as an exception only and then with the specific written authority only of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

All expenditure on alcohol and entertaining falls within the classification "Hospitality" and is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department and its predecessor instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220813]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215561]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of UK domestic flights undertaken by representatives of the Department and its agencies from April 2007 to March 2008 is provided in the following table. Information in relation to flights undertaken within Great Britain only is not held by the Department.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Agency/Department	*Number of flights*	*Cost (£)*
Central Services/ Headquarters	3,290	576,440
Disability and Carers Service	183	27,404
Child Support Agency	4,809	798,004
Pension Service	5,617	1,134,032
Jobcentre Plus	4,338	779,446
Total	18,237	3,315,326

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years; [221090]

(2) what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221106]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department is working to meet the energy efficiency targets within the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) and that is to increase energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010 relative to 1999-2000 levels. In the Department's case this would equate to 260.1 kWh/m^2.

The following table provides the performance of the Department against the energy efficiency target:

	kWh/m²
1998-99	300
1999-2000	306
2000-01	274
2001-02	289
2002-03	297
2003-04	286
2004-05	303
2005-06	288
2006-07	322
2007-08	312

Note:
The figures from 1998 to 2002 are compiled from data for the former Department for Social Security and Employment Service. Figures for 2007-08 are subject to confirmation.

The Department acquires fully serviced accommodation from Land Securities Trillium (LST) under PFI—private finance initiative—arrangements. Any new space the Department requires is identified, acquired, managed and operated by LST to meet the Department's needs. The improved energy efficiency of our total operations is one of a range of issues that is considered in the acquisition of new space. Ease of access for customers and the requirements for highly efficient office space (both existing and new build) are among other criteria.

Energy efficiency is incentivised within the PFI arrangement and is incorporated also within the Department's Estate Strategy. Specific measures to improve efficiency are detailed within the Department's three year Sustainable Development Action Plan, which is incorporated within its Sustainable Development Annual Report for 2007.

While the Department's increased use of IT and extended opening hours, to provide a better service to customers and improved facilities for staff, has impacted on our energy efficiency, a planned programme of work is in place to meet the carbon from offices and energy efficiency targets. The Department has secured investment for 41,000 'spend-to-save' measures through its PFI arrangements and is installing Smart Meters in its largest 700 buildings to improve reporting and energy management. These measures, together with an intensive energy efficiency and communications campaign, have resulted in absolute carbon emission reductions of 10.8 per cent. in 2007-08. Their ongoing implementation, together with improved governance and a review of site plant and equipment, mean that the Department predicts a further reduction of 15 per cent. by 2011, meeting the Sustainable Operations target.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's IT *(a)* systems and *(b)* services conform to the ISO 27001 standard. [216057]

Mr. Timms: In-service IT systems and managed services take full account of the Department's policies and procedures for information security management, which conform to the principles and controls in ISO 27001. Systems that were implemented before the ISO standard was introduced are currently being reviewed for conformance with the Department's policies and procedures.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date and *(c)* actual completion date was of each IT project completed by his Department and its agencies since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [221502]

(2) what the *(a)* original planned cost and *(b)* actual cost was for each information technology project completed by his Department and its agencies since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [221503]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* We would refer to our previous responses:

PQ/08/200070 (answered 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2354-56W):

"To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much his Department has spent on IT projects since 2005; and what estimate he has made of its total expenditure on IT projects between 2005 and 2010"

and

PQ/08/180577 (answered 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2591-96W):

"To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the *(a)* start date *(b)* original planned completion date *(c)* current expected completion date *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement"

The costs of answering the above question would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide a table showing the profile of the Department's staff by grade in *(a)* total and *(b)* each business unit. [219497]

Mrs. McGuire: The following tables show the profile of the Department's staff by grade in *(a)* total and *(b)* each business unit as at 30 June 2008.

Table 1: Individual employees

Number

Grade	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Child Support Agency*	*Pension and Disability Carers Service*	*The Rent Service*	*Rest of DWP*	*Total*
Band A —Administrative Assistant	2,662	637	1,974	66	540	5,879
Band B —Administrative Officer	37,758	6,336	9,066	41	3,383	56,584
Band C —Executive Officer	28,442	2,944	5,617	352	2,324	39,679

Table 1: Individual employees

Number

Grade	Jobcentre Plus	Child Support Agency	Pension and Disability Carers Service	The Rent Service	Rest of DWP	Total
Band D —Higher Executive Officer	3,904	520	861	78	1,872	7,235
Band E —Senior Executive Officer	1,114	143	372	22	929	2,580
Band F —Grade 7	349	102	128	8	822	1,409
Band G —Grade 6	138	32	82	3	323	578
SCS Payband 1	40	14	21	1	133	209
SCS Payband 2	11	6	7	0	37	61
SCS Payband 3		1	1	0	7	9
SCS Permanent Secretary	1	0	0	0	1	2
Total	74,419	10,735	18,129	571	10,371	114,225

Table 2

Number on a full-time equivalent basis

Grade	Jobcentre Plus	Child Support Agency	Pension and Disability Carers Service	The Rent Service	Rest of DWP	Total
Band A —Administrative Assistant	2,379	548	1756	62	471	5,215
Band B —Administrative Officer	33,153	5,469	8,094	40	3,045	49,801
Band C —Executive Officer	25,604	2,703	5,095	345	2,178	35,926
Band D —Higher Executive Officer	3,748	499	834	78	1,804	6,962

Table 2

Number on a full-time equivalent basis

Grade	Jobcentre Plus	Child Support Agency	Pension and Disability Carers Service	The Rent Service	Rest of DWP	Total
Band E —Senior Executive Officer	1,088	140	365	22	904	2,519
Band F —Grade 7	345	102	126	8	802	1,383
Band G —Grade 6	137	32	81	3	309	562
SCS Payband 1	40	14	21	1	131	207
SCS Payband 2	11	6	7	0	37	61
SCS Payband 3	0	1	1	0	7	9
SCS Permanent Secretary	1	0	0	0	1	2
Total	66,505	9,513	16,379	559	9,690	102,647

Note: Totals may not sum due to FTE rounding.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214663]

Mrs. McGuire: The extent of information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221288]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table details the cost of overtime payments in the Department for Work and Pensions by grade and month for the last complete financial year. The total cost from April 2007 to March 2008 is £64,528 representing some 2.3 per cent. of DWP's total pay bill in this period.

DWP overtime payments 2007-08 (by grade)

£000

	AA/band A	AO/band B	EO/band C	HEO/band D	SEO/band E	G7	G6	Total
2007								
April	188	2,195	2,191	315	117	0	0	5,006
May	150	2,001	1,827	269	99	1	0	4,347
June	232	2,958	2,522	283	125	0	0	6,120
July	170	2,202	2,066	247	80	0	0	4,765
August	192	2,666	2,489	237	86	0	0	5,670
September	181	2,456	2,191	239	92	0	0	5,159
October	118	1,679	1,848	246	89	0	0	3,980
November	257	3,216	2,971	326	117	0	0	6,887
December	138	1,648	1,699	223	83	0	0	3,791
2008								
January	163	2,224	1,799	204	85	0	0	4,475
February	261	3,452	3,073	334	98	0	2	7,220
March	269	3,258	3,093	374	112	1	1	7,108
Total	2,319	29,955	27,769	3,297	1,183	2	3	64,528

Note:
Includes travel time, ERNIC and superannuation.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215205]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

DWP library expenditure April 2006 to May 2008

	Newspapers	Journals	Books	£ Total
June 2006	6,966.26	2,337.26	71,685.18	80,988.70
July 2006	5,939.03	69,421.90	132,969.54	208,330.47
August 2006	5,778.84	342.59	65,802.54	71,923.97
September 2006	6,375.36	728.41	152,024.94	159,128.71
October 2006	5,198.24	1,067.25	332,270.64	338,536.13
November 2006	5,180.92	10,209.11	95,340.76	110,730.79
December 2006	5,485.33	3,118.88	52,607.70	61,211.91
January 2007	6,196.54	13,289.08	74,298.92	93,784.54
February 2007	5,788.90	4,865.08	87,826.46	98,480.44
March 2007	6,891.95	1,141.60	144,757.64	152,791.19
April 2007	6,286.22	8,070.46	74,909.52	89,266.20
May 2007	5,440.64	4,558.12	55,932.16	65,930.92
June 2007	5,713.35	26,803.78	75,122.12	107,639.25
July 2007	6,069.79	67,647.50	61,958.26	135,675.55
August 2007	5,255.48	2,345.08	54,124.08	61,724.64
September 2007	4,992.86	2,042.09	55,260.72	62,295.67
October 2007	5,613.15	3,046.14	90,873.78	99,533.07
November 2007	5,780.68	3,273.36	55,511.44	64,565.48
December 2007	4,296.73	10,071.88	159,030.34	173,398.95
January 2008	5,889.49	4,376.70	49,110.60	59,376.79
February 2008	3,343.73	4,817.15	49,473.56	57,634.44
March 2008	4,304.69	3,768.34	115,276.14	123,349.17
Apr 2008	3,864.56	2,383.54	44,695.12	50,943.22
May 2008	3,956.36	5,416.49	47,168.66	56,541.51
Total	130,609.10	255,141.79	2,198,030.82	2,583,781.71

All figures have been centrally gathered by the Department for Work and Pensions Library Services team who manage all publications purchases for the Communications Directorate.

In addition, other teams across the Department may incur incidental expenditure relating to publications. These costs are recorded on a number of different financial systems and this detail is not consolidated by the central team, or included in the figures quoted in the table. The costs of undertaking such an exercise are considered to be disproportionate.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220419]

Mrs. McGuire: It is both Government and departmental policy to make payment to suppliers in arrears after goods or services have been satisfactorily provided and to pay promptly in accordance with the terms of the contract, which normally would be within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.

Suppliers will sometimes offer a discount for prompt payment. The conditions attached to these discounts must be stated on the tender or if not they must be obtained. If a tenderer offers a discount, commercial representatives will evaluate whether the discount offered represents value for money.

Consideration is made of the value of the loss of interest that early payment will incur. The prevailing Bank of England base rate is used to calculate this and a comparison of the cost of paying early, with the monetary value of the discount offered, is made.

Payment terms of less than 30 days are never accepted unless there is some advantage to the Department. Payment terms in excess of 30 days are not acceptable.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* forecast cost in (i) real and (ii) net present value terms and *(b)* most recent estimated cost was of (1) the pension transformation programme, (2) the customer information system, (3) the employment and support allowance computer system and (4) the central payment system. [211146]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

£ million

		Originally planned costs		
Project	Purpose	Real	NPV	Latest estimated costs
Pensions Project Transformation[1]	The programme will transform the Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	429	350	598
Customer Information System[2]	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments.	40	42	89
Employment and Support Allowance	The project delivers the system and processes to implement the new ESA allowance.	295	282	295
Central Payments System (formerly part of Payment Modernisation)[3]	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/ pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	90	154	169

[1] *Pension Transformation Project (PTP):*
The apparent increase over the original stated costs can be attributed to a fundamental change in delivery approach.
When PTP started in April 2002, costs were early high level estimates based on delivery via a private supplier (who would recover development costs of the system through an operating contract).
Policy later changed and it was decided DWP would fund the capital costs of PTP itself.
As a result, development costs went up but operating costs went down.
Overall, this actually means an improved return* on the total investment, although development costs appear higher than the very early estimate provided in 2002.
* Net present value of the programme has increased by 40 per cent. to £585 million, compared to £350 million in the initial business case. HM Treasury guidance states the NPV is the primary criteria for deciding whether government action can be taken. This is arrived at by converting all costs and benefits to present values so that they can be compared.
[2] *Customer Information System (CIS):*
The original cost estimate of £40 million was based on the original scope of the project. There has subsequently been significant extension of the scope as the CIS Programme has responded to changes in the Departmental Modernisation Programme.
The costs originally submitted for CIS in July 2003 assumed that CIS would be developed as a back-end system supporting the Customer Account Managements (CAM) systems intended for deployment in each of the Client Groups. It also assumed that the Standard Enquiry Function (SEF) would be developed to support a very small number of users who would not have access to CAM.
Plans evolved with the result that the only Client Group to deliver a CAM system in line with this earlier specification was the Pension Service.
The additional costs result from requirements to service both the 'old' Legacy applications and the 'new' PTP CAM, as well as developing and implementing architectural changes in a seamless way. In addition, the absence of CAM functionality meant that the SEF has been rolled out to in excess of 124,000 users.
CIS scope was increased to deliver desktop access to approximately 19,000 staff in 408 local authorities for the administration of housing benefit and council tax benefit replacing remote access terminals, which were provided to only a very limited number of users in each of these local authorities.
The increased investment together with the delivery of enhanced requirements has resulted in CIS benefits increasing from £155 million to £533 million which includes direct benefits of £130 million and enabled benefits of £403 million. During this period, the introduction of CIS has led to the decommissioning of two major benefit systems (the Departmental Central Index and Personal Details Computer System) as CIS is now the master of personal details across all of DWP.
Additional work has also been carried out with other Government Departments and further work is planned in this area.
[1] *Central Payments System (CPS):*
The figure of £90 million relates to the outline business case produced during the feasibility phase in 2004. This related to a scope that is significantly smaller than the current programme. The original scope was for the replacement of existing payment processing software and excluded an integrated accounting solution. Furthermore, the integration scope of CPS has increased from four entitlement management systems to nine.
The NPV figure of £154 million relates to the full business case approved in March 2006. The figure of £169 million relates to the latest outline business case approved in May 2008.
Note:
The costs in the table represent the investment costs of implementing the particular project and programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included in the table as in the vast majority of cases, they are more than compensated for by the financial and non-financial benefits they generate. These savings are demonstrated in the NAO report "The Efficiency programme: A Second Review of Progress".

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221619]

Mrs. McGuire: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [216165]

(2) how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216164]

(3) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216163]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available or held centrally, and could only be provided incompletely and at a disproportionate cost. Information on sickness absence for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 has been published and can be obtained from the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216166]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available or held centrally, and could be provided incompletely and only at a disproportionate cost. Information on sickness absence for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 has been published and can be obtained from the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218699]

Mrs. McGuire: The information currently recorded on the Department's personnel computer system is provided in the following table.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Number of staff	17,924	18,939	19,381
Percentage of total workforce	12.1	13.5	14.9

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218959]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of staff currently recorded on the Department's personnel computer system as having had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years is 4,851. DWP currently employs more than 114,000 full and part time staff.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [216167]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available because the Department for Work and Pensions does not attribute sick pay to causes of illness.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216168]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available or held centrally, and could be provided only incompletely and at a disproportionate cost. Information on sickness absence for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 has been published and can be obtained from the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Disability Living Allowance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claims there were for disability living allowance by *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with Asperger's syndrome in each of the last five years; [171065]

(2) how many claims there were from *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with autism spectrum disorders for disability living allowance in each of the last five years; and what proportion these constituted of all claims for that allowance; [171463]

(3) how many claims there were for disability living allowance on behalf of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with Asperger's syndrome in each of the last five years. [171465]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The information is not available.

Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. Parents can claim disability living allowance for children, including those with autism spectrum disorder, as long as their disability meets the aforementioned criteria.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in his Department's discussions on granting blind people entitlement to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [220803]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* We have been in long-term discussions with the Royal National Institute of Blind People and others on whether there is scope to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe visual impairments. While we understand the force of the arguments put forward by the Royal National Institute of Blind People, and are sympathetic to their aims, including providing greater financial assistance to allow visually impaired people to return to or remain in work, we cannot, at this time, commit to amending the existing arrangements for the mobility component of disability living allowance.

The Green Paper, "No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility" Cm 7363, published on 21 July, sets out our strategy to help greater numbers of sick and disabled people who want to work, fulfil their aspirations. Part of this strategy is the proposal to increase the Access to Work budget to help greater numbers of disabled people return to, and remain in, work. Currently, around one in four customers of Access to Work are people with a visual impairment.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much is expected to be spent on each in each of the next five years. [220203]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2006-07, nominal expenditure on incapacity benefit was £6,566 million. For the available information about future incapacity benefit expenditure, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 472W.

For the available information about employment and support allowance expenditure, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 617W.

Employment: Learning Disability

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to help those with acute learning disabilities find sustainable employment. [221675]

Mrs. McGuire: People with moderate and severe learning disabilities encounter particular difficulties in finding paid work. They are therefore now one of four

groups of disadvantaged people selected for special attention in the Government's Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement (PSA16).

As a direct consequence of PSA 16, we will support and engage with the Project Search initiatives in Leicester and Norwich and learn from their experiences in testing this approach. Project Search is an initiative through which a college tutor and support worker (job coach) are based within a host employer with the objective of placing people with moderate and severe learning disabilities into sustainable work.

We also have a range of specialist disability employment programmes aimed at helping greater numbers of disabled people, including those with learning disabilities, take up and retain paid work. 37 per cent of people helped by the WORKSTEP programme of supported employment have a learning disability.

Our Welfare Reform Green Paper, "No-one written off—reforming the welfare state to reward responsibility", Cm 7363 launched on 21 July, made clear that following strong support for the proposals to improve the specialist programmes, set out at the end of last year, we would now press ahead with these reforms. A more flexible approach will enable us to help greater numbers of people with learning disabilities. The Green Paper also made clear our intention to substantially expand the funding for the specialist programmes.

The 'Getting a Life' project is specifically aimed at getting the employment, education and local authority day services functions for people with learning disabilities to work together in an integrated manner. This enables a seamless progression from school, through college or training into employment or, where appropriate, other activities. The project is being tested in seven demonstration sites.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217888]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's expenditure on fish by species and the value of fish that met the Marine Stewardship Council Standard (MSCS) for the two years, 2006 and 2007, is provided in the following table.

		£000
Species of fish	*2006*	*2007*
Salmon	9	11
Prawn[1]	11	13
Tuna	2	2
Total	22	26
Value of fish that met the MSCS	7	8

[1] Financial figures have been included for prawns because although it is recognised that they are crustaceans and not fish, prawns are included as a species in the MSCS.

Information prior to 2006 and about the actual quantity of fish purchased, and the quantity of each species that met the MSCS, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Additionally, the details of expenditure on fish is solely that required to provide hospitality for meetings and does not reflect local expenditure on food, as that information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent tackling fuel poverty in each the last 10 years; and how much it expects to spend in the next 12 months. [217599]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for paying winter fuel payments and cold weather payments which help to improve incomes and in turn help to take people out of fuel poverty.

The available expenditure on winter fuel payments and cold weather payments is shown in the following tables, in nominal and real terms.

Great Britain, nominal terms

		£ million
Status	*Winter fuel payments, including over 80 payments*	*Cold weather payments*
Outturn		
1998-99	194	0.2
1999-2000	759	1.0
2000-01	1,749	30.0
2001-02	1,681	15.3
2002-03	1,705	14.2
2003-04	1,916	3.5
2004-05	1,962	1.8
2005-06	1,982	8.4
2006-07	2,015	3.4
Provisional outturn		
2007-08	2,061	4.0
Plans		
2008-09	2,664	—

Great Britain, 2008-09 prices

		£ million
Status	*Winter fuel payments, including over 80 payments*	*Cold weather payments*
Outturn		
1998-99	251	0.3
1999-2000	961	1.3
2000-01	2,182	37.4
2001-02	2,047	18.6
2002-03	2,014	16.8
2003-04	2,199	4.0
2004-05	2,192	2.0
2005-06	2,168	9.2
2006-07	2,143	3.6
Provisional outturn		
2007-08	2,123	4.1

Great Britain, 2008-09 prices

£ million

Status	Winter fuel payments, including over 80 payments	Cold weather payments
Plans		
2008-09	2,664	—

Notes:
1. All figures are consistent with Budget 2008, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Winter fuel payments are rounded to the nearest million pounds, but cold weather payments have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand pounds.
3. The winter fuel payment was introduced in 1997. Annual payments are made to most people aged 60 or over. The current rate is £200 per household with someone eligible and aged between 60 and 79 and £300 per household containing someone eligible and aged 80 or over. At present over 8 million households benefit each year.
4. From 2000-01, winter fuel payments were extended to include people aged 60 to 64 years and also include the over 80 payments.
5. Winter fuel payment expenditure is forecast to increase significantly in 2008-09 following the announcement at Budget 2008 of an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for eligible households with someone aged between 60 and 79 and £100 for households with someone aged 80 or over.
6. Customers eligible for cold weather payments are those awarded pension credit or those awarded income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance who have a pensioner or disability premium or have a child who is disabled or under the age of five. Following the introduction of employment and support allowance in October of this year eligible customers will also include those in receipt of income related employment and support allowance that includes a work or support component, any disability premium, or who have a child who is disabled or under the age of five. A payment is made when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the eligible customer's postcode.
7. Up to and including the winter of 2007-08, a cold weather payment was £8.50 for each week of very cold weather. The Prime Minister has announced that for the winter 2008-09 a cold weather payment will be increased to £25 for each week of very cold weather.
8. Cold weather payment expenditure for 2008-09 cannot be forecast because the number of payments will be dependent on the severity of the winter. However, a notional figure of £24 million is included in the forecasts for the Social Fund, provided to HM Treasury.
Source:
Departmental Accounting and statistical data

Health and Safety Executive: Inspections

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Executive inspectors he expects to *(a)* retire, *(b)* leave the service and *(c)* join the service in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [219333]

Mrs. McGuire: Recent trends and the age profile of inspectors indicate that about 70 inspectors will retire and another 60 inspectors will leave for other reasons each year. The HSE is committed to having not less than 1,283 inspectors in 2008-09 to 2010-11 but this is not a ceiling. The precise numbers who join in each of these years will vary with individual recruitment campaigns.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff worked for the Health and Safety Executive *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1997. [220620]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The number of staff working for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at 1 May 2008, including those employed by the Health and Safety Laboratory was 3,583 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs). On 1 April 1997, the figure was 4,077 FTEs. These figures are not, however, comparable as the functions of HSE have changed over the period.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much of the money allocated to each local authority to pay discretionary housing payments was unspent in each year since it was introduced; and if he will make a statement; [220088]

(2) how the amount allocated to each local authority for the payment of discretionary housing payments is calculated; and if he will make a statement; [220089]

(3) how much his Department allocated to each local authority for the payment of discretionary housing payments in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [220090]

Mr. Plaskitt: The discretionary housing payment fund is allocated to each local authority based on the mid-point between the amount they were allocated and the amount they actually spent in the previous full financial year (e.g. the 2008-09 allocation was calculated using 2006-07 data, as those were the most recent full financial year data that were available at the time of calculation).

Any remaining funding is then distributed across local authorities based on their annually managed expenditure, and their average rent restrictions. 50 per cent. of the remaining funding is allocated based on each local authority's proportion of overall annually managed expenditure, and the remaining 50 per cent. of the funding is allocated based on each local authority's average rent restrictions.

The available information on the amount of money allocated to each local authority for discretionary housing payments and the amount of such payments unspent for each local authority has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each of the eight housing benefit anti-social behaviour local authority pilot areas have *(a)* received written warnings of housing benefit sanctions and *(b)* had their housing benefit withdrawn because of anti-social behaviour. [224100]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* At present no one has had their housing benefit withdrawn as a result of this pilot. Some of the pilot areas have identified cases where possession orders have been sought on the grounds of anti social behaviour and some have introduced details about the sanction into their literature and warning letters.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants he expects there to be on incapacity benefit in each of the next five years, broken down by type of incapacity benefit. [209692]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The latest available information is in the following table. The figures assume the introduction of employment and

support allowance in October 2008 and announced policies at the time forecasts were produced—they do not include future proposals yet to be agreed; The figures cover the period of the Government's spending plans to 2010-11.

Incapacity benefits: Estimated benefit case loads

Thousand

	2007-08 estimated outturn	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Incapacity Benefit	2,400	2,220	1,930	1,670
Of which:				
Short-Term Lower rate	90	50	0	0
Short-Term Higher rate	90	70	10	0
Long-Term Ordinary rate	910	890	850	730
Ex-Invalidity Benefit	320	280	260	230
Credits only	1,000	940	820	710
Severe Disablement Allowance	220	200	190	180

Notes:
1. Figures aggregated with the Employment and Support Allowance are also available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Incapacity benefits claimants can receive short-term lower, short-term higher, long-term ordinary rates and credits only. Cases who were claimants of Invalidity Benefit, the predecessor to Incapacity Benefit, are also separately identified in the table.
3. Figures for Severe Disablement Allowance are also included in the table. This benefit was closed to new claimants in April 2001.
4. Claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance may also receive Income Support: figures for Income Support claimants are not shown in the table to avoid double-counting.
5. Incapacity Benefit is replaced for new claimants by Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008.
6. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
7. All figures relate to individuals of working age.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the working-age population in each parliamentary constituency received incapacity benefit in each of the last five years. [220655]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefits are aged 60 years and over in each parliamentary constituency. [221738]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of regulation of private sector contracted welfare services for incapacity benefit claimants at a typical investment rate of £62,000 per claimant. [221739]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Wakefield

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* Hemsworth constituency and *(b)* Wakefield district are dependent on parents or guardians whose main income source is incapacity benefit. [220923]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of children aged 0-15 dependent on a parent/guardian claiming one or more of incapacity benefit or severe disablement: April 2007

	Number of children
Hemsworth parliamentary constituency	1,365
Wakefield local authority	4,025

Notes:
1. Data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and therefore excludes a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
2. The Department does not hold complete information on child dependents on its benefit computer systems and, therefore, children have been merged onto incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Income Support

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants he expects there to be of income support in each of the next five years, broken down by type of income support. [209690]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The available information is in the table. The information is available for the period up to the end of the Government's spending plans, 2010-11.

Income support: Estimated numbers of claimants

Thousand

	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Income support	2,120	2,050	1,730	1,510
Of which:				
Sick or disabled	1,250	1,200	990	860
Lone parents	760	730	610	520
Others	120	120	130	130

[1] Estimated outturn

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Components may not sum due to rounding.
2. Income support on the grounds of incapacity will no longer be payable to new claimants after the introduction of employment and support allowance in October 2008.
3. Figures for 'Others' include income support for carers, pregnant women and ex-minimum income guarantee claimants.
4. Figures are consistent with benefit expenditure tables available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much families with a child *(a)* claiming and *(b)* not claiming disability living allowance received on average in (i) income support and (ii) housing benefit in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [216580]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Income Support: Disabled

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for income support on the grounds of incapacity for work for which the claimant qualified for the disability premium from the start of the claim were awarded to *(a)* single persons aged under 35, *(b)* single persons aged 35 to 44, *(c)* single persons aged 35 to 65, *(d)* couples with claimant aged under 35, *(e)* couples with claimant aged 35 to 44 and *(f)* couples with claimant aged 35 to 65 years in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [223245]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The information requested would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents whose youngest child is aged 11 years or over are in receipt of income support, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [223246]

Mr. Timms: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the number of Health and Safety Executive inspectors covering the construction industry. [219337]

Mrs. McGuire: I have asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to maintain the number of inspectors including those covering the construction industry at not less than 1,283, taking account of the fluctuations as retirements and natural turnover occur. The precise number of inspectors for construction is being kept under review.

HSE can act as a stimulus—promoting best practice, influencing major contractors, architects and designers, and inspecting, investigating and, where necessary, enforcing the law on site. The main responsibility, however, for bringing about improvements in health and safety within the construction industry lies with the industry itself.

Jobcentre Plus: Security Guards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1842W, on Jobcentre Plus: security guards, if he will place in the Library a copy of the objectives and job description of *(a)* security guards and *(b)* customer care officers. [221727]

Mr. Timms: Copies of the objectives and job descriptions of security guards and customer care officers have been placed in the Library.

Lone Parents: Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of lone parent families he estimates will be affected by the changes to the eligibility criteria for income support taking effect in *(a)* October 2008, *(b)* October 2009 and (c) October 2010 are living on less than 60 per cent. of median income in each region; and if he will make a statement. [215751]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available broken down by region.

Low Incomes: Children

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median income was in each region in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the number of children who lived in households with incomes of less than *(a)* 60 per cent. and *(b)* 40 per cent. of the regional median, in each region, during that period. [221163]

Mr. Timms: Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent. 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of the national median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Information covering 40 per cent. of median income is not presented in the Households Below Average Income series as it is an unreliable measure of poverty. Households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

The available information is in the following tables.

Median income in each region in the UK for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07

£ per week equivalised

Region	*Before Housing Costs*	*After Housing Costs*
North East	338	291
North West	350	301
Yorkshire and the Humber	349	299
East Midlands	356	310
West Midlands	343	293
East of England	401	340
London	421	335
South East	435	361
South West	378	323
Scotland	371	323
Wales	346	304
Northern Ireland	342	302

Number of children below 60 per cent. of each regional median income in the UK for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07

Million

Region	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
North East	0.1	0.1
North West	0.3	0.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.2	0.3
East Midlands	0.2	0.2
West Midlands	0.2	0.3
East of England	0.2	0.3
London	0.5	0.7
South East	0.4	0.6
South West	0.2	0.3
Scotland	0.2	0.3
Wales	0.1	0.2
Northern Ireland	0.1	0.1

Number of children below 40 per cent. of each regional median income in the UK for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07

Million

Region	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
North East	—	—
North West	0.1	0.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	0.1
East Midlands	—	0.1
West Midlands	0.1	0.1
East of England	0.1	0.1
London	0.2	0.3
South East	0.1	0.2
South West	0.1	0.1
Scotland	—	0.1
Wales	—	0.1
Northern Ireland	—	—

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. '—' denotes less than 50,000 children.
4. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
7. Regional median incomes are presented in 2006-07 prices.
8. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
9. This response includes a lower income threshold of 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income. The data for households with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median are not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households whilst having very low incomes would not be considered poor, but do genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards.
10. Regional median incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling, while numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

Maternity Benefits

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons maternity allowance work has been centralised into four benefit delivery centres. [223489]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the reasons that Maternity Allowance work has been centralised into four Benefit Delivery Centres. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The decision to centralise Maternity Allowance (MA) formed part of the wider agenda to centralise processing of all benefits in order to improve their delivery and realise efficiencies.

For the benefits with larger caseloads, Incapacity Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance, and Income Support, it was possible to centralise this work in 78 sites across Great Britain. But because of smaller number of recipients we needed fewer sites if the benefits of economies of scale and consistency were to be realised in the centralisation of MA. We also decided that in order to avoid the need for redundancies we would use the centralisation of MA and other benefits to locate work in potential redundancy hotspots.

This resulted in the centralisation of MA into the four Benefit Delivery Centres of Yeovil, Wrexham, Hanley and Bury St Edmunds in the spring.

I hope this is helpful.

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 44WS, on national insurance numbers, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of national insurance numbers held by partners of legitimate benefit claimants who do not have a right to be in the UK and *(b)* how many such partners have obtained benefits themselves; and what steps he is taking to revoke the national insurance numbers held by such partners. [206331]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The information needed to make an estimate of the number of national insurance numbers held by partners of legitimate benefit claimants who do not have a right to be in the UK is not available.

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 excludes persons subject to immigration control from income-related and other non-contributory social security benefits. Foreign nationals who do not have a right to be in the UK are subject to immigration control and therefore do not qualify for those benefits in their own right.

A national insurance number does not itself confer any rights to benefits or access to services and the current practice is for a national insurance number, once allocated, not to be revoked except in specified circumstances.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were incorrectly issued in each of the last 10 years. [213444]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department undertakes rigorous checks on the identity of all adult national insurance number applicants and only when it is satisfied with the identity of an individual will a number be allocated.

There are limited occasions where it is identified that an individual has been issued two national insurance numbers. In this situation one of the numbers will be cancelled.

Figures are only available from 2001.

Occasions when an individual has initially been issued more than one national insurance number

	Number of cases
2001	586
2002	447
2003	303
2004	513
2005	497
2006	534
2007	1,517
2008 (part)	324

Notes:
1. Source data is Management Information.
2. Figures relate to calendar years.
3. Figures for 2008 relate to the period 1 January to 30 June 2008.
4. Figures relate to the year the NINO was cancelled from the DWP IT records.
5. The figure for 2007 is disproportionately high as it reflects an IT problem which occurred during the transfer of NINO accounts from the former Departmental Central Index (DCI) to the improved Customer Information System (CIS). The problem was immediately rectified. The figure for 2007 (excluding these IT problem cases) is 562.

As mentioned in PQ/08/206330, we also identified earlier this year as part of the Security Industry Authority NINO checks that a small number of NINOs (25) had been incorrectly issued to individuals who did not have the right to work. However, this was due to a temporary misunderstanding and quickly rectified.

New Deal for Disabled People

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been enrolled on the New Deal for Disabled People since its inception *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in West Lancashire. [221740]

Mr. Timms: Since the inception of new deal for disabled people in July 2001, 293,770 individuals have started it nationally and 550 people have started it in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The latest data are to February 2008.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to develop skills training for parents participating in the New Deal for Lone Parents; and if he will make a statement. [221745]

Mr. Timms: Lone parents who participate in new deal for lone parents can voluntarily access work-related training which is tailored to their individual requirements and takes into account their previous experiences, skills and the type of work they are looking for.

In our Green Paper "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" (Cm 7363), published on 21 July 2008, we set out options to support more lone parents to develop their skills and move into employment. These included requiring lone parents to take part in a skills health check when their youngest child turns five, pilots to evaluate mandating them to relevant skills training to address any identified skills gaps as well as encouraging lone parents with younger children to voluntarily develop the skills they need to find work.

From late 2010, lone parents with a youngest child aged seven or more will no longer be eligible for income support. They will instead be able to apply for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) or employment and support allowance if they have a disability or health condition. Those who receive JSA for six months or more will be able to take part in full-time employment-related training for up to eight weeks while receiving a training allowance. Lone parents will still be able to access new deal for lone parents for the first 12 months of their JSA claim.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1095-6W, on New Deal schemes, if he will provide equivalent figures for *(a)* the New Deal for Disabled People and *(b)* each other New Deal programme for each month since August 2006. [213848]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 June 2008]:* Since its launch in 1998 the New Deal has led a major transformation in employment support for people in Britain. Since its introduction New Deal has helped 1.97 million people into work. Benefit recipients participating in New Deal more than once are more likely to enter employment from their second spell on the programme than their first, and from their third spell than their second. Each period on New Deal moves participants closer to the labour market.

Information on the number of current participants on New Deal 50 plus and New Deal for Disabled People is not currently available. These statistics have been suspended while a review of the method for compiling current participant figures is carried out.

Current participant figures for New Deal for Lone Parents are available to March 2007. Figures for the period from April 2007 are not currently available as a result of the identification of a problem with the data which are used to compile the statistics. Figures for the period after April 2007 will be released as soon as possible.

The available information is in the following tables.

New Deal Participants (individuals)[1]

Month	New Deal for Young People	New Deal 25 Plus	New Deal for Lone Parents[2]	New Deal for Partners
2006				
August	98,940	51,630	54,800	3,130
September	94,350	52,090	54,910	3,180
October	91,410	53,370	54,450	3,240
November	89,410	54,780	53,970	3,290
December	90,240	57,170	51,450	3,360
2007				
January	93,070	58,340	54,360	3,430
February	92,670	59,390	59,160	3,540
March	93,580	59,860	61,960	3,670
April	91,870	60,120	n/a	3,710
May	90,500	60,520	n/a	3,740
June	86,330	61,260	n/a	3,780
July	87,100	61,880	n/a	3,850
August	84,010	62,960	n/a	3,860
September	77,650	63,250	n/a	3,910
October	73,040	63,930	n/a	3,930
November	69,290	64,810	n/a	3,990

n/a = Not available.
[1] Latest data are to November 2007.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal

	Number of participants who have participated more than once	Number of participants who have gained a job[1]
New Deal For Young people	369,990	806,490
New Deal 25 Plus	224,610	323,330
New Deal For Lone Parents	236,180[2]	554,300
New Deal-For Disabled People[3]	33,780	172,460
New Deal 50 Plus[4]	2,860	83,100
New Deal For Partners[5]	170	5,070

[1] Latest information on number of individuals who have gained a job is up to November 2007.
[2] Latest data are to February 2008, except for New Deal for Lone Parents number of participants to participate more than once where information is as of March 2007.
[3] Information for New Deal for Disabled People on number of times a person participates and number of individuals who have gained a job is available from July 2001.
[4] Information for New Deal 50 Plus on number of times a person participates is available from January 2004; number of individuals who have gained a job is available from April 2003.
[5] Information for New Deal for Partners on number of times a person participates and number of individuals who have gained a job is available from April 2004.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 484-88W, on the New Deal for Young People, if he will provide equivalent figures for *(a)* the New Deal for Young People and *(b)* each other New Deal programme for each month since November 2006. [213849]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 June 2008]:* People entering new deal for young people receive intensive help to support them into work. The new deal has been successful in placing jobseekers into sustainable work, with around 80 per cent. of employment outcomes being into jobs lasting 13 weeks or more. The flexible new deal will build on this success.

The Department will be basing its payment strategy increasingly on sustainable job outcomes; six months in the first instance, but as the Government move towards an integrated employment and skills progression model, it will look to build longer-term incentives into the welfare and skills systems.

Information on the number of people who move into sustained employment is only collected for new deal for young people, new deal 25-plus and new deal for lone parents. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Pension Credit

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Pension Credit rules concerning service charges for people living in sheltered and extra care sheltered housing are *(a)* understood by staff at the Pension Service and *(b)* available to the public. [215426]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Any action concerning service charges-entitlement or providing additional advice and guidance for people living in sheltered and extra care sheltered housing is a function of specially trained staff based in every pension centre.

There is a checking regime in place designed to identify any procedural errors.

All rules and regulations are published and held in the public domain and can be accessed via the links provided as follows:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/dmg/pdf/ch78.pdf

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/dmg/memletrs/memspc53.pdf

Pensioners: Poverty

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioner households living in poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) constituency. [185892]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06".

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. Information on the numbers and percentages of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income is set out in the following tables.

Pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, by region or country: 1995-96 to 2005-06, three-year averages

Number (million)

	1995-96 to 1997-98	*1996-97 to 1998-99*	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
Before housing costs									
North East	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.09
North West	0.30	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.30	0.29
Yorkshire and Humberside	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.21	0.20
East Midlands	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.21	0.20
West Midlands	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.24
East of England	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.20
London	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19
South East	0.29	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.28
South West	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.22	0.21
Wales	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Scotland	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.19
Northern Ireland	[1]	[1]	[1]	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
After housing costs									
North East	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.08
North West	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.30	0.29	0.26	0.24
Yorkshire and Humberside	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.21	0.18	0.16
East Midlands	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.16
West Midlands	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.22	0.19
East of England	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.22	0.18
London	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.21
South East	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.32	0.28	0.24
South West	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.20	0.17
Wales	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11
Scotland	0.27	0.26	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.21	0.19	0.16
Northern Ireland	[1]	[1]	[1]	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05

[1] Not available.

Source: Family Resources Survey

Percentage of pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, by region or country: 1995-96 to 2005-06, three-year averages

Percentage

	1995-96 to 1997-98	*1996-97 to 1998-99*	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
Before housing costs									
North East	26	26	28	30	28	26	23	22	20
North West	25	27	27	26	25	25	25	24	24
Yorkshire and Humberside	28	30	30	29	28	27	25	24	22
East Midlands	28	30	31	31	31	30	29	27	26

Percentage of pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, by region or country: 1995-96 to 2005-06, three-year averages

	1995-96 to 1997-98	1996-97 to 1998-99	1997-98 to 1999-2000	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05	Percentage 2003-04 to 2005-06
West Midlands	26	27	26	26	26	27	27	26	25
East of England	23	25	26	26	25	25	24	22	20
London	20	20	21	20	21	20	21	20	20
South East	20	21	22	22	22	22	21	20	19
South West	26	26	27	25	25	25	25	22	20
Wales	26	26	26	26	26	25	26	24	25
Scotland	27	27	25	26	24	23	22	22	21
Northern Ireland	[1]	[1]	[1]	30	30	28	26	25	27
After housing costs									
North East	33	32	31	31	28	27	23	20	17
North West	28	29	28	27	25	25	24	21	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	31	32	32	31	29	26	24	20	17
East Midlands	29	30	30	29	28	27	25	22	21
West Midlands	28	29	28	28	27	28	26	23	20
East of England	28	29	28	28	26	25	24	21	18
London	31	31	32	30	30	27	26	23	21
South East	26	26	26	24	24	23	22	19	16
South West	29	28	28	26	25	24	22	19	16
Wales	27	26	26	24	24	23	22	20	20
Scotland	31	29	28	27	26	25	23	21	18
Northern Ireland	[1]	[1]	[1]	27	26	23	21	20	19

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. Three-survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single-year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. The government's preferred measures of low income for pensioners are based on incomes measured after housing costs. As part of PSA Delivery Agreement 17 three indicators of low income poverty will be monitored: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent. median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.

Source:

Family Resources Survey

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce levels of poverty in persons aged over 65 years; what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the causes of poverty in persons aged over 65 years in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223426]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* In 1997 the poorest pensioners lived on £68.80. Today no pensioner need live on less than £124.05. The Government have introduced a number of measures to reduce the levels of poverty in older people. The number of pensioners in poverty in the UK has fallen from 2.9 million in 1998-99 to 2.1 million in 2006-07 (as measured by 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs). Once housing costs are accounted for, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole.

Measures taken include the introduction of the minimum income guarantee and its successor pension credit. The value of the safety-net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997. We have successively raised the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit by earnings in every year since its introduction. Our commitments in the Pensions Act 2007 to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee in line with earnings over the long

term, and to reintroduce the earnings link to basic state pension from 2012, or by the end of the next parliament, will help secure these gains into the future.

In addition we have introduced winter fuel payments for those aged 60 or over, with a higher amount for those 80 or over. For winter 2008-09 we will make an additional payment of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. We have also introduced free television licences for people aged 75 or over and made above inflation increases in the basic state pension.

The Department for Work and Pensions has undertaken a range of research over the last five years to investigate the nature of poverty in older people. For example, research has been commissioned to better understand older people's experiences of poverty and the link between income poverty, deprivation and age. In working to ensure all pensioners take up their entitlements to pension credit, the Department has also undertaken research to explore the barriers and triggers to claiming pension credit.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate the Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by single pensioners aged 75 to 85 years old who are entitled to, but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, broken down by sex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215988]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by single pensioners aged 85 years or over of each sex entitled to but not claiming *(a)* guarantee credit and council tax benefit, *(b)* guarantee credit and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(c)* guarantee credit, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [214960]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 326-27W.

Post Office Card Account

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in the decision-making process for the selection of an operator for the Post Office card account; and if he will make a statement. [224036]

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to announce the result of the award of the contract for the Post Office Card Account for 2010 onwards. [223494]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The contracting process remains under way. An announcement of the outcome will be made as soon as possible.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department and its agencies have given to local authorities on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for tackling benefit fraud. [221274]

Mr. Plaskitt: Specific guidance in the form of a fraud guidance circular was first issued to local authorities in September 2000, when the Act came into force. It has since been updated twice with further fraud guidance circulars issued in 2001 and 2003.

The Department's own Fraud Procedures and Instructions manual now has a specific section that details how both Department for Work and Pensions and local authority benefit fraud investigators should use the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. This guidance is made available for all local authority benefit fraud investigators through a secure website on the National Anti-Fraud Network.

Remploy

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of former Remploy workers who have found alternative employment. [220015]

Mrs. McGuire: Remploy has advised that of the 241 employees who opted to remain with Remploy, 161 are in work placements. The remaining 80 employees are involved in pre-employment activities, for example job search and preparation.

A further 1,772 employees opted to take voluntary redundancy or early retirement with a voluntary redundancy payment. Remploy is aware that around 200 have found alternative work, and is currently working with a further 360 former employees to find alternative work. The remainder have either advised the company that they do not require assistance from the company to seek further work or have not yet responded to Remploy's offers of help.

Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the Social Security Advisory Committee's report on the proposals contained in the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 relating to the backdating period for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants; and if he will make a statement. [223662]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Social Security Advisory Committee's report on the proposals contained in the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 and the Secretary of State's response to the report were published as a Command Paper on 15 September 2008 and laid in Parliament, along with the Regulations, on that date.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to reduce by at least half the time it takes benefits offices to deal with a reconsideration request; and if he will make a statement. [219537]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans to specifically reduce the time taken to deal with reconsideration requests. By their very nature, reconsiderations may take some time, particularly where further evidence requires investigation or corroboration. We believe the present arrangements strike a fair balance between speed and accuracy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many complaints his Department has received in respect of the Belfast benefit delivery centre in the last 12 months, broken down by category of complaint; [220603]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve communications between the Belfast benefit delivery centre and *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* local Jobcentre Plus branches. [220605]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 September 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many complaints his department has received in respect of Belfast Benefit Delivery Centre in the last 12 months, broken down into category and what steps he is taking to improve communications between the Belfast Benefit Delivery Centre and (a) members of the public (b) local Jobcentre Plus branches. This is something that falls within responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In total, 472 complaints were received in respect of Belfast Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC) in the last 12 months. They are broken down by category in the following table:

Type of complaint	*Number received*
General benefit queries	7
Customer service	9
Data protection	2
Incapacity benefit	73
Income support	172
Information and advice	8
Jobseeker's allowance	196
Maternity allowance	1
Telephony	4

Jobcentre Plus recognises the importance of good communications between the various parts of its business in providing a good service to its customers. Consequently we are always looking for new ways to improve communications, both internally and with members of the public.

For example, Belfast BDC has introduced the following improvements:

customers can now contact the centre by email via the Jobcentre Plus website;

an improved telephony system goes live on 19 August which it is hoped will improve communication with our customers;

post room procedures are being reviewed in an effort to speed up the process of post reaching its destination;

members of the public are informed of our services through our website, leaflets, telephone and by face to face contact; and

regular meetings are held between Belfast BDC and the jobcentres it serves to discuss ways in which to improve the service delivered to our customers.

Feedback from these meetings is cascaded to all staff to raise awareness of any issues.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children lived in households that had been in receipt of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* income support for more than two years at the latest date for which figures are available. [221736]

Mr. Plaskitt: The requested information is not available.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of work-focused interviews which will be conducted in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012 and *(e)* 2013, broken down by benefit sought. [221737]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Social Security Benefits: Cost of Living

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of increases in the cost of living on people on benefits. [223236]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* There is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to increase certain benefits from April each year. The increase applied to most contributory and non-contributory benefits is calculated using the increase in the Retail Prices Index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September. This ensures that benefits keep their value in broad terms.

The inflation figures are based on a year-on-year comparison of prices. Therefore any recent fluctuations in inflation will be taken into account in the benefit increases that will take effect from the following April.

In addition to the annual uprating, the Chancellor also announced in his Budget 2008 speech that for winter 2008-09 an additional payment will be made alongside the winter fuel payment. Households with someone aged 60 to 79 will receive an additional £50 and households with someone aged 80 or over will receive an additional £100.

On 11 September 2008, the Government also announced a new £1 billion package of measures to help people cut their energy bills. Measures on offer deliver significant energy savings—e.g. cavity wall and loft insulation—and 11 million lower income and pensioner households are eligible for these free of charge. Also for winter 2008-09 cold weather payments will increase in value from £8.50 to £25.00. Cold weather payments are made to vulnerable people in receipt of qualifying benefits, including pension credit, if there is a period of very cold weather in their area.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who committed benefit fraud in each of the last 10 years; [185883]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the value of benefit fraud and *(b)* the amount recoverable from such fraud in each of the last 10 years; [185884]

(3) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people involved in benefit fraud and *(b)* the value of such fraud in each (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [185920]

Mr. Plaskitt: While the Department produces estimates of the amount of money lost through fraud, estimates are not available as to how many individuals might commit benefit fraud in any given period.

The following table shows the Department's estimates of fraud across all benefits. This information is not available broken down by region, local authority and constituency.

Global estimate of fraud across all benefits

	Value of benefit fraud (£ billion)
2000-01	2.2
2001-02	2.0
2002-03	2.0
2003-04	1.0
2004-05	0.9
2005-06	0.8
2006-07	0.8

Notes:
1. Comparable information is not available prior to 2000-01
2. There have been methodological changes, and new measurement exercises at various times.

In order for an overpayment to be recoverable it must be demonstrated that the customer failed to report a material fact. This means that all overpayments resulting from fraud are recoverable.

The following table shows the amount of recoverable overpayments identified during fraud investigations since 1997-98. However, it should be noted that the information provided does not include fraud overpayments for local authority administered benefits, for which information is not available.

Amount of recoverable fraud overpayments in DWP administered benefits

	£ million
1997-98	129
1998-99	149
1999-2000	105
2000-01	128
2001-02	123
2002-03	124
2003-04	134
2004-05	137
2005-06	144
2006-07	106

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £1 million.
Source:
Fraud information by Sector.

The reduction in the amount recorded as recovered in 2006-07 was largely as a result of the introduction of customer compliance in April 2006. Customer compliance deals with low level fraud and customer error allowing the criminal compliance teams to focus on the more serious and complex fraud cases which are likely to result in a criminal sanction. The focus of customer compliance on low level fraud allows for earlier intervention resulting in a shorter period of overpayment and smaller cash value.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on each state benefit for pensioners in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on average per pensioner in each year. [199971]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Benefits paid to pensioners in Scotland and in England in 2006-07

	Scotland	*£ million, nominal England*
State Pension	4,837	46,023
Pension Credit	686	5,771
Housing Benefit	452	4,093
Attendance Allowance	398	3,429
Disability Living Allowance	355	2,405
Council Tax Benefit	193	1,649
Winter Fuel Payments	178	1,720
Over 75 TV Licences	41	420
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	39	287
Severe Disablement Allowance	15	111
Christmas Bonus	11	103
Bereavement Benefits	11	90
Carer's Allowance	3	103
Total expenditure	7,218	66,135
Average per pensioner per year (£)	7,588	7,249

Notes:
1. All figures are consistent with Budget 2008, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
3. Expenditure on State Pension, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Christmas Bonus are defined as benefits paid to women over 60 and men over 65.
4. Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Winter Fuel Payments expenditure refers to benefit units or households where at least one person is aged 60 or over.
5. The average per pensioner is estimated by dividing the total pensioner benefits by the state pension caseload. Those claiming Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Winter Fuel Payments between the ages of 60-64 are not included in this caseload, but are included in expenditure. This small inconsistency is unlikely to materially affect the relative spending per head between England and Scotland.

Source:
Departmental Accounting and statistical data

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples (i) claiming and (ii) not claiming

disability living allowance received on average from claims for (A) council tax benefit, (B) housing benefit and (C) pension credits in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [216547]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration has been given to the legality of benefit payments to polygamous families for each additional wife in line with current guidelines from the Department for Work and Pensions on income support. [218686]

Mr. Plaskitt: The rules governing entitlement for polygamously married claimants are set out in legislation. The policy governing benefit entitlement for polygamously married claimants has not changed since 1988.

Students: Mentally Ill

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are available to *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate students who have been released into the community under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983, have been certified as unfit for work or study for a specified period, and are unable immediately to continue their studies or receive funding contingent on further study; and if he will make a statement. [219099]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no benefits specifically aimed at this group of individuals. Entitlement to any benefits will be dependent on the individual's circumstance and their meeting the normal qualifying conditions for the benefit.

For anybody being provided with care under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1993, entitlement to some benefits will be dependent on the exact nature of the care being provided by the relevant authorities.

Voice Verification

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what pilot schemes on the use of voice recognition technology are *(a)* being undertaken and *(b)* planned by his Department in Wales; [217646]

(2) what work is being undertaken through pilot schemes on voice recognition technology to make provision for those who contact his Department in the Welsh language. [217647]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 July 2008]:* Voice recognition technology allows the customer to respond to automated questions to ensure they are correctly routed to the service they require depending on the response.

We are planning a four-day trial of voice recognition technology (interactive voice response wizard) on an automated line to request claim forms for attendance allowance and disability living allowance later this year. There are currently no plans for any voice recognition technology pilot schemes in Wales.

For the interactive voice response wizard trial, the automated service will provide the customer with the option to obtain disability living allowance and attendance allowance claim forms in the Welsh language. As the trial is for a very limited period, Welsh speakers who contact the helpline will be routed to an adviser to arrange the issue of the Welsh language claim form.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the economic situation on the *(a)* rate of progress in obtaining the goals, *(b)* timing of implementation and *(c)* costs of his Department's Welfare to Work strategy. [223160]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The UK labour market continues to be highly flexible and dynamic with new jobs becoming available all the time. Around 10,000 new vacancies are placed with Jobcentres every day, representing only some of the job opportunities available within the economy. Job-centre Plus receives over 200,000 new Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claims every month, but the majority of people on JSA leave it within three months, with our active labour market programmes providing effective support to help people back into work.

We set out the principles underpinning our welfare to work strategy, and our key goals for improving employment opportunities, in "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" (Cm 7363, July 2008). We are consulting on these proposals and remain committed to those goals. Details of the measures to be introduced and our plans for their implementation will be published after completion of the consultation period. These will build on the measures we are already implementing such as the employment and support allowance being introduced from this October.

The Department regularly reviews its financial position as part of the planning process. The effects of the economy on the Department's costs will continue to be considered as part of this.

Winter Fuel Payments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of the winter fuel payment was in *(a)* cash terms, *(b)* real terms expressed in 2003 prices and *(c)* as a percentage of the average energy and gas bill in each year since 2003. [218901]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The winter fuel payment is intended to provide a contribution towards winter heating bills which account for around 60 per cent. of the total annual fuel bill. The payment provides a significant contribution to these higher winter costs. Winter fuel payments have increased from £20 in 1997-98 to the current value of £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 years of age, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

This coming winter an additional payment will be made of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for households with someone aged 80 or over increasing the Winter Fuel Payment to £250 and £400 respectively for winter 2008-09.

The information requested is in the following table:

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07[1]		2007-08		2008-09	
	WFP	*80+*	*WFP*	*80+*	*WFP*	*80+*	*WFP*	*80+*	*WFP*	*80+*	*WFP*	*80+*
(a) Cash value of WFP (£)	200	300	200	300	200	300	200	300	200	3000	250	400
(b) Real value[2] (£)	200	300	194	291	189	283	182	273	175	262	212	340
(c) (i) WFP as a percentage of average annual energy bill	30	50	30	45	30	40	25	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(c) (ii) WFP as a percentage of average annual gas bill	75	110	70	105	60	95	55	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] From 2006, the Family Spending Survey reports on a calendar year basis. 2006 is the latest available data on household energy (including gas) expenditure and is applied here.
[2] 2003-04 prices.

Notes:
1. The real value of the winter fuel payment is calculated by indexing RPI = 100 in 2003-04.
2. The RPI index applied is taken from Table RP02, produced by the Office for National Statistics.
3. The average annual energy and gas bill for all households is estimated using data from the Family Spending Survey, produced by the Office for National Statistics. The average energy bill includes all household expenditure on electricity, gas and 'other fuels'.
4. All percentages rounded to the nearest five per cent.

Xansa

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what contracts his Department has signed with Xansa plc in the last five years; [215126]

(2) what payments have been made by his Department to Xansa plc in each of the last five years. [215130]

Mrs. McGuire: Although the Department has not awarded contracts direct to Xansa plc in the past five years, it has awarded contracts to Xansa UK Ltd. for external consultancy and IT services and to Xansa Recruitment Ltd. for external interim personnel in the last five years. These two companies are former subsidiaries of Xansa plc. Xansa plc was acquired by Steria in November 2007 and rebranded as Steria in March 2008.

A summary of payments for the last five years is provided in the following table:

£

	Organisation	
	Xansa UK Ltd.	*Xansa Recruitment Ltd.*
2003-04	808,794	2,042,507
2004-05	2,413,910	895,328
2005-06	1,913,257	2,412,559
2006-07	3,005,667	2,602,692
2007-08	1,468,001	1,570,353

A summary of contracts signed over the last four years is provided in the following table. Specific details of the contracts with both suppliers for 2003-04 is not available.

Organisation	*Contract*
2004-05	
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Enterprise Architecture
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Infrastructure Security Specialist
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Accountant
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Programme and Systems Delivery Support
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Change Offices—Finance Transformation Programme stream
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Technology Office
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Project Planner
Xansa UK Ltd.	PC OS (XP) Upgrade
Xansa UK Ltd.	Work Train Project
2005-06	
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Visual Basic/WEB Programmer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Informatica Specialist
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Informatica Specialist
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Oracle Training Consultants
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Programme and Project Support Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Technical Architect
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Senior Technical Architect
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	SAS Programmer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Oracle Trainer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Oracle Trainer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Oracle Trainer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	SAS Programmer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	CM Senior Commercial Adviser
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Legacy and Service Delivery Analyst
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Senior IT Architect
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Head of Service Delivery Operations
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Service Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Business Catalogue Manager
Xansa UK Ltd.	Future Business Re-Engineering
2006-07	
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Senior Instructional Designer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Network Designer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Network Designer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Network Designer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Programme Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Portfolio and Programme Management
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Web Writer/Editor
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	IS Strategy Specialist
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Information Data and Solutions Architect

Organisation	Contract
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Information Data and Solutions Architect
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	RM Implementation Lead
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	IS/IT Service Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Visual Basic WEB Programmer
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Quality Assurance Project Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Performance/Change Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Hosting Mainframe Lead
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Service Transition Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Service Transition Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Service Transition Manager
Xansa Recruitment Ltd.	Service Integration and Management
2007-08	
Xansa Recruitment	Technical Architect
Xansa Recruitment	SAS Contractor
Xansa Recruitment	Operations/Service Delivery Manager
Xansa Recruitment	Programme and Project Manager
Xansa Recruitment	NON DOI Remediation Manager
Xansa Recruitment	Interim Head of Design and Implementation
Xansa Recruitment	Strategy and Architecture Contractor
Xansa Recruitment	ESA Programme System Tester
Xansa Recruitment	System Tester
Xansa Recruitment	Project Manager
Xansa Recruitment	Project Planner
Xansa Recruitment	Business Analyst—Design and Implementation strand
Xansa Recruitment	Programme and Project Manager
Xansa Recruitment	Business Analyst—Design and Implementation strand
Xansa UK Ltd.	Strategic Assurance

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expert groups his Department has set up since it was established. [213194]

Beverley Hughes: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" from 1999 to 2006 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

listed under the Department's former name Department for Education and Skills. Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Information on the Department's "Public Bodies" from 2003 to 2008 can be downloaded from:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Information Communications Technology

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information technology projects initiated by his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221716]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

JUSTICE

Offenders: Armed Forces

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former armed forces personnel were (i) given custodial sentences following a plea or a finding of guilty and (ii) given a community penalty by civilian courts in England and Wales in each of last five years for which figures are available. [224014]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of serving personnel in the Royal Air Force (RAF) and Royal Navy (RN) who were given custodial sentences or community penalty by civilian courts in England and Wales.

	Imprisonment		*Suspended imprisonment*		*Community sentence*		*In-year total*	
	RN	*RAF*	*RN*	*RAF*	*RN*	*RAF*	*RN*	*RAF*
2003	4	n/a	0	n/a	2	n/a	6	n/a
2004	7	n/a	0	n/a	10	n/a	17	n/a
2005	5	n/a	1	n/a	4	n/a	10	n/a
2006	0	2	2	2	2	24	4	28
2007	0	4	1	3	4	7	5	14
2008 (to 12 September 2008	0	6	0	3	3	6	3	15

n/a = Not available.

Note:

This information is based on offences captured either through the individual complying with their obligation to inform their chain of command or via notification by Home Office police.

Only the requested sentence type has been extracted for the aforementioned table. Therefore these figures do not include fines, conditional discharge, disqualification from driving etc.

No records pertaining to the criminal activity of ex-RN or ex-RAF personnel is held.

The Army does not hold centrally the information requested and could provide information on the number of serving personnel who were given custodial sentences or community penalty by civilian courts in England and Wales only at disproportionate cost. No records pertaining to the criminal activity of ex-Army personnel are held.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Minimum Wage

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority on enforcement of the minimum wage in the agricultural sector. [224233]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* DEFRA is responsible for enforcing the Agricultural Wages Order (AWO) in England and Wales. The AWO sets minimum wage rates and certain other minimum terms and conditions of employment which apply to workers in agriculture. Compliance with minimum wage legislation is one of the criteria which a labour provider must meet to be issued with a licence by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA). DEFRA Ministers have regular discussions with the GLA, but there have been no specific discussions about the enforcement of the Agricultural Wages Order.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payment scheme claims from *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England from 2005 have not been paid in full. [223211]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* There are currently eight cases outstanding from the 2005 Single Payment Scheme who have not been paid in full. These cases awaiting payment are held up on probate/legal grounds. None of the holdings concerned are based in North Yorkshire and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payment scheme claims for each of the last three years have not been paid in full. [223212]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Current records show that the number of valid single payment scheme claims which have not been paid in full is as follows:

Scheme year	*Number of claims*
2005	8
2006	13
2007	[1]134

[1] In addition there are 100 claims which have been paid manually where a further payment may be necessary.

An on-going exercise at the Rural Payments Agency to verify the calculation of the entitlements allocated to some farmers could result in additional payments being made where appropriate.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of farmers who have received none of the single farm payment they were due since the start of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [223605]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency's most recent estimate is that four farmers have received none of the single farm payment they were due since the scheme started. These case are held up on probate/legal grounds.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* fines and *(b)* interest payments for late payments of the single farm payment cost in each of the years that the scheme has been running; and if he will make a statement. [223607]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) Financial corrections relating to reductions for failure to meet payment deadlines for single payment scheme (SPS) 2005 payments are approximately £58.67 million. No late payment penalties have been incurred for SPS 2006 or SPS 2007.

(b) The current value of interest payments made to claimants who received their full SPS payment after the closing of the regulatory payment window are approximately £2.5 million for the 2005 SPS, £500,000 for the 2006 SPS and £31,000 for the 2007 SPS.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions computer system failure has resulted in the inability of the Rural Payments Agency to *(a)* access historical records and *(b)* make payments in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [223608]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The IT systems used by RPA staff to access historical records and/or make payments have been available for use for 99.73 per cent. of the planned hours of service during the last 12 months. The short periods of system downtime amounted to an average of only one hour per month and none of these outages have affected the RPA payment schedules, nor access to historic records or other critical information.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems are in place to create and safely store historical records relating to single farm payments. [223609]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency maintains numerous systems and controls to safeguard customer records throughout their lifecycle. These systems and controls conform with the latest Cabinet Office requirements and with European Union requirements for handling CAP data. They are kept under constant review and regularly audited by the European Union and National Audit Office.

Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental effects which may arise from the maintenance of allotments. [224033]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Although allotments will always be mainly used for growing food, they have other values that are now

gaining greater recognition. As well as being places for healthy exercise, allotments are also an increasingly important resource for wildlife. Many of the plants and animals that struggle to survive on intensively managed farmland find a refuge on allotment sites. Natural England published the 'Wildlife on allotments' document in 2007.

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 have been brought *(a)* in Leeds and *(b)* in total since the Act came into force, broken down by prosecuting agency. [223526]

Jonathan Shaw: *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The Animal Welfare Act came into force on 6 April 2007 in England and 27 March 2007 in Wales. The first published data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Animals: Diseases

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* sheep and *(b)* cattle were infected by coccidiosis in each of the last five years. [223214]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Coccidiosis is not a notifiable disease hence reporting of coccidia diagnoses is voluntary. The levels of endemic diseases, such as coccidiosis, in the cattle and sheep population of Great Britain (GB) are monitored through the Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (VLA) Endemic Disease Surveillance Programme. This is performed by analysis of test results from clinical diagnostic samples submitted by veterinary surgeons to the VLA regional laboratories and to the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) disease surveillance centres for investigation. The figures shown in Table 1 correspond to the number of coccidiosis incidents recorded by the VLA's Veterinary Investigation Diagnosis Analysis (VIDA) database for the years 2003 to 2008. Incidents in this setting are defined as farm holdings reporting a case of coccidiosis, affecting one or more animals, either for the first time or after a four-week period from the last reported incident of coccidiosis diagnosed on that farm. Note therefore that holdings can be recorded as having cases more than once within the same year.

All incidents of coccidiosis in cattle in Great Britain recorded on VIDA. 2003 to August 2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (January to August only)
January	37	33	35	19	30	28
February	21	19	20	30	21	31
March	21	31	20	34	37	23
April	22	38	26	26	28	41
May	60	47	55	70	66	65
June	70	80	47	76	52	68
July	60	57	56	48	72	64
August	47	41	52	59	49	51
September	65	52	46	59	53	—
October	68	46	46	47	65	—
November	53	33	43	59	67	—
December	27	36	28	27	33	—
Total	551	513	474	554	573	371

All incidents of coccidiosis in sheep in Great Britain recorded on VIDA. 2003 to August 2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (January to August only)
January	7	7	8	9	6	3
February	27	27	14	19	22	5
March	50	67	27	43	26	20
April	34	99	51	97	33	45
May	62	67	64	127	38	51
June	57	36	41	71	31	45
July	17	18	18	14	27	17
August	10	17	11	7	9	5
September	5	5	8	2	3	—
October	4	1	4	5	3	—
November	3	1	3	3	1	—
December	1	1	1	2	0	—
Total	277	346	250	399	199	191

Note:
England and Wales data were last updated on 4 September 2008, Scotland (and therefore GB) data were last updated on 14 August 2008.

These figures show only the incidents diagnosed as a result of veterinarians submitting samples to these Government laboratories and therefore do not provide an unbiased or comprehensive estimate of the occurrence of the condition in GB. Many factors may influence the likelihood of a farmer/his veterinarian submitting a clinical sample for diagnosis: general economic situation within the sheep and cattle industry, awareness of the disease and its perceived importance, other concurrent priorities, the particular clinical presentation of the suspected disease etc.

All these factors need to be taken into account when interpreting the figures. Changes over time of any of these factors will impact on the observed trends, so caution needs to be exercised when comparing annual figures. Furthermore, and within these limitations, figures in Table 1 only represent incidents where clinical disease was present and could be confirmed with the current testing procedures. The figures therefore are likely to represent a fraction of the total number of animals and farm-holdings infected with coccidiosis in GB.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish an evaluation of the fieldwork being undertaken as part of the vaccine trials for bovine TB taking place at Aston Down. [224009]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The badger vaccine study, which is designed to collect data on the safety and efficacy of Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) as an injectable vaccine against bovine TB, is due to be completed by March 2010. The field work

finishes in autumn 2009. An evaluation of the work will be published once the results have been analysed and findings have been peer reviewed.

Carbon Emissions

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of the contribution to global carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* power generation, *(b)* deforestation, *(c)* aviation, *(d)* shipping, *(e)* motor vehicles and *(f)* all sources in the UK. [224071]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives a best estimate of around 6 billion tonnes for the annual global carbon dioxide emissions caused by land-use change (which is dominated by deforestation).

Using data from the IEA and the IPCC (including an estimate of the emissions from industrial processes such as cement manufacture), the percentage contributions of the different sectors in 2005 to the global total were as follows:

	Percentage contribution to global total
(a) Power generation	32
(b) Land-use change (chiefly deforestation)	17
(c) Aviation	2
(d) Shipping	2
(e) Road vehicles	13
(f) All sources in the UK	2

Carbon Emissions: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to implement the CERT 40 per cent. carbon dioxide emission reduction obligation among rural priority groups in remote areas. [223340]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Rural priority groups in remote areas have the same access to the offers under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) as others. With CERT aiming some £1.5 billion energy supplier investment in carbon reduction measures at a priority group of low income and age 70-plus households, we expect to see rural priority group households see significant benefits. CERT also includes measures which deliver specific benefits to rural households. For example, we expect some 90,000 priority group households to benefit from fuel switching, e.g. moving to gas central heating from electric or oil heating. We have also established a 'flexibility' option under CERT, whereby suppliers get a significant uplift in carbon credits for installing more expensive measures, such as solid wall insulation and heat pumps in off gas grid properties. They can utilise this flexibility option for up to 5 per cent. of their 40 per cent. priority group target.

Cattle

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cows born annually in the UK prior to 1996; what estimate he has made of the number of cows which will have been culled by the Government by the end of 2008; and how many of these he expects will not meet the deadline for compensation. [223517]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Before 1996 detailed data of calves and cattle on UK agriculture holdings were compiled through the MAFF annual agriculture survey, and are available in the form of historical datasets through the Defra statistical website (data for years before 1983 available upon request).

Data supplied by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) show that there are (as of end of June 2008) 230,757 cattle born before 1 August 1996 still remaining on farm, and it is expected that at least 362,000 cattle will have entered the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme (OCDS) from its inception by its closure on 31 December 2008; the predicted throughput indicates some 85,000 cattle remaining once the OCDS closes.

All animals culled under this scheme, up to 31 December 2008, providing they meet the eligibility criteria, will meet the deadline for compensation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of records relating to cows born in the UK before 1996 that have been lost; and if he will make a statement. [223537]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* There are 207,461 animals registered onto the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) born before 1996. Of these 20,979 are reported lost or at present not traced for reasons such as alleged theft. In addition to these there are 1,039 animals whose final destination is presently unreported.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place in his Department to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219601]

Jonathan Shaw: Hospitality is intended to cover occasions where there is a need to provide hospitality for others. Hospitality may therefore be provided if it is in the public interest only and necessary for the conduct of departmental business to do so. As a general rule, expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is not allowed. The core-Department's catering services provider does not hold a licence to serve alcohol. Were alcohol to be purchased for hospitality purposes it should be acquired through formal purchase order, or through the Government Procurement Card, both of which methods are subject to formal authorisation procedures.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions his Department and its predecessor instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220816]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not maintain a record of cases in which it instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal, and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years. The cost of obtaining this information would be disproportionate.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide a breakdown by source of the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* arm's length bodies in each of the last five years. [223449]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* A breakdown of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (collation of the core department and its Executive agencies) level of carbon dioxide emissions has been provided through the annual Sustainable Development in Government report, published annually by the Sustainable Development Commission.

The Department does not collect this information for its arms length bodies.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211690]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215573]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA currently has 50 people without jobs within the core Department who are part of a people action team. There are a further 39 staff without jobs in its agencies who are not part of a people action team.

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214687]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was formed in June 2001 therefore information following has been largely derived from financial year 2001-02 through till 2007-08.

£

	Campaign	*Internet*	*Press*	*TV*	*Radio*
2002-03	Are You Doing Your Bit?	—	—	—	—
2002-03	Personal Food Imports	—	—	—	—
2003-04	Personal Food Imports	—	—	—	—
2004-05	Passports for Horses	—	44,955	—	—
2005-06	Tomorrow's Climate Today's Challenge	—	—	—	151,147
2006-07	Climate Change	231,828	—	—	—
2006-07	One Planet Living	276,696	—	—	—
2006-07	Personal Food Imports	—	—	—	38,582
2007-08	Climate Challenge	383,743	—	—	38,648
2007-08	Climate Change	1,039,930	460,745	1,605,776	—
2007-08	REACH Communications	15,834	41,288	—	—
2007-08	Act on CO_2 January to March	122,717	483,875	—	—
2007-08	Eco-labelling	—	10,929	—	—
2007-08	Sheep and Goats Identification	—	2,993	—	—
2007-08	Animal Disease Prevention Campaign	19,182	16,649	—	—

All figures, except for the internet, exclude VAT, production, miscellaneous costs, COI fees and advertising rebates .

£

	Campaign	*TV*	*Radio*
2001-02	—	0	0
2002-03	—	0	0
2003-04	—	0	0
2005-06	Climate Change Branded Statement	0	151,147
2006-07	Illegal Meats	0	38,582
2007-08	Climate Challenge	0	38,648
2007-08	Climate Change—Citizen and Public Engagement	1,605,776	0

Figures exclude VAT, production, and miscellaneous costs, COI fees and advertising rebates.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219253]

Jonathan Shaw: The core-Department holds no information centrally on the expenditure category of entertainment.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221246]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the total number of hours overtime worked in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. The data cover staff in core-DEFRA and those agencies covered by core-DEFRA pay arrangements (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (who merged with the Health and Safety Executive on 1 April 2008).

	AA	*AO*	*EO*	*HEO*	*FS*	*SEO*	*VO*	*G7*	*G6*
2007									
September	3,340	6,676	12,019	6,701	185	1,609	6,304	1,430	1,377
October	3,254	6,104	10,502	6,096	167	1,536	6,072	1,315	2,184
November	2,923	5,306	15,175	6,658	35	689	7,339	1,167	1,349
December	1,619	3,656	9,464	4,296	307	1,377	3,935	1,652	809
2008									
January	2,063	2,052	2,409	2,115	90	1,262	787	569	1,109
February	1,432	1,937	3,184	2,375	115	739	1,107	596	249
March	919	1,546	2,734	936	169	524	576	221	168
April	655	1,989	2,848	1,758	75	819	799	792	418
May	420	1,220	2,305	1,672	116	550	434	829	131
June	436	1,307	2,072	1,584	38	300	672	386	186
July	599	2,318	4,278	2,591	97	1,256	1,515	797	382
August	594	1,065	2,319	1,439	71	616	719	1,599	222

Grade equivalent:
AA: Administration Assistant
AO: Administration Officer
EO: Executive Officer
HEO: Higher Executive Officer
FS: Fast Stream
SEO: Senior Executive Officer
VO: Veterinary Officer
G7: Grade 7
G6: Grade 6

The higher levels of hours overtime worked apparent in the period of September 2007 to December 2007 correspond to pressures on the Department in relation to foot and mouth disease and avian influenza. This is especially pronounced in veterinary grades and those grades that would provide administrative and policy support in these areas.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221180]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table sets out how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in core DEFRA in each of the last three financial years.

	£
2005-06	11,209.38
2006-07	7,435.06
2007-08	2,839.63

Information for DEFRA's agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221609]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the frequency of bin collections; and if he will make a statement. [224204]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* DEFRA does not have a policy on the frequency of bin collections. It is the local authority's duty to collect household waste and to reduce the amount of household waste being sent to landfill. They are best placed to make decisions on how they fulfil their duties, including the frequency of collections.

Environment Agency: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Environment Agency's planned £17 million savings from the flood risk management budget in 2007-08 break down among spending areas. [224199]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The £16.7 million of savings made by the Environment Agency in 2007-08 on flood risk management as reported in the Annual Report and Accounts in 2007-08 were as follows:

Efficiency gained	*Saving (£ million)*
Manpower and other savings as a result of Implementation of Integrated Flood Risk Management organisational change project	2.4
Procurement and cost avoidance savings through National Capital Programme Management Service	8.2
Improved techniques and technology for asset management programme	2.0
Automisation and centralisation of systems and processes for Flood Warnings Direct project	2.0
Contractual and other savings	2.1
Total	16.7

The savings are efficiency and productivity savings and therefore will not adversely affect delivery.

Environment Protection: Offenders

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices for environmental offences were issued in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* type of offence and *(b)* issuing authority. [223560]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for environmental offences by, or on behalf of, each local authority in England and Wales are available on the DEFRA website from the reporting year 1997-98 onwards.

Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local resilience forums have received information on critical infrastructure at risk or areas at risk of flooding since the summer 2007 floods. [224200]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Following the recommendation in Sir Michael Pitt's interim report of December 2007 into last summer's floods—that Category 1 responders should be urgently provided with a detailed assessment of critical infrastructure in their areas—information has been provided to 35 local resilience forums in England and to the London resilience team on behalf of the six local resilience forums in London. Briefing for the remaining two local resilience forums, due to take place in July, was postponed until later this month because of changes in key personnel.

In addition, since last summer's floods the Environment Agency has met with local resilience forums to discuss the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to flood risk to assist in emergency response planning. This has included providing information on areas susceptible to surface water flooding.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable has been set for the implementation of a national floods exercise. [224202]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Firm dates for the next scheduled national flood exercise have yet to be fixed.

Food

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to increase food production through *(a)* agriculture, *(b)* horticulture, *(c)* allotments and *(d)* residential gardens; and if he will make a statement. [224064]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Promoting a strong domestic farming sector is central to Defra's work, which is why one of its departmental strategic objectives is "a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact".

Defra is spending half its research budget on supporting the farming and food sectors. £27.5 million is aimed at resource management in farming and food industries, including energy and water use, and on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Government are working with food producers and processors to help prevent animal and plant disease, and with the farming industry to ensure there are enough workers with the right skills through the Skills for Farming project.

The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit's recent study entitled "Food Matters: Towards a Strategy for the 21st century" published in July this year, identified a number of areas requiring further examination by the Government. Defra is taking forward the report's recommendation on the need for a sustainable vision to guide future food policy in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the extent to which the UK was

self-sufficient in food production in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* type of food and *(b)* indigenous types of food. [224218]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The UK self-sufficiency ratio for all food and indigenous type food is given in the following table.

	UK self-sufficiency in:	
	All food	*Indigenous-type food*
1997	68	82
1998	67	82
1999	68	82
2000	67	80
2001	63	75
2002	62	76
2003	63	77
2004	62	75
2005	60	73
2006	59	72
2007[1]	61	74

[1] Provisional.

Information on production as a percentage of total supply for selected commodities is given in the following table. These estimates are not directly comparable with the headline measures of self-sufficiency since they are volume rather than unprocessed value based, are not adjusted for feed, seed and livestock and do not include processed food.

UK production as a percentage of total new supply for use in the UK

	Cereals	*Fresh vegetables*	*Potatoes*	*Fresh fruit*	*Beef and veal*	*Pork*	*Bacon and ham*	*Mutton and lamb*	*Poultry meat*	*Eggs*
1997	113	70	91	10	77	118	51	95	96	95
1998	115	71	88	9	83	122	52	98	93	97
1999	109	72	90	12	80	108	52	101	91	95
2000	113	71	87	10	79	99	46	98	89	91
2001	97	67	81	11	72	79	44	78	91	89
2002	99	64	83	9	71	81	43	85	91	87
2003	113	63	82	8	70	71	43	86	91	84
2004	103	62	81	9	70	73	42	85	88	85
2005	103	60	85	10	74	70	44	90	88	86
2006	102	59	88	11	80	68	45	88	87	83
2007[1]	100	58	79	11	82	69	42	82	90	81

[1] Provisional.

Food: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of publicly-procured food exceeded the 0.9 per cent., genetically-modified labelling threshold in each of the last three years. [223451]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* This information is not available and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. In practice, there are no wholly GM foods on sale in the UK, and very few processed food products with GM labelled ingredients.

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings have taken place between representatives of the greyhound industry and Ministers and officials from his Department to discuss proposed regulations on welfare of greyhounds under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [224055]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* There have been a number of meetings already between officials and representatives of the greyhound industry, animal welfare organisations and local authorities to discuss proposals for regulations to promote the welfare of racing greyhounds, and further discussions are planned in the future.

Inland Waterways

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vacant moorings British Waterways recorded in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c) 2007* and *(d)* the first half of 2008. [224021]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The information is not available in the form requested. The precise number of moorings (residential and non-residential) depends on the lengths of the canals (which can be split into a higher or lower number of berths) and the lengths of the boats which moor alongside the canal. British Waterways estimate that they have around 4,600 moorings of which approximately 7 per cent. will become available for tender by the end of this year's trail.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure his Department incurred on the British Waterways Mooring Trial, including set-up costs and the cost of computer systems, between 1 March 2007 and 31 August 2008. [224022]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* My Department has not incurred any expenditure on the mooring trial which is an operational matter for British Waterways.

Inland Waterways: Fees and Charges

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what income British Waterways accrued from mooring fees in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and what the projected income from this source is for 2008. [224019]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The income earned by British Waterways from mooring fees in each year is as follows:

	£000
2005	4,378
2006	4,885
2007	5,196
2008[1]	5,666

[1] Full year forecast income

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many boat owners paid mooring fees to British Waterways in (a) 2005, (b) 2006 and (c) 2007; and how many have paid such fees in 2008 to date. [224020]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The number of boat owners who have paid mooring fees to British Waterways (including short term mooring fees) are:

	Number
2005	7,490
2006	7,837
2007	7,777
2008[1]	6,457

1 To date

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W, on the Commission for Rural Communities, how much funding each of his Department's *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* sponsored bodies will receive for the 2009-10 financial year. [223606]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Budgets for 2009-10 for Defra's delivery bodies are shown as follows:

(a) Executive Agencies: 2009-10 budgets

£ million

	2009-10		
	Prog	Cap	Total
Rural Payments Agency (operational costs only)	182.7	19.5	202.2
Marine and Fisheries Agency	20.5	3.0	23.5
Animal Health	115.5	10.7	127.1
Government Decontamination Service	3.0	—	3.0

Defra's other Executive Agencies: the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) recover their full economic costs through charges made to customers for services provided.

(b) Key sponsored bodies: budgets

£ million

	2009-10		
	Prog	Cap	Total
Environment Agency	473.8	357.5	831.3
Natural England	165.9	6.1	172.0
Carbon Trust	58.7	27.0	85.7
British Waterways	33.8	24.6	58.3
National Parks	51.0	—	51.0
Waste and Resources Action Programme	37.0	3.0	40.0
Energy Savings Trust	39.5	1.0	40.5
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew	17.6	10.9	28.5
Committee for Rural Communities	6.4	—	6.4
ENCAMS	5.0	—	5.0
National Forest Co.	3.6	—	3.6
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1.9	—	1.9
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	1.5	—	1.5

Oil Palm: Biodiversity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he has allocated for evaluation of the biodiversity value of areas of rainforest left within oil palm plantations; and if he will make a statement. [223543]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* We have not allocated funding specifically for an evaluation of the biodiversity value of areas of rainforest within oil palm plantations. However, biodiversity issues have been covered within broader studies such as the 'Review of Work on the Environmental Sustainability of International Biofuels Production and Use', funded by Defra and published in April this year as well as Defra's September 2007 report on Sustainable Commodities (Defra research project EV02019) which examined the environmental and social impacts of eight commodity groups, including palm oil.

Defra is also contributing towards the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study which will examine, among other things, the costs of biodiversity loss in the main biomes. This study is due to be published in 2010.

Slaughterhouses

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many slaughterhouses available to cull cows born before 1996 there will be by the end of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [223518]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* There are currently nine slaughterhouses in the UK licensed and available to handle pre August 1996 cattle: five in England; two in Scotland; one in Wales and in Northern Ireland. In order to manage the seasonal fluctuations in cattle presented under the Older Cattle

Disposal Scheme (OCDS), Government and industry colleagues worked together to provide a booking system, the purpose of which is to be able to predict the demand for the scheme and to match slaughter capacity. At present the abattoir capacity is undersubscribed.

South West Water Authority

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what *(a)* assets and *(b)* funds are available to the residual South West Water Authority; [224267]

(2) what consideration he has given to winding up the residual South West Water Authority. [224268]

Mr. Woolas: *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* There are no assets or funds available to the South West Water Authority even though it continues to exist as a public body.

There are no current plans to wind up the residual South West Water Authority. It is to be retained until the Government are satisfied that all residual matters relating to it have been resolved.

Warm Front Scheme

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to improve the speed of performance, technical competence and overall efficiency of Warm Front and Warm Front contractors; and if he will make a statement. [224070]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* DEFRA works very closely with eaga plc regarding the delivery of the scheme to ensure that clients receive an efficient and effective service. In addition, the Department has a contract with independent quality assessors who monitor quality issues and report on a regular basis to the Department.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will direct the White Young Green review team and representatives of his Department to meet representatives of J and L National Energy Saver Ltd to discuss the evidence submitted by that company relating to its suspension from the Warm Front 2 scheme and to produce a supplementary report; if he will place in the Library a copy of the White Young Green report on the suspension of J and L National Energy Saver Ltd from the Warm Front 2 scheme; and if he will make a statement. [224261]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Owing to the ongoing legal proceedings, I am unable to comment on J and L National Energy Saver Ltd's suspension from the Warm Front Scheme.

I can confirm that I have no plans to place a copy of the original White Young Green report in the Library, although it is available from DEFRA upon request.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* value for money and *(c)* compliance with open tender requirements of the establishment by Eaga of a co-venture with Ideal Boilers to undertake annual service visits on behalf of Eaga and the Warm Front 2 scheme; and if he will make a statement. [224263]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* As part of the open, audited and fully competitive tendering process for Warm Front, DEFRA ensured that the management of the scheme, including provision of aftercare services, provided value for money and complied with tender requirements.

All aspects of management of the Scheme, including provision of aftercare services, is subject to regular audits by DEFRA's independent quality assessors to ensure it is providing an effective service.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* accordance with the principles of natural justice of the procedures for terminating contracts of Warm Front 2 scheme sub-contractors; what the procedures are; and what notice is required to be given. [224264]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The terms of termination are defined in the contract between eaga plc and Warm Front contracted installers, which are agreed prior to their acceptance to work on the scheme.

These terms are a private agreement between eaga plc and potential Warm Front sub-contractors.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures were followed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* White Young Green and *(c)* Eaga in (i) the suspension of J and L National Energy Saver Ltd from the Warm Front 2 scheme and (ii) the investigation and review of that suspension, with particular reference to consideration of representations from that company; what the reasons were for that suspension; and if he will make a statement. [224265]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* DEFRA has looked into the dispute between eaga plc and J and L heating, both in terms of the reasons for the action taken and the procedures followed by the scheme manager, eaga plc. This report has been provided to J and L National Energy Saver Ltd and is available from DEFRA upon request.

DEFRA commissioned a further review, in light of additional information provided by the company. However, it was found that this information did not alter the conclusions of the original report.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs further to his Department's press release of 2 June 2008, on recycling in public places, whether waste collection authorities may issue fines to members of the public who place the wrong sort of rubbish into a public *(a)* residual waste or *(b)* recycling bin. [217818]

Joan Ruddock: Certain offences exist on incorrect disposal of rubbish for which a fine can be issued, either in the form of a fixed penalty notice or a fine imposed by the Courts. Examples of offences include incorrect disposal of household, commercial or industrial waste, fly tipping and littering. Deliberate disposal of rubbish in the wrong place could constitute an offence, depending on the circumstances of the case.

Recycle on the Go, which was launched on 2 June 2008, does not introduce any new offences relating to litter bins nor recycle bins. Instead, it saw the publication of a Voluntary Code of Practice and guidance to make it easier for people to recycle when out and about, for example through the use of consistent signage so that people know what they can recycle, wherever they might be.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on consultancy fees in each year since the Department was created. [224069]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Total expenditure by the Department on consultants in each financial year since it was formed in May 2002 is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2002-03	227.5
2003-04	239.5
2004-05	193.3
2005-06	72.1
2006-07	82.9
2007-08	80.3

These figures are calculated in accordance with Office of Government Commerce guidance.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information technology projects initiated by her Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221749]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold centrally collected records on all IT projects carried out by the central department and its seven executive agencies. Available information shows that the following four IT projects were cancelled during the last five years.

In general such projects are cancelled if it becomes clear that the costs of completing the project are not justified by the benefits to be obtained. For example, in relation to the DVLA Tracking vehicles through the trade project, IT developments in the vehicle trade presented a lower cost solution. This is now being explored by DVLA, informed by the specification that was developed during the original project.

Highways Agency: CEO and Correspondence Unit Document Management System. Cost at cancellation: £227,574.

DFT (central): Electronic Documents and Records Management System. Cost at cancellation: £853,899.

DVLA: Tracking Vehicles Through the Trade. Cost at cancellation: £7,867,000.

DVLA: Electronic Licensing for Fleets. Cost at cancellation: £270,000.

Departmental Travel

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 612W, on departmental travel, if she will place in the Library the figures for staff travel costs for her central Department. [224002]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The travel expenditure for the central Department for financial year 2007-08 is £3,509,114.44.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next plans to meet the management of National Express to discuss the punctuality of East Coast Main Line rail services. [217277]

Mr. Tom Harris: Under the Franchise Agreement a franchise performance meeting must be held once in each reporting period (every four weeks). At the next meeting with National Express, the parties present will review the financial, operational and contractual performance of the franchisee.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet a delegation of passengers to discuss the provision of rail services on the East Coast Main Line. [217279]

Mr. Tom Harris: Yes. My hon. Friend should make appropriate arrangements through my private office.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answers of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1579-80W, on A69, Greenhead, if she will publish the letter dated 1 December 1982 sent by her Department to the Northumberland county council headed notes for the guidance of engineers employed in connection with trunk road schemes, together with all the said guidance notes. [223126]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 23W, on Roads: Construction. The guidance notes that were placed in the Libraries of the House in November 2007 were incomplete, but they were all that could be found on file within the Highways Agency and the Treasury Solicitor's Department at that time. The cost of searching for the missing guidance notes now would be disproportionate.

Tamworth to London Euston Railway Line

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to facilitate an increase in the number of trains travelling between Tamworth and London Euston, with particular regard to direct trains without intermediary stops. [215774]

Mr. Tom Harris: The service planned by London Midland (LM) and Virgin West Coast (VWC) to operate from 14 December 2008 complies with the Department for Transport's specification for services on this route.

From this date, London Midland will provide an hourly service between Tamworth and London Euston, which will be a significant improvement on the existing sporadic frequency. These trains will not run non-stop to Euston as they will also form an integral part of the London service from Nuneaton, Rugby and Northampton.

Virgin West Coast will be providing some limited-stop trains between Tamworth and Euston (two up in the morning and four back in the evening) to serve the commuting peaks.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Earthquakes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese government on ensuring the Tibetan areas affected by the recent earthquake whose epicentre was on the border of the Tibetan Ngaba Autonomous Prefecture are accessible to overseas aid agencies and that all Tibetan victims are receiving the necessary treatment and support. [220372]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The worst affected areas have a population which is 54 per cent. Tibetan. The UK assistance and the Chinese response generally has covered all the victims of the earthquake, including the Tibetan and Qiang communities.

We have been in close contact with the Chinese authorities since the earthquake. They have been dealing very competently with all the victims. The UK provided funds for the immediate relief effort. On 16 May, three days after the earthquake struck, we provided £1 million to the Chinese Association for NGO co-operation. The money was used to buy food, water, blankets and 2,400 tents. Between 22 and 30 May, four flights arrived in Chengdu from Dubai carrying a further 5,332 tents. The total value of the tents, including transport costs, was £1.2 million. On 18 June, we agreed a contribution of £350,000 to the International Labour Organisation for training to help survivors of the earthquake re-launch or start their own businesses for the first time. The programme aims to re-establish 1000 businesses and start 700 new ones in the next year. The Department for International Development (DFID) total contribution to date is therefore £2.55 million.

We have also established a facility to provide technical assistance for the reconstruction effort. It will have an initial ceiling of £1 million. The main focus will be on areas where we already have a comparative advantage, such as health, education, water and sanitation, participatory, socially inclusive planning and community based poverty reduction in remote villages.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letters dated 2 July and 3 September from the hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling regarding Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kelly. [224004]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The letters of 2 July 2008 and 2 September 2008 were forwarded to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) on 8 July 2008 and 4 September 2008 respectively. UKBA will be replying to the hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling (Sir John Stanley).

Ukraine: NATO

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the progress of Ukraine's Membership Action Plan to join the Alliance; and if he will make a statement. [223653]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* At present Ukraine does not have a Membership Action Plan with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), but a process of Intensified Dialogue is under way on Ukraine's membership aspirations and related reforms.

The UK supports Ukraine's desire for NATO membership. At the Bucharest NATO Summit in April, all allies agreed that Ukraine and Georgia will become members of the Alliance. NATO Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the Bucharest commitment in their statement of 19 August and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK position in Kiev on 27 August. The UK remains in close contact with allies to discuss the implementation of the Bucharest commitment. The NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in December will provide the first review of the progress Ukraine has made on its path to membership.

In the meantime, the NATO-Ukraine Commission will continue to help strengthen NATO's relationship with Ukraine and assist in their progress towards membership. The Commission last met on 27 August and allies reiterated once more their support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the UK's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and if he will make a statement. [204964]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply

The UK signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and ratified it in 1986. In accordance with Article 18 of the Convention, the UK undertakes to submit reports every four years on measures adopted to implement the Convention to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

In May 2007, the UK submitted its sixth periodic report to the UN, which summarises the main legislative, judicial and administrative measures undertaken by the Government since 2003. Countries are called to account on their performance on the Convention and the UK is being examined by the United Nations Committee on its five and six Periodic Reports on 10 July 2008.

The UK's decision to accede to the CEDAW Optional Protocol enables women in the UK, or their representatives, to appeal to the Committee if they believe there has been an infringement of the Convention. There have been two communications in respect of the United Kingdom to date. Both have been inadmissible.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 to *(a)* limit the number of licensed premises to which any one person can be appointed as the designated premises supervisor and *(b)* ensure that there must always be at least one personal licence holder present at each licensed premises when sales of alcohol take place; and if he will make a statement. [224063]

Andy Burnham: We have no plans to amend the Act in this manner. Local licensing authorities are already able to attach conditions to individual premises licences in support of the four main licensing objectives. Such conditions can relate to appropriate levels of supervision at individual premises, and it is entirely correct that such decisions are taken at local level, flexibly responding to local licensing needs.

Arts Council: ICT

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the cost to date of the Arts Council's Arena IT system has been; [223310]

(2) what the tender process was for the procurement of the Arts Council's Arena IT system; [223311]

(3) what consultants were engaged by the Arts Council for the procurement of the Arena IT system; [223312]

(4) what the support costs for the Arts Council's Arena IT system are expected to be in 2008-09; [223313]

(5) who owns the intellectual property rights for the Arts Council's Arena IT system. [223314]

Andy Burnham: This is an operational matter for Arts Council England. I have asked the chief executive to reply direct to the hon. Member, and copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Culture: Olympic Games 2012

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds his Department and its agencies *(a)* have allocated and *(b)* plan to allocate to the Cultural Olympiad; and from what source such funds will be drawn. [223996]

Andy Burnham: DCMS's contribution to the Cultural Olympiad comes via its non-departmental public bodies according to the arm's length principle.

DCMS itself contributes £400,000 to support a network of Creative Programmers to take forward plans for the Cultural Olympiad in the eight English regions. This funding has been drawn from DCMS internal budgets. Future funding decisions will be made at a later date.

The Royal Parks Agency has not allocated any funds to the Cultural Olympiad and future funding is yet to be determined.

Film: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what film production supported by public *(a)* funding and *(b)* other assistance took place in the South West of England in each of the last five years. [224059]

Andy Burnham: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, South West Screen gave non-funding assistance to 448 productions (including feature films, short films, television and commercials) between 2003 and 2005. This excludes Bristol and Bath.

In addition, South West Screen have put the following funding into mainly short films in the last five years.

£

Public funding in SW	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Lottery funding for film production in SW			88,227		
Digital Shorts	68,800	53,050	60,000	59,500	64,500
Digital Shorts plus	—	—	20,000	20,000	10,000
Other public sector funding in film production			335,921		

These figures do not include funding for feature films from the UKFC lottery funds as this information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Lacrosse

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* bodies for which his Department is responsible is providing for teams representing (A) England, (B) Scotland, (C) Wales and (D) Northern Ireland at lacrosse in 2008-09. [224042]

Andy Burnham: Funding for sport in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter.

DCMS does not fund individual sports directly. Exchequer funding for sport in England is distributed by Sport England who have advised that the English Lacrosse Association (ELA) has received over £1.6 million. Of this, £1.26 million is to support the delivery of the lacrosse Whole Sport Plan during 2005 to 2009. The ELA has utilised some of this funding to support its England teams.

Awards to the ELA for 2008-09 are:

Sport England core funding £316,667

This funding is used by the ELA to support delivery of its Whole Sport Plan for 2005 to 2009. Club Links award: £10,000—this award supports delivery of the Club Links work strand of the PE and School Sport for Young People programme.

Step into Sport: £15,000

This award supports delivery of the Step into Sport work strand of the PE and School Sport for Young People programme.

Club and Coach funding

The ELA is also in receipt of an award for £357,000 over three years 2007 to 2010. Payments to ELA in the current financial year will be subject to the submission of claims and satisfactory delivery of award outcomes. The award supports the creation of a talent development programme in Lacrosse at the grass roots level.

Sport England

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Sport England has made of the performance of the 12 trailblazer projects that piloted Sport England's £36 million Sport Unlimited programme; and if he will publish those assessments; [224050]

(2) how many children were offered five hours of quality sport a week in each of the 12 trailblazer projects that piloted Sport England's £36 million Sport Unlimited programme. [224051]

Andy Burnham: DCMS has not made a formal assessment of the 12 trailblazer projects.

However, Sport England has advised that it is currently collating a full report on the delivery of sport unlimited activities by the trailblazers during the summer term 2008. This will be published on the Sport England website in October 2008.

Early highlights include:

Almost 10,000 children took part in activities organised by the 12 Trailblazer County Sport Partnerships in term 1. Of these, 6,747 met the 'retain' target of attending at least 60 per cent. of sessions.

The average retention rate across all the Trailblazer CSPs was 69 per cent.

Sports: Children

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much it will cost to provide coaching and competition in sport for all school children by 2012. [224048]

Andy Burnham: Funding for the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) will total more than £783 million over the next three years. This will bring Government and lottery investment in young people's PE and sport since 2003 to £2.4 billion by 2011.

Coaching and competition in sport is central to our ambitions to offer all 5 to 16- year-olds two hours of high quality PE and sport a week at school, and all 5 to 19-year-olds an additional three hours of sport outside the curriculum. Through the PESSYP we will increase the quality and quantity of coaches available to work with young people both inside and beyond school hours. We will also create a world-class system for competitive sport, supported by a new network of 225 competition managers in England.

Swimming

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which local authorities have expressed their intention to take part in his Department's scheme for free swimming for *(a)* over 60 and *(b)* under 16 year olds. [224049]

Andy Burnham: A full list of participating authorities will be available on the DCMS website (www.culture.gov.uk) in due course.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1052W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, (1) what the details were of each confirmed report of theft; [224126]

(2) how many cases of theft are being investigated; and on what date each investigation began. [224127]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* operational control, *(b)* administrative control, *(c)* technical control, *(d)* tactical control and *(e)* other command relationships between British armed forces and non-British armed forces operating in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan broken down by unit to the lowest level for which information is available; and what the nationality of each such unit is in each case. [224129]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* In Iraq, the UK has tactical control of a number of US force elements in the MND(SE) area of operations. These include: 21 Military Police Company; a Military Transition Team embedded with 26 Brigade of the Iraqi Army; a Transition Team embedded with an Iraqi National Police Battalion; a Civil Military Operations Cell; an Explosive Ordnance Detachment; and a Biometrics Team.

A number of other US elements, including the Coalition Air Force Training Team and the 14th US Engineer Battalion, operate within MND(SE). The UK works to co-ordinate effort and influence with these organisations but there is no requirement for a formal command relationship.

There are no formal command relationships between the Iraqi armed forces and UK armed forces although their activities are very closely co-ordinated, primarily through key leader engagement at the senior military level and by the UK's embedded military transition teams.

Other non-UK units may, on occasion, temporarily deploy into the MND(SE) area of operations for specific missions. The precise command relationship with these units will vary depending on the nature of their operational tasking.

In Afghanistan the UK has operational control of a Danish battle group and an Estonian company operating in Helmand.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) currently deploys five units of battalion size or greater in Helmand province. Their operations are closely coordinated with ISAF operations, including through the use of Operational Mentoring, Liaison and Training Teams, although there is no formal command relationship between ISAF and ANA units.

As in Iraq, other non-UK units may, on occasion, temporarily deploy into Helmand province for specific missions: the precise command relationships with these units will vary dependent on the precise nature of their operational tasking.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what operations British forces have been deployed in each year since 1997; and what the scale of each operation was according to the terms set out in the defence planning assumptions. [218448]

Des Browne: There have been over 100 deployments by UK forces since 1997. These vary in size, for example the current support to the UN Mission in Sudan with only two people up to the deployment of a whole division to Iraq in 2003.

Defence planners use the terms large, medium and small to distinguish the scale of putative or generic operations. These are the building blocks which guide the size and shape of our armed forces, rather than a blueprint for actual operations. Force packages will ultimately be determined by the requirements of each operation.

Nonetheless, in very general terms, of our major recent operations, the size of our commitments in Afghanistan and Iraq both roughly align to the planning assumptions for a medium scale operation with our commitment in the Balkans more closely representing a small scale commitment since the withdrawal of the majority of UK troops from Bosnia in March 2007. The deployment of a division to Iraq in 2003 could be categorised a large scale operation.

The level of concurrent operations sustained by the MOD and the armed forces since 2001 is detailed in Figure 4, Page 44 of the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008 Volume I: Annual Performance Report and illustrates our relative commitment to each operation over the last seven years. This can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the pay as you dine scheme. [223380]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Pay as You Dine was introduced in response to a strong belief, particularly amongst Junior Ranks, that the previous system, which raised monthly food charges irrespective of how many meals were taken, should be replaced with a more flexible scheme that offered longer opening hours and only charged for meals or other services consumed. Pay as You Dine is still being rolled out across all three Services and where it has been introduced, the single Services are monitoring the delivery of the scheme with the contractor. While feedback from Service personnel has been gathered through the various Continuous Attitude Surveys, implementation across the Services is ongoing and it is too early to make an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the Pay as You Dine scheme.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have registered for the Hungry Soldier scheme. [223495]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Pay as You Dine was introduced in response to a strong belief, particularly amongst Junior Ranks, that the previous system, which raised monthly food charges irrespective of how many meals were taken, should be replaced with a more flexible scheme that offered longer opening hours and only charged for meals or other services consumed.

There is no "Hungry Soldier" scheme, but an administrative procedure within units that recognises that some individuals, on occasions, are unable to manage their budgets effectively. Our policy for dealing with this is to place such individuals on the "Food Charge" and to provide the standard "core" meals until they are able to resolve their financial difficulties. The cost of these meals is then deducted from the following month's pay.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target number of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation in the UK to be upgraded to each standard of condition grade in 2007-08 was; and how many of each were upgraded to each standard of condition category in that year. [199471]

Derek Twigg: The Department only has targets to upgrade Service Family Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA) to the highest standard.

Against a target of a minimum of 600 SFA properties, a total of 637 were upgraded to the top standard in Financial Year 2007-08.

Against a target of 7,650 in 2007-08, we have delivered some 6,816 SLA bed-spaces to the top standard. However, since 2003-04, the Department has upgraded some 26,707 bed-spaces against a target of some 25,705.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to assist armed services personnel to meet housing costs; and if he will make a statement. [223182]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* It is a condition of service that Regular Service personnel are provided with accommodation. The charges for this accommodation are set by the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body, with a discount that reflects the

disadvantages of living in such accommodation e.g. lack of choice and lack of security of tenure on leaving the armed forces. These charges are deliberately set lower than those readily available in the private sector.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) encourages service personnel to prepare for their return to civilian life during their careers by purchasing their own homes. To help in this area, a Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) is available which currently consists of an interest-free loan of up to £8,500.

In July 2008 MOD published 'The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans' (Command Paper Cm 7424). Paragraph 2.13 in particular explains more about the Prime Minister's announcement on 19 March 2008 about plans to launch a new initiative on home ownership for service personnel, which will be a pilot scheme tailored to their particular needs.

Army: Manpower

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* authorised establishment and *(b)* number of vacancies of each (i) battalion and (ii) other definition of army unit is; and what the comparative figures were on the same date in each of the calendar years (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [223466]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 November 2008]:* The figures requested are shown as follows. The data are shown by cap badge since this information is not collated at battalion level.

	Liability	*Deficit (-)/ Surplus(+)*
2008		
Staff—Senior Officers	747	83
Royal Armoured Corps	5,674	-109
Royal Artillery	7,424	-324
Royal Engineers	9,567	-202
Royal Signals	8,310	-345
Infantry	23,304	-364
Army Air Corps	2,096	-66
Chaplains	160	-20
Royal Logistic Corps	16,183	-988
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,254	-254
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,896	-410
Adjutant General's Corps	6,625	-605
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	205	65
Small Arms School Corps	144	6
Royal Army Dental Corps	495	-110
Intelligence Corps	1,624	-124
Army Physical Training Corps	432	23
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	1,158	-303
Corps of Army Music	888	-68
General Service Corps	0	10
Long Service List	621	-36
Not Known[1]	0	25
Gurkha	2,993	577
2007		
Staff (Senior Officers)	747	103
Royal Armoured Corps	5,674	-189
Royal Artillery	7,424	-389
Royal Engineers	9,567	-572
Royal Signals	8,310	-60
Infantry	23,304	-229
Army Air Corps	2,096	-51
Chaplains	160	-15
Royal Logistic Corps	16,183	-703
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,254	-304
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,896	-311
Adjutant General's Corps	6,625	-305
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	205	20
Small Arms School Corps	144	1
Royal Army Dental Corps	495	-135
Intelligence Corps	1,624	-129
Army Physical Training Corps	432	8
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	1,158	-318
Corps of Army Music	888	-33
General Service Corps	0	10
Long Service List	621	-21
Not Known	—	—
Gurkha	2,993	347
2006		
Staff (Senior Officers)	725	100
Royal Armoured Corps	5,790	-315
Royal Artillery	7,480	-195
Royal Engineers	9,455	-685
Royal Signals	8,440	25
Infantry	24,620	-845
Army Air Corps	2,010	10
Chaplains	135	5
Royal Logistic Corps	15,705	-75
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,271	-360
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,680	50
Adjutant General's Corps	6,245	441
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	190	

	Liability	Deficit (-)/ Surplus(+)
Small Arms School Corps	145	10
Royal Army Dental Corps	420	-56
Intelligence Corps	1,545	-70
Army Physical Training Corps	420	40
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	1,075	-230
Corps of Army Music	880	20
General Service Corps	—	—
Long Service List	485	120
Not Known	—	—
Gurkha	3,372	-63
2005		
Staff (Senior Officers)	830	—
Royal Armoured Corps	5,295	390
Royal Artillery	7,580	-85
Royal Engineers	10,020	-1,165
Royal Signals	8,550	200
Infantry	24,420	481
Army Air Corps	2,160	-225
Chaplains	160	-20
Royal Logistic Corps	16,385	-790
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,280	-495
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,575	185
Adjutant General's Corps	6,870	170
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	200	-10
Small Arms School Corps	155	—
Royal Army Dental Corps	441	-70
Intelligence Corps	1,835	-410
Army Physical Training Corps	446	-10
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	1,100	-290
Corps of Army Music	925	40
General Service Corps	—	—
Long Service List	485	130
Not Known	—	—
Gurkha	3,372	-62

[1] The explanation for a 'Not Known' category appearing in 2008 is that a very few personnel have not yet been categorised by the Joint Personnel Administration system.

China: Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the military training of Chinese nationals within EU member states. [224109]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has had no discussions with his EU counterparts on the military training of Chinese nationals within EU member states.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211769]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is as follows:

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Quantity	Cost £ million	Quantity	Cost £ million	Quantity	Cost £ million	Quantity	Cost £ million	Quantity	Cost £ million
Chairs	29,247	2.340	40,602	3.248	36,520	2.922	29,982	2.398	26,667	2.133
Desks	10,900	2.834	21,414	5.568	10,108	2.628	10,940	2.844	9,379	2.439
Other office furniture	78,575	4.715	86,483	5.189	67,733	4.064	59,216	3.553	52,721	3.163

These figures include furniture provided for major barracks and Single Living Accommodation investment programmes, but exclude PFI/PPP projects where the furniture is supplied by the Industrial Partner and forms a part of the overall project costs.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218691]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows how many and what percentage of civilian MOD staff have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days for the 12 months ending 31 December 2005,2006, 2007 and 31 March 2008.

Information prior to calendar year 2005 is compiled on a previous definition for monitoring sickness absence which is not consistent with figures for calendar year 2005 onwards.

The number and percentage of civilian personnel with more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years.

	Non Industrial	(%)	Industrial	(%)	Total	(%)
1 January to 31 December 2005	11,660	18.2	2,310	15.6	13,970	17.7
1 January to 31 December 2006	10,840	17.9	2,330	16.4	13,170	17.6
1 January to 31 December 2007	10,310	18.0	1,940	14.8	12,250	17.4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	10,050	17.8	1,880	14.7	11,920	17.2

Notes:

1. Data exclude staff in Trading Funds, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and Locally Engaged Civilians for whom sickness absence data are not readily available.
2. Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, and excludes absence days that occurred on weekends, annual leave and bank holidays.
3. Totals have been rounded to the nearest 10, totals and sub totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

MOD is committed to reducing sickness absence. Employees included in the table may only have accumulated three working days absence so the figures may appear artificially high. MOD offers guidance and training to line managers on managing absence. It actively encourages the use of Return to Work Interviews and has trigger points in place for the commencement of formal management action.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the EU Battlegroup roster continues up to 2015. [224128]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Offers have currently been made to fill six-monthly slots on the EU Battlegroup roster until 2013, although there are a number of gaps from 2010 onwards.

Trident Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Trident warheads were operationally available at the latest date for which figures are available; and when that number fell below 160. [224230]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The UK has fewer than 160 operationally available Trident warheads. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 366W. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 15 July 2008

HEALTH

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* NHS organisations Ministers in his Department have visited since taking up their posts. [185561]

[Official Report, 25 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1209W.]

Letter of correction from Ben Bradshaw:

Some errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 25 February 2008. With the exception of the figures given for Dawn Primarolo, some of the other figures given for Ministers' visits were incorrect and the figures should have read as follows:

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows:

Minister	*Hospitals*	*NHS organisations*
Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson)[1]	24	12
Minister of State for Health Services (Ben Bradshaw)[1]	14	16
Minister of State for Public Health (Dawn Primarolo)[1]	0	9
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services (Ann Keen)[1]	10	7
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services (Ivan Lewis)[2]	12	3
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lord Darzi)[1]	13	12

[1] Between taking up post in June 2007 and February 2008
[2] Between taking up post in June 2006 and February 2008

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 21 July 2008

HEALTH

X Rays: Maladministration

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have been mistakenly sent for x-rays or CT scans in each English region in each of the last five years. [195563]

[Official Report, 3 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1309-10W.]

Letter of correction from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 3 April 2008. The second table did not divide Data between East Midlands and West Midlands SHAs; all other figures and the totals are correct.

The correct table is as follows:

Breakdown by SHA area of diagnostic patient ID error

SHA	*Diagnostic Patient ID Error*
Independent Healthcare	1
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	15
East of England Strategic Health Authority	8
London Strategic Health Authority	12
North East Strategic Health Authority	4
North West Strategic Health Authority	8
South Central Strategic Health Authority	9
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	11
South West Strategic Health Authority	8
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	15
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	14
Total	105

Breakdown by SHA area of diagnostic patient ID error

SHA	*Diagnostic Patient ID Error*
Total	105

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Zimbabwe

4. **James Duddridge** (Rochford and Southend, East) (Con): What recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [218947]

5. **Sir Nicholas Winterton** (Macclesfield) (Con): What recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [218948]

[Official Report, 16 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 237-39.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 16 July 2008. This was in response to DFID questions 4 and 5. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Andrew Mitchell (Sutton Coldfield) (Con): Will the Government consider the possibility of publishing details of the specific support that Britain will provide for Zimbabwe once the criminal and illegitimate Mugabe regime is over? Would not that set a good example to other prospective donor nations and encourage the surrounding countries to look to the future while offering some hope to the long-suffering people of Zimbabwe for an end to their nightmare?

Gillian Merron: Our job is to get help to the poorest people in Zimbabwe to see them through this extremely difficult time. As part of that, we are using sanctions to bring people to the table, but in terms of recovery, as I said earlier, we need to work with a reforming Government. That will include full humanitarian access, the rule of law, human rights and democracy. The principles for re-engagement will be agreed by donors, and we estimate that, when it comes to it, there will be about £1 billion a year for five years. The UK stands ready to play its role, but will work with its international partners to do so.

The figure provided by the Minister for the estimated costs of recovery should have been US$1 billion and not £1 billion as stated. This appears in the second to last sentence of the Minister's response.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 22 July 2008

TRANSPORT

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1062-6W, on departmental public participation, how much each *(a)* survey and *(b)* piece of qualitative research cost; and how many participants there were in each. [206030]

[Official Report, 10 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 157-162W.]

Letter of correction from Jim Fitzpatrick:

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 10 June 2008 on Public Participation.

In my answer there is an omission in the number of participants for the Simpson Carpenter research.

Table B: Ad-hoc surveys 2007-08

Division/ Agency	*Survey/opinion poll*	*(i) Firm*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of participants*
DfT	Commercial customers' channel choice	Simpson Carpenter	55,000	*

In the table above the number of participants for the DfT research into Commercial Customers' Channel Choice carried out by Simpson Carpenter should have been included as 600.

JUSTICE

Drugs (Prisons)

5. **Chris Mole** (Ipswich) (Lab): What steps he is taking to reduce the availability of drugs in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [218562]

[Official Report, 15 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 122-124.]

Letter of correction from Jack Straw:

In my response to the hon. Member for Ipswich (Chris Mole) during Justice Questions on 15 July 2008 I said:

'There are now 141 intensive drug treatment programmes in 99 prisons.'

It has since come to my attention that this is incorrect. There are currently 114 intensive drug treatment programmes in 99 prisons.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 1 September 2008

JUSTICE

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were released under the End of Custody Licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 had previously been refused parole or release on home detention curfew. [149328]

[Official Report, 16 July 2007, Vol. 463, c. 146W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Hanson to Mr. Garnier:

I am writing to you regarding a Parliamentary Question that I responded to on 16 July 2007, concerning the number of prisoners released under the End of Custody Licence scheme who had previously been refused parole or release on Home Detention Curfew, during the initial implementation of the scheme. Unfortunately officials have recently identified that the number given in the original answer was overstated as 951 due to a calculation error (copy of Hansard extract below). The correct figure was 366. I apologise for the error in the answer originally provided, and have arranged for a correction to appear in the *Official Report* as soon as possible.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were released under the End of Custody Licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 had previously been refused parole or release on home detention curfew. [149328]

Mr. Hanson: Parole applies to prisoners serving sentences of four years or more. Prisoners are eligible for consideration for End of Custody Licence if they have been sentenced to less than four years. No prisoner released under End of Custody Licence would have previously been refused parole during their current sentence.

Of the 1,390 prisoners release under End of Custody Licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007, 951 have previously been refused release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

For your information I enclose a copy of the answer provided on 7 July 2008 to a similar PQ (216953) asked by the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd).

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been released on end of custody licence who had previously been refused a home detention curfew. [216953]

Mr. Straw: Of the 28,879 prisoners release under End of Custody Licence between 29 June 2007 and 31 May 2008, the latest date for which this figure is available, around 5,300 had previously been refused release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Ministerial Corrections

The following corrections were received between Monday 1 September and Tuesday 9 September 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK has spent on the Afghan Drug Programme in each year since 2003; what drug programmes his Department has funded in Afghanistan since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [197784]

[Official Report, 3 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1215W.]

Letter of correction from David Miliband:

An error has been identified in the table given in the written answer to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) on 3 April 2008 detailing the sums the Government have spent on developing a single, integrated counter narcotics programme for Afghanistan, The original table was as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	46.8
2007-08	43.8

The correct answer should have been:

David Miliband: In 2004-05 the UK spent £6.1 million on a counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan. In 2005 the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit was created to manage the UK's increased counter narcotics effort in Afghanistan. Since that time, the Government have developed a single, integrated counter narcotics programme for Afghanistan and spent the following sums:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	45.8
2007-08	43.8

UK spend has been directed towards supporting the Afghan National Drugs Control Strategy, which has eight pillars of activity: (1) raising public awareness. (2) promoting international and regional co-operation, (3) promoting alternative livelihoods, (4) reducing demand for drugs, (5) law enforcement, (6) establishing an effective criminal justice system, (7) targeted eradication of opium and (8) building effective Afghan government institutions.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government spent on programmes to reduce opium production in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [198016]

[Official Report, 3 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1216W.]

Letter of correction from David Miliband:

The same error has been identified in the table given in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) on 3 April 2008. The original table was as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	46.8
2007-08	43.8

The correct answer should have been:

David Miliband: Before 2004, the UK did not have a dedicated counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan. In 2004-05, the UK spent £6.1 million on counter narcotics work in Afghanistan.

In 2005 the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit was created to manage the UK's increased counter narcotics effort. Since that time, the Government has directly spent the following on counter narcotics programmes in Afghanistan:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	45.8
2007-08	43.8

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198954]

[Official Report, 21 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1695W.]

Letter of correction from Phil Hope:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 21 April 2008. The answer given was as follows:

The average number of working days lost per person is only available from 2004 and is published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

The answer should have been as follows:

Phil Hope: The average number of working days lost per person from 2003 is published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

English Sports Council: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England has received in *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* lottery funding in each year since 1999. [213783]

[Official Report, 7 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 1208W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Sutcliffe :

Errors have been identified in the third column of the table provided in the written answer to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 7 July 2008. The original figures in the column headed "SE lottery funding" were as follows:

		Sport England grant in aid	*£000 SE lottery funding*
Outturn	1999-2000	37,523	251,000
Outturn	2000-01	38,323	232,000
Outturn	2001-02	43,162	309,000
Outturn	2002-03	80,324	313,000
Outturn	2003-04	44,572	261,000
Outturn	2004-05	74,456	232,000
Outturn	2005-06	80,971	400,000
Outturn	2006-07	104,245	296,000
Provisional Outturn[1]	2007-08	113,296	227,000

[1] The accounts for Sport England have not yet been audited.

The correct answer should have been:

		Sport England grant in aid	*£000 SE Lottery funding*
Outturn	1999-00	37,523	251,000
Outturn	2000-01	38,323	232,000
Outturn	2001-02	43,162	298,000
Outturn	2002-03	80,324	308,000
Outturn	2003-04	44,572	237,000
Outturn	2004-05	74,456	171,000
Outturn	2005-06	80,971	202,000
Outturn	2006-07	104,245	121,000
Provisional outturn	2007-08	113,296	128,000

The Lottery funding figures detailed represent drawdown by Sport England from the National Lottery Distribution Fund. The figures for 2007-08 are subject to audit.

JUSTICE

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unanswered freedom of information requests there have been by his Department in the last 12 months. [220474]

[Official Report, 22 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 1213W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Wills:

I am writing to correct a written response I provided to a parliamentary question you asked before recess.

On the 17 July you asked the Secretary of State for Justice: '...how many unanswered freedom of information requests there were by his department in the last 12 months.'

I responded that of the 1,427 non-routine requests the department had received in 2007, 88 (6 per cent.) had not received a substantive response within the 20 day time limit. It would have been more accurate to say that

'statistics published in the latest annual report on Freedom of Information in Central Government show that of a total of 1,427 non-routine requests received by the Ministry of Justice in 2007, 88 (6 per cent.) had not received a response at the time of the end of year data collection. The annual report can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm>'

Ministerial Correction

The following correction was received between Monday 15 September and Tuesday 16 September 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Credit

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the amount of pension credit unclaimed in *(a)* Islwyn constituency, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales in each year since its introduction; [212800]

(2) how many pensioners in Islwyn constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receive a pension credit. [212801]

[Official Report, 24 June 2008, Vol. 478, c. 188W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. O'Brien

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig) on 24 June 2008. The original answer referred to the number of households in Islwyn in receipt of pension credit and stated:

"As at February 2008 there were 3,910 pensioner households—4,860 individuals—receiving pension credit in Islwyn constituency."

The correct answer should have been:

"As at February 2008 there were 3,900 pensioner households—4,850 individuals—receiving pension credit in Islwyn constituency."

Ministerial Corrections

The following Ministerial Corrections were received between Wednesday 17 September and Friday 26 September 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive the UK state pension in a form which *(a)* is and *(b)* is not frozen, broken down by country of residence. [216748]

[Official Report, 17 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 656W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. O'Brien:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle on 17 July 2008. Alderney was inadvertently included in the table of frozen rate countries and territories but should have been included in table 1, which listed the countries and territories where the state pension is uprated. In the original answer, table 2, headed "Number of State Pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories", included the following:

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
Albania	10
Alderney	550
Algeria	10

The correct answer should have been:

Table 1: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in countries and territories where the state pension is up-rated (EEA and Switzerland and countries and territories covered by a reciprocal agreement which allows for up-ratings)

Country	Number of recipients
Alderney	550
Austria	4,930
Barbados	5,120
Belgium	4,560
Bermuda	610
Bulgaria	220
Cyprus	14,490
Denmark	1,950
Finland	700
Former Yug Republic of Macedonia	50
France	42,790
Germany	33,690
Gibraltar	1,130
Greece	3,960
Guernsey	6,210
Hungary	770
Iceland	50
Ireland	108,290
Isle of Man	210
Israel	4,070
Italy	35,370
Jamaica	21,460
Jersey	8,720
Liechtenstein	30
Luxembourg	280
Malta	4,130
Mauritius	550
Netherlands	8,360
Norway	1,860
Philippines	1,190
Poland	1,380
Portugal	7,150
Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	20
Republic of Croatia	340
Republic of Estonia	40
Republic of Latvia	110
Republic of Lithuania	50
Republic of Slovenia	150
Romania	40
Serbia and Montenegro	420
Spain	86,670
Sweden	2,470
Switzerland	6,770
The Czech Republic	230
The Slovak Republic	20
Turkey	1,070
USA	132,080

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
Albania	10
Algeria	10
Andorra	200
Anguilla	150
Antigua	450
Antilles (Netherlands)	40
Arab Emirates	390
Argentina	250
Australia	246,110
Bahamas	250
Bahrain	80
Bangladesh	2,570
Belize	70
Bolivia	30
Botswana	140
Brazil	550
Brunei	20
Cameroon	10
Canada	156,230
Cape Verde Islands	10
Cayman Islands	130
Chile	210
China People's Republic	150
Colombia	110
Cook Islands	10
Costa Rica	50
Cuba	10
Djibouti	90
Dominica Commonwealth	1,100
Dominican Republic	40
Ecuador	50

Table 2: Number of state pension recipients living overseas in frozen rate countries and territories

Country	Number of recipients
Egypt	210
El Salvador	10
Ethiopia	20
Falkland Islands + Deps	50
Faroe Islands	10
Fiji	90
French Overseas Departments	20
Gambia	80
Ghana	850
Grenada	1,520
Guatemala	10
Guyana	430
Honduras	10
Hong Kong	1,330
India	4,680
Indonesia	120
Iran	20
Japan	780
Jordan	70
Kampuchea	10
Kenya	650
Kuwait	50
Laos	10
Lebanon	60
Lesotho	10
Macau	10
Malawi	80
Malaysia	590
Mexico	340
Monaco	330
Montserrat	130
Morocco	100
Mozambique	10
Namibia	60
Nepal	30
New Zealand	46,430
Nicaragua	10
Nigeria	3,040
Norfolk Island	10
Oman	80
Pakistan	4,960
Panama	40
Papua New Guinea	10
Paraguay	20
Peru	100
Qatar	50
Republic of Azerbaijan	10
Republic of Belarus	20
Republic of Yemen	2,920
Saudi Arabia	150
Senegal	10
Seychelles	120
Sierra Leone	80
Singapore	370
Solomon Islands	10
Somalia	50
South Africa	37,740
South Korea	20
Sri Lanka	730
St. Helena and Deps	80
St. Kitts and Nevis	500
St. Lucia	1,380
St. Vincent and Grenadines	840
Swaziland	100
Syria	30
Taiwan	20
Tanzania	60
Thailand	1,560
The Russian Federation	90
Togo	10
Tonga	10
Tours	40
Trinidad and Tobago	1,430
Tunisia	30
Turks and Caicos Islands	20
Uganda	70
Ukraine	180
Uruguay	50
Vanuatu	20
Venezuela	80
Vietnam	20
Virgin Islands (British)	50
Zambia	190
Zimbabwe	2,270

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures as at November 2007. They do not necessarily denote a recipient's permanent place of residence.
3. The agreement with USA covers also American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.
4. UK figures not included.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Park for Women: Lashkar Gah

13. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans he has for the funding and operation of the Park for Women in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province in the next 12 months. [210005]

[Official Report, 11 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 359W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Douglas Alexander.

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East on 11 June 2008. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government of Iraq has responsibility for the funding and operation of the Bolan Park in Lashkar Gah. To that end, the Department for International Development has no plans for further support to the park.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government of Afghanistan has responsibility for the funding and operation of the Bolan Park in Lashkar Gah. To that end, the Department for International Development has no plans for further support to the park.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 479**

SESSION 2007–2008

14 July 2008—29 September 2008

Printed indexes to Hansard

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

Indexes on the Parliamentary website

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

SCOPE

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

ARRANGEMENT

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

HEADINGS

Choice of headings

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, Universities or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, United Kingdom Passports Agency, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

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- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
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- *Places within the UK*—Material about specific towns, areas and institutions is entered under the name of the specific town, area or institution.
- *Foreign countries*—Most material relating to foreign countries is collected under the name of that country. Some additional material may be found under the names of—groups of countries, areas within countries, geographical features, place names associated with particular issues, politicians and heads of state, international bodies, and institutions and companies operating in those countries.
- *EC/EU material*—General material about the European Union and European institutions as bodies is entered under 'European Union' and the named individual institutions. Material about what the Union and institutions are doing or propose to do is entered under various subject headings beginning 'EC' such as 'EC environmental policy'.

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- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
- *Parliamentary proceedings/procedures*—Material discussing these is indexed under the specific type of proceeding (such as 'Parliamentary questions' or 'Oral questions'), procedure (such as 'Calling of Members') or issue (such as 'Unparliamentary expressions').
- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

Cross references

- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates, but not questions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions and ministerial corrections:
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings:
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions).

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords
- (SP) = Bill in Scottish Parliament.

Parliamentary background

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

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